

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.**  
**OF**  
**MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES**

One-Stop Committee Meeting

September 14, 2023

8:00 am

Best Western Plus – Dutch Haus Inn & Suites

**Attendees:** Courtney Amendola, Tom Andrews, Shirley Bowald, Cyndy Bresnahan, Ty-Juan Bright, Barbara Bush, Jennifer Campbell, Kathleen Clarke, Kelly Darney, John Dilling, Lynn Esposito, Sandy Furano, Bryan Higgins, Lindsay Hildreth, David Janofa, Mary Ann Kochalko, Nico Mastorides, Mary Mihalopoulos, Christina Miller, Marilyn Montes, Nico Morgione, Lori Murphy, Mark Nicastro, Joe Paloski, Carol Ramsay-Loomis, Sharlene Senediak, Brianna Sullivan, Susan Tracy, Jason White, Susie Wickline, and Kristen Womeldorff.

**Call to Order/Introductions**

Kelly Darney, One-Stop Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05am, and introductions took place.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion:	To approve the consent agenda items as presented.
Motion made by:	Mark Nicastro
Seconded by:	Tom Andrews
Discussion:	None
Motion approved.	

**Old Business**

**Budget to Actual Report**

The PY23 income statements for Area 17 OhioMeansJobs centers were provided. Currently, Mahoning County has spent \$36,166, with \$59,111 left to spend; Columbiana County has spent \$21,545, with \$40,255 left to spend. In Columbiana County, some funding will be used to replace printers in the resource room and computer lab. In Mahoning County, funds are being used to upgrade security measures, reconfigure the programmatic office space, and replace printers where needed.

**New Business**

**New OMJ Website**

The new Mahoning and Columbiana County OMJ website, [www.omjworkforce.com](http://www.omjworkforce.com) or [www.omjworkforce.org](http://www.omjworkforce.org) is live. It contains essentially the same information as the previous website. The main site tabs include: *Seeking Employment*, *Seeking Training*, *Youth & Young Adults*, *Business Services*, and *Additional Information*. Subcategories are included under the tabs which contain more specific information.

Under the *Youth & Young Adults* tab, individuals 14-24 years of age can complete the CCMEP orientation and pre-registration on the website or scan the QR code to access the information on their smartphone or tablet. The orientation and pre-registration is somewhat lengthy, however, they can be completed in segments. Youth and young adults are very oriented to completing tasks online, as opposed to completing tasks over the phone or in-person. The suggestion was made to refer youth from the MCDJFS summer youth program to pre-register in the CCMEP beginning next year.

The *Additional Information* tab provides partner-related information, such as partner logos that link to their respective website, OMJ policies, meeting materials, and the OMJ partner memorandum of understanding.

A new feature on the website allows partners to submit stories for *The Connection* newsletter directly through the website. Issues of *The Connection* will be posted on the website, and a link will be shared with partners when a new issue is available. If relevant, partner information will also be posted on the OMJ social media accounts.

## **OH|ID Registration**

An OH|ID account is required to apply for unemployment and to register on [www.OhioMeansJobs.com](http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com). Step-by-step instructions have been developed to explain how to create an account. Only one OH|ID account is needed to access Ohio agencies and relevant services. Various Ohio agency apps are available and can be added to an individual's OH|ID account to access services. Although some issues still exist with the OH|ID system, many of the major issues have decreased.

## **OMJ Center Updates**

Most of the customers visiting the OMJ centers are seeking assistance with UI claims. MCTA intake appointments have increased. In Columbiana County, OMJ facilitators are assisting with the intake process by calling customers and reminding them of their appointment; in Mahoning County, an OMJ facilitator is assisting by scheduling intake appointments.

A new security system has been installed at the Mahoning County OMJ center. Customers will now need to be let into the building by staff. Common area doors remain locked throughout the center, and a code is needed to open them.

The OMJs have been without a bilingual facilitator. Access to a language line remains in place, and at the Mahoning County OMJ center, a dedicated computer in the resource room is connected to a Spanish keyboard which can assist with communication for Spanish-speaking customers.

## **Operators Report**

Efforts are still being made to reach the out-of-school youth population who may be TANF-eligible. Billboards for the program are available in English and Spanish, and outreach continues to be made on media streaming, social media, and public transportation. Partners were encouraged to refer youth/young adults to the OMJ centers. CCMEP brochures are being updated to include the QR code. Efforts have also been made to enter the schools to inform high school students, particularly seniors, about OMJ services.

Some MCTA staff will be attending a CFIS conference in October to learn about updates being made to the system, understand how the system will continue to interact with ARIES, and identify what updates are still needed.

State staff will be visiting Area 17 on October 6<sup>th</sup> to review the RESEA process that has been implemented locally. Some MCTA staff will be attending Bridges Out of Poverty training on the same day.

The MCTA in-service day will be held on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be trained in various scenarios to understand how each department plays a role in helping customers reach self-sufficiency and employment.

## **WDB Update**

### *OMJ Rebranding*

The State would like the OMJ centers to rebrand themselves with the same script "Ohio – Heart of It All" brand and logo other State agencies will be utilizing. The OMJ centers were just rebranded a few years ago, and the State is receiving some resistance from WDB Directors stating that rebranding should not be required. If it is required, more time is needed to rebrand, as well as extra funding. WIOA has significantly decreased over the past two years; additional funding from the State would assist the areas with making the changes. The suggestion was made to add the logo as an email signature or in other electronic documents as a starting point.

### *WIOA Reauthorization*

WIOA took effect in 2014 and was due for reauthorization in 2020. Since it has not been reauthorized yet, WIOA has been extended through the annual appropriations process as a continuing resolution. Significantly different proposals have been developed by the House and Senate; the House has proposed to eliminate WIOA adult, WIOA youth and Job Corps funding, whereas the Senate has proposed to keep the legislation flat-funded. Currently, approving the budget is the primary focus at this time, to avoid a government shutdown on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Many organizations are advocating for WIOA reauthorization. The expectation is that another continuing resolution will be passed.

## **Meeting Evaluation**

Partners were asked to complete the meeting evaluation form provided.

## **Partner Updates**

### *Team Office Technologies*

MGM in Las Vegas experienced a huge ransomware attack. Partners were encouraged to contact their IT department/company to ensure their networks are protected and secured. Partner staff should also be educated about ways to prevent networks from being compromised by ransomware.

### *The Counseling Center of Columbiana County*

Many youth are attempting to get their driver's license, however, they do not have a car to take the driving test. This remains a barrier in trying to overcome the transportation barrier. This is a recurring issue that just started this year.

### *MYCAP*

The Workforce Symposium has been rescheduled to November 15<sup>th</sup>. The symposium was originally cancelled due to a low number of registrants. Outreach will be made with other agencies to bring participants to the symposium to gain their feedback about what challenges they are facing and what they feel they need to overcome those challenges. 75-100 attendees are expected.

### *YSU*

YSU has 5G training cohorts that are ongoing, and funding is available for individuals in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana, and Belmont counties. With the connection of industry partners, there is a great opportunity for students to obtain employment after completing the training.

A grant is also available in Columbiana County to cover training costs for current high school seniors or for individuals who graduated in 2020-2022 and have learning disabilities.

### *Next Meeting*

The next One-Stop Committee meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00am.