AREA 19 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Geauga County Offices, Meeting Room B167-B168
12611 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, Ohio 44024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike DeLuke, Brad Ehrhart, Jaime Fisher, Jonathn Forbes, Andrea Gutka, Clint Hall, Alissa Holdson, Kelley Hollander, Kimm Leininger, Kathy Lucha, Mark Goffinet, Denise Patton, Phil Rath, Jonathan Sague, Ned Sherry, Teresa Simons, Dr. Angela Spalsbury, Ted St. John, Scott Wludyga.

MEMBERS ABSENT: CJ Bobbitt, Eric Davis, Nicole Deligianis, Mark Frisone, Janet Groborchik, Lynn Hartman, Gina M. Hofstetter, Gregory J. King, Kenny Lohr, Greg Myers, Alec Raffa, Mike Sherman, Keith Wyatt.

Others in Attendance: Alissa Drees (ACJFS), Hattie Grubke (OMJ-Ashtabula), Lisa Milgate (OMJ-Geauga), Craig Sernik (Area 19 Executive Director), Denise Gehring (Area 19).

Mr. Sherry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Past Business

Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2026.
Mr. DeLuke moved to approve the Minutes from March 27, 2026 as presented. Mr. Rath seconded the motion which was approved by all members present Ms. Leininger abstaining from the vote.

Report of Motions of the NOC COG since December 3, 2025 Workforce Development Board (WDB) meeting.

Motions approved by the NOC COG on May 27, 2026

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to allocate to NOC COG 10 percent of the final PY26/FY27 award to as administrative expenditures; and ACJFS, GCJFS, and PCJFS their share of the final PY26/FY27 awards as determined by ODJFS' county finance division, when those funds are made available in CFIS.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to transfer PY24/FY25 Adult, D.W., and WIOA CCMEP funds previously awarded to GCJFS in an amount not to exceed $173,000.00 in Adult and D.W., and $35,000.00 in WIOA CCMEP to ACJFS and PCJFS in amounts authorized and agreed to

by them so that they may recode PY25/FY26 expenditures against the same. The determination of whether PY25/FY26 funds, and in what amounts will be provided in return to GCJFS will be determined by a majority vote of the NOC COG Commissioners at a future regular or specially scheduled meeting.

Motion to authorize $2,200.00 of PY25A RESEA newly received administrative funding to be distributed to the NOC COG, and the remaining $19,800.00 of PY25A RESEA funding to be distributed on as needed basis to ACJFS and/or PCJFS by the Executive Director based upon their needs through June 30, 2026.

Motion to authorize a contract with Portage Development Board to provide business services to Portage County for the period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed $7,500.00 of WIOA funds.

Motion to Table the Motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into joint negotiations, along with staff of the PCJFS, in furtherance of executing a written agreement for the provision of CCMEP program services for the following terms and conditions:

- Award Hope Town, Inc. a WIOA CCMEP Contract;
- Term 15-months, 7/1/2026 to 9/30/2027;
- With Budgets to be negotiated for the following program services:

i.	Leadership	$15,000	$25,000
ii.	Justice Involved	$15,000	$25,000
	Total	$30,000	$50,000

- WIOA Amount not to exceed 50% of total award.

Mr. DeLuke moved to accept the motions of the NOC COG report from March 27, 2026. Mr. Wludyga seconded the motion which was approved by all members present with Mr. Ehrhart and Mr. St. John abstaining from the vote.

Mr. DeLuke moved to add the item Approval of the Area 19 Workforce Program Year 2026/2027 Meeting Schedule to the agenda. Mr. Ehrhart seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Mr. DeLuke moved to Approve the Area 19 Workforce Program Year 2026/2027 Meeting Schedule. Ms. Fisher seconded the motion which was approved by all members present.

Administrative Report

Mr. Sernik presented the unemployment numbers for May 2026 stating that Ashtabula is at 3.2%, Portage is at 2.9%, and Geauga is at 2.6%. Area 19 received an additional $22,000.00 of RESEA funding in May. OMJ Geauga supports the Geauga Growth Partnership planning grant for medical for Geauga County and last year we set aside $15,000.00 of their budget of that amount, $5,000 was to do potential job fairs and $10,000.00 for incumbent worker training. OMJ-Geauga provided a special Incumbent Worker Training program for Geauga County Fire Departments with an overall of $6,500.00 in IWT reimbursement. Reached out to the OhioWork providers indicating they are

