

**Workforce Development Board
YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 28, 2017
OhioMeansJobs - Stark County**

= BUSINESS MINUTES =

Present: A. Kerns, E. Smer, J. Breedlove, Joyce Salapack, Kristi Blankenship, R. Chiurco, S. Berardo,

Absent: D. Smith, S. Lenigar

Staff: J. Meek Eells, D. Sipe

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – E. Smer, Chair 12:10 p.m.

Introductions

APPROVAL OF APRIL 26, 2017, MEETING MINUTES – E. Smer

Motion: KERNS MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 26, 2017, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BLANKENSHIP SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS – J. Meek Eells – (attachment)

- 2014 & 2015 when Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) was going through rule review changes and legislation, they put out Fact Sheets for several of the funding titles under WIOA. Their Youth Program sheet gives highlights of the changes since we have some folks that were on our Youth Council under the Workforce Investment Act that have come back for this subcommittee. As a Youth Council we had been talking about the transition and were meeting up until our Board needed to be recertified. Two years ago we stopped meeting as a youth group until we figured out everything that was going on in Ohio with CCMEP coming in.
- The switch from WIA to WIOA basically discontinued the Youth Council concept but DOL highly recommended the Boards have a youth subcommittee of the Board. So that is what we have transitioned into now.
- For those that are not Board members and the Workforce Initiative Association staff participating in this subcommittee we ask that you sign a Conflict of Interest statement and complete a membership information form. You are not serving on the Workforce Development Board itself as we are a subcommittee of the Board not a stand-alone group like the Youth Council.
- Still working to get a few more individuals from the community to join this subcommittee. Reached out to Dawn Campanelli with JA. Dawn is very active with the Chambers Education and Workforce committee. If there are other individuals you recommend that would bring value to this committee please share with **Meek Eells**.
- Held the first official meeting April 26, 2017. This is our second official meeting under this new Workforce Development Board structure. **Meek Eells** explained our entity separation. **Meek Eells, Sipe, Fuller** all work for a separate Council of Governments that is the Board which was required by the new law and the Workforce Initiative Association is a stand-alone Council of Governments that is a service provider.
- In Ohio Gov. Kasich put into play a blending of TANF monies and workforce monies for youth and called it the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program (CCMEP). With that program the Workforce Initiative Association for Stark & Tuscarawas Counties is the lead

agency and the Workforce Board and Workforce Initiative Association are partnering very closely with Stark County and Tuscarawas County JFSs. For individuals that are receiving cash public assistance, Ohio Works First Cash, if they are between the ages of 16 and 24 and are work required they are required to participate in CCMEP. In Ohio there is no more WIA or WIOA youth program it is all under the CCMEP umbrella. We have a nice pot of funding and we have been able to do a lot of contracting over the last 2 years trying to get programs up and running.

- The transition from serving in-school youth to primarily serving out-of-school youth has been challenging. Hoping this year moving forward, we will have conversations about how we can better utilize the TANF money and do some in-school programming with just the TANF money so it won't impact our WIOA spending requirements that the Federal government had put on us.

CCMEP UPDATES– J. Breedlove

- One full year under our belt which ended June 30, 2017.
- State will be giving us more reporting and performance information shortly.
- One of the key areas that is different for us in terms of our involvement with youth programming is that with having a required population that we are serving, these individuals based upon their age and their application for cash assistance and that they are work required we are seeing at least in Stark County a very large number of individuals that are being referred over to us as part of that referral process. Those individuals have to undergo a very comprehensive assessment. Takes 1 – 1 ½ hours with our staff. After that assessment, they have to go through math/reading testing and then based upon what their career goals are they will work with their case manager on creating an Individual Opportunity Plan that they sign. We have assessed well over 500 individuals.
- As the lead agency, the Workforce Initiative Association is required to complete a plan and submit that to the State by October 1st, but we have been given an extension till the end of the year. There are some new rules that will be in place effective October 1st. These plans are basically for each county and we are required to list how we are running the CCMEP. Each county is a little different. Who are the partners, who are you using for your partners, where individuals are receiving their services, and how are you outreaching to individuals. Once the plan is approved by the State for each county, they are in place for 2 years.
- Staff participated in a full day state training on performance requirements.
- In working with over 500 individuals, the Board and Workforce Initiative Association have jointly procured several different vendors for services and we are working with those vendors referring individuals out for their needed services. There are a lot of barriered individuals. A lot of young women with children having barriers with transportation. A large number of individuals are interested in training and we see the success of those individuals that do get connected to training and complete they are finding jobs in their career interests. Because of the population we are working with, many weren't successful in secondary education and therefore don't think they can complete a degree. We are exploring some opportunities and talking to local training vendors that might be able to offer more options for very short term training and career exploration is needed for this population. They don't know what opportunities are out there for them.
- The CCMEP reports give us a lot of demographic information about these individuals we are serving.

