

STARK TUSCARAWAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

July 7, 2021

Virtual Meeting – Zoom Format

PRESENT	ABSENT	GUESTS	LEOs	STWDB STAFF
J. Burley	T. Black	L. Kopfstein	K. Metzger	J. Meek Eells
S. Carson	P. Jones			D. Sipe
D. Cole	A. Kerns			R. Harris
T. Davis	B. Larman			M. Miller
H. Eadon	M. Locke			ONE-STOP OPR/FISCAL AGENT
D. Forkas	S. Meeks			K. Beckman
N. Hackenbracht	R. Moss			S. Berardo
M. Manheim	S. Robinson			J. Breedlove
S. Marzano	T. Sabo			C. Byrd
D. Smith	J. Sekely			A. Miller
	R. Waltz			

BUSINESS MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

D. Smith, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Smith made the following announcements:

New member- Tracy Sabo who is the Vice President of Human Resources at Aultman Hospital was appointed to serve on the board to replace Tim Beach’s vacancy. She was not able to be present at the meeting.

Maddy Miller is the new Communications Manager for the board, and she filled Monica Gwin’s vacancy after her retirement.

APPROVAL May 5, 2021, MEETING MINUTES – D. Smith, Chair – (Attachment)

MOTION: MARZANO MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE MAY 5, 2021, MEETING MINUTES PER ATTACHMENT PREVIOUSLY EMAILED TO MEMBERS. DAVIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOMINATION TO FILL SECRETARY'S VACANCY

Nominations to fill the Secretary's vacancy with Dave Wheeler's retirement from the board as the secretary. This officer term ends at end of September 2021. Damus Cole has volunteered to fill this position. Smith asked if there were any nominations from the floor? None were given.

MOTION: EADON MOVED FOR THE NOMINATION TO FILL THE SECRETARY VACANCY WITH DAMUS COLE. DAVIS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE – J. Meek Eells

East Ohio Region WIOA Plan 2021-2025

The Region's representatives received an approval letter from Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS). Every 4 years as a workforce region that includes Stark, Tuscarawas, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties is required to submit a 4-year regional plan. Meek Eells worked with the team from the STWDB area (Breedlove & Sipe) and also Kolchalko (Mahoning & Columbiana counties) and Turner (Trumbull counties) to put together a new 4-year plan. The letter from ODJFS signified the plan was submitted and approved by the state.

In the plan, it describes as a region what is being delivered to enhance workforce efforts. It includes information such as all 5 counties are engaged in a Business Resource Network. Also mentioned in the plan for our area is the work with Strengthening Stark and also work in Tuscarawas County with the Advanced Manufacturing Corridor. This plan is posted online at stwdb.org

State Budget Workforce Items

There were 3 items in the state budget that was signed by Governor DeWine that directly involve workforce board activities. 1. Approval to continue to meet virtually as a board- they were the only entity granted. Meek Eells will need to review the parameters of meeting virtually. 2. Creation of a county level Task Force on Data Sharing that will be developed. 3. Creation of Public Assistance Benefits Accountability Task Force. Workforce directors will be appointed to hold seats on these taskforces.

Precision Machined Products Association

- National Technical Conference on August 8th-10th in Cleveland
- Meek Eells is scheduled to speak along with her colleague, Longo in Lorain County. They will participate in a workforce development panel on August 9th.

Ohio Workforce Association-Board Chairs Luncheon

- Scheduled for August 25th in Columbus at the Boathouse restaurant
- Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted have been invited to speak to the board chairs.
- Other invited guests include Pat Tiberi of the Governor Workforce board with the Ohio Business Round Table, Lydia Mahalik (Director of Ohio Development Services Agency), Eric Leach (Office of Workforce Transformation and Matt Damschroder (ODJFS Director) and his team.

Aspire Grant Approvals

Aspire is Ohio's Basic Education and Literacy program. Local programs are required to submit plans to those who provide the services to continue their programs for Aspire and Adult Basic Education. Both Buckeye Career Center and Canton City Schools programs were approved and funded.

IWT Waiver

Ohio submitted a waiver request to Department of Labor (DOL) for Incumbent Worker Training thresholds to be increased. Areas are only permitted to spend so much of their local WIOA funding toward incumbent worker training opportunities with their local businesses. Since emerging from COVID and Ohio Tech Cred program participation- ODJFS along with the Workforce Board Directors thought it would be a great idea to increase that threshold and to promote DOL because they want to help businesses get back on their feet.

DOL did issue a waiver to Ohio. Areas can use up to 35% of their local funding for Incumbent Worker training. STWDB will go back to the state for more money if we see a need.

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 31, 2021 – C.Byrd – (Attachment)

Byrd showed reported ending 5-31-2021. He noted the highlighted items are the items that need to be spent by 6-30-2021 to ensure they utilize all of those funds.