welcome to provide services in the OMJ Centers which has not happened yet. Also indicated to them that if they're providing services that are not provided in the OMJ Centers we would like to learn more about that and will refer those individuals to OhioWork and have not received any follow up on this offer either. Ohio received a 21 percent increase in PY26/FY27 WIOA funds than it did last year. Area local fiscal monitoring of Program Year 2025 is being conducted by Sal Consiglio Inc. and program monitoring by Craig Sernik and anticipate both the fiscal and program monitoring to be completed end of July. ODJFS is also doing programmatic monitoring of OMJ-Ashtabula and meeting with monitor this Friday. The PY2025/2026 1-Stop Partner MOU is in place but will need to revise due to Maplewood Career Center who may need to pull out of the MOU due to ASPIRE budget cuts but may be able to partner again sometime this fall if they receive new monies. Area 19 is passing 12 of the 15 unadjusted Performance Measures for PY2025. The area is currently failing three which could change in the last quarter and those are Adult Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit, Dislocated Worker Measurable Skills Gains, and CCMEP WIOA Youth Measurable Skill Gains. Portage and Ashtabula have both completed and approved their outreach plans for employers/jobseekers and Geauga is in the process of getting their plan approved by their partners. Ms. Sernik reported he and Phil Rath attended the OWA annual Workforce Boards Chairperson and Vice Chairperson meeting in which a representative from the Vivek Ramaswamy campaign and the Amy Acton campaign for governor were present.

Fiscal Report

Mr. Sernik reviewed the fiscal 3 year comparison of allocations and new funding handout with those present. As of today, there has been no announcement of an award of the PY26 RESEA monies. If ODJFS cannot give Area 19 anymore RESEA money, then we will either temporarily or permanently use some of the dislocated worker monies. Funds that are exposed to be returned to ODJFS in PY24/FY25 monies is $173,000 combined Adult and Dislocated Worker funds unspent and $35,000 of WIOA CCMEP unspent in Geauga. Ashtabula and Portage will easily absorb the $35,000 PY24/FY25 CCMEP monies, Ashtabula will absorb at least another $34,000 of adult and $23,000 of dislocated worker, Portage can absorb $27,000 of dislocated worker. This will leave us with $89,000 remaining needing absorbed of which Ashtabula can convert $75,000 to RESEA monies and Portage can convert $6,205 to RESEA monies. As a result, no monies should go back to ODJFS. The commissioners will decide of the monies saved of the newer grants that come back to life how to divide the $35,000 in youth and the $173,000 in combined adult and dislocated worker. These monies that will be saved are not included in the Adult and Dislocated Worker budget handouts and will instead be the area's reserve for the coming year.

Reports of County OMJ Centers

OMJ Portage County. Mr. Sernik reported that OMJ Portage has 216 youth enrolled 150 are in-school and 56 out-of-school, 264 resource room customers in May, 4 ITAs, and 35 individuals selected for RESEA. OMJ Portage is now a comprehensive center with a Wagner-Peyser worker one day a week. The OMJ-Portage held a job fair on June 9th and they're processing the back to school vouchers today.

OMJ Geauga County. Ms. Milgate reported held a partner meeting on June 14th and working on getting out the Partner Coordination Plan to the partners for their feedback. Attended training on Medicaid Work Activities component that will be rolled out January 2027, and it does sound like this will not have as big of an impact on the work activities staff as originally anticipated. Ohio Department of Medicaid has said this is fluid and subject to change as it stands now the requirement will not be the responsibility of the local JFS or OMJ staff. OhioMedicaid.gov has all of the

information on the requirements. An Incumbent Worker Training application was approved for Ravenwood for AI OWL training. The Fire Chief utilized IWT this past year and would like to utilize it this year and Sheriff would like to utilize as well. Career Center staff usually has three staff currently at two, but Auburn Career is working on getting one position filled and to have in case of an emergency situation a backup in place. Just finalized the NESCO contract as the employer of record and working with employers in the community who would like to be part of the Work Experience program.

OMJ Ashtabula County. Ms. Grubke reported ASPIRE graduation is tonight with 15 individuals graduating, 14 employers with 20 job orders in May, had 59 more individuals apply for unemployment in April than in March, MFG had a shutdown in May with another end of June, 17 WIOA briefings in May, 118 individuals visited the resource room with 74 of those needing unemployment assistance, and 20 individuals volunteered for SNAP/ENT. CCMEP youth enrolled is 637 with the majority being TANF funded with 230 in follow-up and 40 in just summer work. Two individuals were approved to attend KSU Ashtabula for radiological technician program. Assisting A-Tech with doing their testing to enter the nursing program. The Summer Manufacturing Camp for grades 5th through 8th will be held the weeks of July 13th, July 20th, and July 27th.

Reports of Economic Developers

Geauga County – Ms. Leininger reported Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP) currently has 8 pending projects with JobsOhio, GGP is expanding their youth workforce programming meeting with local school districts who are very interested in expanding down to the 6th grade age group so will be providing programs from 6th to 12th grade, received the second phase of the industry partnership grant focusing on healthcare working with Judsons implementing Bridges at Work at their facilities, also working with UH Geauga Medical Center doing wellness programs with their staff, and partnering with Round Table Learning which is an AI Virtual software producer working on medical software for GGP as they do career exploration.