Questions/Discussion:

Do they still have to meet a certain income level to be eligible for the programming? Out of school youth under WIOA must have a barrier, but no initial income test. If looking at training, then WIOA intake and family self-sufficiency must be reviewed. **Breedlove** advised that for the TANF eligible individuals they have to reach the TANF level of below 200%. With WIOA we are using our own definition for those that go into training at 225% but any individual can receive our services if they have

certain barriers. **Meek Eells** added that one thing we are looking at as we now have completed this 1st full year, is how our numbers were impacted by the JFSs and their referrals. In Tuscarawas County the numbers are small that are applying for actual cash assistance and we have only served maybe 15 for the whole year. We have had to go out and search for other youth in Tuscarawas County and are having some success. One of the case managers has been working with Buckeye Career Center and was able to get another 15. In Stark County the numbers have been amazing. Well over 500 that we have assessed and the numbers seem to be steady with the flow. We now need to determine how we can reach out to our court systems and some of the schools that are getting ready to graduate and will be out-of-school youth with barriers. Roughly 80-100 of the 500 were walk-ins what we call volunteers. **Meek Eells** asked **Kerns** to talk about her stand-alone program. **Kerns** added that Tuscarawas County population does not access services from JFS at this young age. The bulk of their recruitment has been from social media. Most individuals have significant barriers. They focus on 18-24 the out-of-school population. Do youth go through the Financial Prosperity Center in any way? **Breedlove** advised the United Way Financial Prosperity Center is a procured vendor for services and are working with **Chiurco** and staff to get them connected to programming specific to this youth population. **Meek Eells** added they have been talking with **Robin Waltz**, United Way Director in Tuscarawas County and **Robin Seemann**, to set up similar programming not only for the youth but also for the general population. **Goodwill** is also doing some financial literacy.

MATHEMATICA RECAP - GOALS – J. Meek Eells – (attachments)

The State of Ohio has been working federally with Department of Labor and Health & Human Services around the CCMEP project. Because we have two federal funding sources, TANF & WIOA, there are two performance and participation requirements. Under WIOA we have several indicators that we have to meet; however on the TANF side there are work participation requirements. Not really performance requirements it is a person on welfare working a number of hours a week whether at a work site or paid employment and that is the concept behind it and there is minimal allowances for education, limited on how many hours they do in a 12-month period can count towards these types of things. What the State of Ohio is trying to do through CCMEP is mirror one program so these young people can get this array of services that are primarily identified as WIOA but for it to count on the TANF side as well. It has been a struggle because on the HHS side they don't want to give any waivers right now. HHS however has allowed us to work with a research & policy group called Mathematica. They are a DC think tank that has been around for a very long time. HHS has loaned Mathematica out to us free of charge to help us because they like what we are trying to do.

Seven counties were invited to participate in a strategic planning session that Mathematica held in Columbus. Stark County took a team of our lead agency, vendors, and **Meek Eells and Sipe** from the STWDB, to talk about what we are doing under the CCMEP umbrella. Also a few counties that have been struggling with working together were invited to participate in the session. In our counties, our JFS Directors have been very supportive, but still a concern around the work participation rate.

Passed out 2 handouts from Mathematica for information purposes to use for future meetings.

During this 2-day meeting discussion was how we all need to sit together, all the vendors need to have some prescribed times to talk about the challenges that they are seeing and some of the ideas around best practices that we are seeing to help support one another. Through this committee we can start better organizing and bringing together for Stark & Tuscarawas County vendors. Our regional workforce areas also want to participate regionally.

Three goals through this strategic planning:

1. Talking with the providers and having a network of resource sharing and talking among the vendors.

2. More training and more staff development for vendors and for the case managers.
 - In Stark and Tuscarawas Counties the Workforce Initiative Association has some case managers on staff. **Chiurco** is also working with case managers that are contracted shared employees from Goodwill here in the OhioMeansJobs Center.
3. Chunk training – Have been talking with Stark State about very short term certificate training. Talking about ways we can still fund the training but do some kind of stackable training that the youth could get it in 2-4 weeks and make a big deal about it and it is a win for them to build upon.

We would like to address these three things to continue to build upon our program.

Discussion:

If there would be a way for them to get the training and certificate without having to pass a test. More like a hands-on training. Research shows that the state testing that has been done is not relevant and that hands-on is more effective.

Speaker Alan November – **Smer** has copy of presentation he will forward to **Meek Eells**.

Having a platform makes things easier to build upon and spend federal dollars on.

As you think about this or run across something that is interesting send it to **Meek Eells**.

Trying to build CCMEP as a community collaborative to give our youth life skills.

Asked **Chiurco** what areas she thinks case managers need assistance with? They all struggle with trying to not become enablers – trying to help them stand on their own two feet and make decisions and not do it for them. One of their goals this next year is to get more youth into counseling. Talking to vendors to start introducing counseling at the vendor site.

Meek Eells added that she was proud of everybody in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties because for our workforce system to be asked to participate in that was an honor. The state has been looking at some of the things we have been doing.

Future Meeting Dates – J. Meek Eells

Meek Eells recommended late January early February.

Adjourned 1:19 p.m.