He pointed out the newer grants- showing the % of where currently are at. They are lower than they tend to be as usually around 50%. He said he likes to spend 2-year WIOA formula grants at 50% for 1st year and 50% for 2nd year as this gives flexibility to allocations and changes. He noted going into the new year with more funds than is typical are with about a 10% cut in their WIOA formula allocations from the state for PY2021. The state received a 10% cut from the federal level and this amount is figured in by putting the amount into a formula that sets everything up for entire state and calculated what each local area are due to get. The formula is based on unemployment rates in various local areas. Stark and Tuscarawas tends to track with the state level, and Byrd noted it can shift from year to year. The 10% decrease equates to \$360,000 in dollar terms between Stark and Tuscarawas counties. The carryover from PY2020 will make up the difference in the 10% decrease.

In addition, Byrd showed the special grants in the amount of \$800,000 received in the last year in non-WIOA formula money and this causes the majority of the carryover money. The carryover helps offset the decrease for this year.

MOTION DAVIS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MAY 31, 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. MARZANO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ONE-STOP OPERATOR/CCMEP UPDATE – J. Breedlove

ONE STOP OPERATOR

The centers maintained a schedule in June of being open to the public by appointment only from 10:00am to 3:00pm on Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursdays as part of a transition to fully opening in July. Staff have worked onsite those same days and have worked remotely providing virtual services on Mondays and Fridays.

Beginning Monday, July 12th, the physical centers in both counties will be fully open to walk-in customers (Monday – Friday) resuming our normal business hours (9:00am – 4:30pm). All staff will be working onsite.

Staff have been preparing for the reopening for several weeks which includes opening/testing additional computers in our rooms, revisiting a visitor policy for the centers, and re-orienting staff and OhioMeansJobs partner staff to operation protocols that are and will continue to be in place. Some of these include:

- COVID-19 protective measures for staff/partner staff, customers, and visitors
- appointment scheduling for job seeker and/or business customers appointments (we are using the Appointy software) and typically used for enrolled customer appointments as well as partner/customer appointments.
- security services that have been onsite since we reopened to appointment-only customer visits.
- how they will not plan on hosting large group activities such as workshops or employer onsite recruitments in our centers until we reevaluate this later in the summer.

Eager to have staff, partner staff and customers return. Outreach activities have begun to let the public know we will be open Monday-Friday for walk-in customer visits beginning next week.

COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (CCMEP)

Last March 2020 when Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency for the entire state of Ohio, Ohio approved verbal signatures and an extension of certification periods for the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program (CCMEP). This meant that individuals referred to the CCMEP program by our local job and family service partners locally were not required to physically sign applications, assessments, and Individual Opportunity Plans (IOPs) initiated through virtual meetings with their case managers. The State of Emergency was lifted on June 18, 2021, by the Governor and as a result, Ohio is rescinding the part of Procedure Letter #6 that allowed verbal signatures effective July 30, 2021. Breedlove and staff are currently making plans for this upcoming change to be able to accommodate CCMEP participants required to now physically sign these documents once again. Breedlove shared there has also been a slight uptick of referrals for the CCMEP program in the last month.

Ohio will also still allow TANF eligibility to be extended one time for 6 months - this extension allows lead agencies to wait to recertify TANF eligibility for one year instead of 6 months unless the lead agency staff is made aware of a situation where a participant may lose that TANF eligibility such as if they were placed in employment with a salary/wage exceeding the 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This has been very helpful for staff and participants.

OPERATIONS REPORTS

Communications Report– M.Miller – (Attachment)

M. Miller noted she went to Kent State to study business administration, but previously worked for a roofing company for about 5 years and did marketing and outreach in her position there. Even though she has only been with the board for a short time so far, she is really enjoying herself in her new position!

In reference to the articles above, she has been keeping an eye on both local as well as national trends. With the additional \$300 unemployment benefit ending June 26 in Ohio, we are hoping to see some more traffic in our centers for those who are ready to find work.

The total unemployment for Stark County for May is 5.3% and in Tuscarawas County it is 4.5%. These numbers are down significantly from the numbers we were seeing around this time last year.

M. Miller is also currently working to promote our centers reopening to the public on July 12th through radio as well as on social media.

After she spoke with a couple of our radio contacts, she was informed that there are apps available to use, rather than having to go into the station every time a new recording is needed. M. Miller is really excited about this because it opens up a lot of possibilities to outreach in new ways. For example, she can work with staff to connect with customers who may have a great success story to share. Using these apps, we can easily get customer testimony, giving a real experience to how OhioMeansJobs has assisted them that we can record easily right in the center. Hearing how the center has helped someone may resonate with listeners better than simply telling them to come in.