Old Business

Update on CCMEP Procurement and Contract Awards. All negotiated contracts have been finalized and out for signature with the exception of two outstanding issues. The first is the Axess Family Services contract is up this month, a budget was approved by this board last March and the commissioners approved to award a contract to Axess Family Services for July 1st and just have to meet with them to settle upon final numbers. Second is currently do not have a provider for Leadership and Justice Involved services in Portage County. Bids were received with a bid from HopeTown and another group whose bid was programmatically insufficient and rejected. HopeTown and was deemed as sufficient, but the issue was they bid on doing the services for adults only and not for those 14 to 18 years of age. Portage JFS and the review committee decided to put this back out for bid.

New Business

MOU One-Stop Partner for PY26. Mr. Sernik explained Maplewood Career Center ASPIRE's budget is being cut and will probably not be able to be a paying partner for either all or part of the year beginning July 1st.

Mr. DeLuke moved to authorize the Area 19 staff and OMJ Managers to amend the Memorandum of Understanding and its Budgets if required by partners for PY26. Mr. Rath seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Mike DeLuke – yes	**Jaime Fisher – yes**	**Jonathan Forbes – yes**	**Clint Hall - yes**
Alissa Holdson – yes	**Kelley Hollander – yes**	**Kimm Leininger – yes**	**Kathy Lucha – yes**
Mark Goffinet – yes	**Denise Patton – yes**	**Phil Rath – yes**	**Jonathan Sague - yes**
Ned Sherry – yes	**Teresa Simons – yes**	**Ted St. John – yes**	**Scott Wludyga - yes**

Motion passed.

Adult and Dislocated Worker Budgets for Program Year 2026/2027.

Ashtabula Agreement/Budget:

Mr. DeLuke moved to authorize an Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Miscellaneous WIOA program services budget allocation to be made available in a contract to Ashtabula County Job & Family Services (ACJFS) for the provision of career services staffing and programming for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, in the amounts listed below, pursuant to the details set forth in Attachment.

a) Adult, D.W. and Misc. Compensation:	**$778,956.00**
b) RESEA Compensation:	**$107,686.00**
Total	**$886,642.00**

Mr. Rath seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Mike DeLuke – yes	**Jaime Fisher – yes**	**Jonathan Forbes – yes**	**Clint Hall - yes**
Alissa Holdson – yes	**Kelley Hollander – yes**	**Kimm Leininger – yes**	**Kathy Lucha – yes**
Mark Goffinet – yes	**Denise Patton – yes**	**Phil Rath – yes**	**Ned Sherry – yes**
Teresa Simons – yes	**Ted St. John – yes**	**Scott Wludyga - yes**	

Motion passed.

Geauga Agreement/Budget:

Mr. DeLuke moved to authorize an Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Miscellaneous WIOA program services budget allocation to be made available in a contract to Geauga County Job & Family Services (GCJFS) for the provision of career services staffing and programming for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, in the amounts listed below, pursuant to the details set forth in Attachment.

a) Adult, D.W. and Misc. Compensation:	**$321,553.00**
b) RESEA Compensation:	**$ 61,548.00**
Total	**$383,101.00**

Mr. Rath seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Mike DeLuke – yes	**Jaime Fisher – yes**	**Jonathan Forbes – yes**	**Clint Hall - yes**
Alissa Holdson – yes	**Kelley Hollander – yes**	**Kimm Leininger – yes**	**Kathy Lucha – yes**
Mark Goffinet – yes	**Denise Patton – yes**	**Phil Rath – yes**	**Ned Sherry – yes**
Teresa Simons – yes	**Ted St. John – yes**	**Scott Wludyga - yes**	

Motion passed.

Portage Agreement/Budget:

Mr. DeLuke moved to authorize an Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Miscellaneous WIOA program services budget allocation to be made available in a contract to Portage County Job & Family Services (PCJFS) for the provision of career services staffing and programming for the period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, in the amounts listed below, pursuant to the details set forth in Attachment.

a) Adult, D.W. and Misc. Compensation:	**$ 858,698.40**
b) RESEA Compensation:	**$ 160,000.00**
Total	**$1,018,698.40**

Mr. Rath seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Mike DeLuke – yes	**Jaime Fisher – yes**	**Jonathan Forbes – yes**	**Clint Hall - yes**
Alissa Holdson – yes	**Kelley Hollander – yes**	**Kimm Leininger – yes**	**Kathy Lucha – yes**
Mark Goffinet – yes	**Denise Patton – yes**	**Phil Rath – yes**	**Ned Sherry – yes**
Teresa Simons – yes	**Ted St. John – yes**	**Scott Wludyga - yes**	

Motion passed.

Presentation on Workforce Pell and Discussion regarding on potential impact on Area 19 Policies, and whether a policy change is needed. Mr. Sernik discussed with those present the Workforce Pell handout. Discussion commenced regarding the current policy and whether to change. Discussion concluded. The Board decided to leave the policy for now but re-examine every time the board meets for the next year.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Mr. DeLuke moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fisher seconded the motion, which was approved by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.
Minutes prepared by Denise Gehring.