One Stop Resource Center Report June 2021– A. Miller (Attachment)

A. Miller noted year-to-date the numbers are much lower when compared to last year average visits per day. She said people are taking advantage of the 3 days they are open. She said the numbers are increasing for June. She said, the service of copying and faxing is done by a staff member for the customer. In regard to demographics, it seems to be at a higher percentage for college degrees with 12% in Stark and 21% in Tuscarawas.

RESEA

Miller noted that of the customer selected in the initial and subsequent appointments- the Employment Specialist is sharing information about the centers, partners, and job opportunities.

Rapid Response

Aleris Rolled Products, Inc. – Tuscarawas County – 10 employees. This company filed a notice for TRADE on 6/7/21, prompting their Workforce Specialist, Lona Helfrich, to reach out to the company. The company has not responded at this time.

Resource Center Activity

The Resource Center activity is the number of customers actual coming into the Resource Room using the specific services. Once they are open in July, this section will not appear in the report.

Facebook Live, Quick Tips and Virtual Workshops

A. Miller said she always would like more participation in the Facebook Live. She said the views are high because of being boosted. Facebook Live is every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. The Quick Tips is about 1-2 minutes and is posted every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Workshops are not getting the attendance, but the library has been a great contact to get more people involved. In Stark County Library on June 7th, they had 7 people attend "Writing an Effective Resume".

Special Event

In September plan to do a cooking show "Ingredients to getting a new job"—more information to come.

One Stop Business Services Report June 2021– K. Beckman – (Attachment)

Employer Services Activity Report

For the month of June had 10 new employers, and a total of 117 for the program year. This is a 20% increase from the prior year.

Under the New Job Posting section, there was a total of 50 for the month of June, and 900 for the program year. There was a 50% increase in new job postings as this is the most significant increase.

The average wage of job orders has increased to over \$15 per hour in the 2 counties. The average wage of placement increased for the month of June to \$14.92 per hour. The number of job postings is at 362 and is started to trend down since prior it was over 500. The number of job openings total is 2214.

Social Media

Top postings

There was a total of 47 employer postings. The top 5 postings reached over 30,000 and were for good wage jobs. There was lots of activity from State Highway Patrol, Diesel Control, Canton Police Department, Stark Job & Family Services Brewster Cheese.

Success Story

Extreme Trailers in Tuscarawas County was the company success story. Beckman noted this company participated in the Tuscarawas County Virtual Career Fair and also did a Employer Spotlight which received over 1000 views. The company called and said they needed a Draftsman in Mechanical Engineering. They posted on OhioMeansJobs.com, social media outreach and Facebook & LinkedIn posts. They were contacted by an applicant who was a recent Mechanical Engineering graduate and submitted a resume to the Recruiting Specialist. He also had just completed some internships. He tailored his resume for this position, and he was hired on May 3rd with a salary over \$50,000.

BRN – K.Beckman June 2021 – (Attachment)

- Companies interviewed year to date is 122 compared to the prior year at 80.
- Proposals delivered year to date is 73 compared to 52 for the prior year.
- In Leveraged Resources, we saw a huge increase at \$747,263 to \$1,431,678.

WIOA Program Report June 2021 – S. Berardo (Attachment)

- Reached 149 enrollments for this program year ending on June 30th.
- Showed 32 placed and that will increase since a lot of programs ending in May & June
- Expect wage increases and placement increases since a large number of nursing students completing and ready to sit for NCLEX exam.
- Training related wage at \$20.10 per hour and non-training related wage at \$27.95 but it was only based on one person
- Have seen around 115-120 individuals seeking training this program year- majority are nursing students as well as truck drivers. Have approved 39 to start in PY2021 with the majority being nurses at Canton City Schools-starting at the beginning of August.

Comprehensive Youth Program (CCMEP)

WIOA Youth Program enrollment through May 2021 which are the individuals referred by JFS-in April had a total of 23 referred and May had a total of 38 referred. Noted they are seeing an increase in the number referred over from JFS.

There were two additions of the CCMEP program: Goodwill Summer who has 38 participating and Stark County Community Action Agency who has 25 participating.

MOTION: MANHEIM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 2021 OPERATIONS REPORTS PER ATTACHMENTS PREVIOUSLY EMAILED TO MEMBERS. CARSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meek Eells announced she would like to have the board meeting in September in person. She asked if any were opposed to this? No one was opposed. She noted she would follow up with an email to get feedback. She said September is the annual meeting, and it would be helpful to have it in person. Smith suggested to have a distant option like Zoom or another platform in case someone can not make it in person.

Smith reminded everyone of the schedule for the remainder of the year was one of the attachments for the meeting.

Adjourned: 1:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 1, 2021 – Stark County-OhioMeansJobs center-Canton at 12 noon