

**STARK TUSCARAWAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING**

July 8, 2020

**Virtual Meeting – Zoom Format**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>STWDB STAFF</b>
T. Beauch	J. Burley	M. Chastain	J. Meek Eells
T. Black	S. Carson	A. Hinkel	D. Sipe
D. Cole	T. Davis	L. Kopfstein	M. Fuller
D. Forkas	H. Eadon	V. VanBuskirk	
N Hackenbracht	B. Larman		<b>ONE-STOP OPR/FISCAL AGENT</b>
K. Hannon	M. Locke		K. Beckman
P. Jones	S. Meeks		S. Berardo
A. Kerns	R. Moss		J. Breedlove
M. Manheim	R. Waltz		C. Byrd
S. Robinson			M. Falter
J. Sekely			M. Gwin
D. Smith			A. Miller
D. Wheeler			

**BUSINESS MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**D. Smith, Chair** called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Welcomed the newest Board member, Damus Cole, Canton Electrical JATC, Training Director. He thanked **Meek Eells** for giving him the opportunity to be a part of this Board and looking forward to working with everyone.

**APPROVAL MAY 6, 2020, MEETING MINUTES – D. SMITH, Chair – (Attachment)**

**MOTION: BEAUCH MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE MAY 6, 2020, MEETING MINUTES PER ATTACHMENT PREVIOUSLY EMAILED TO MEMBERS. JONES SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DIRECTOR’S UPDATE – J. Meek Eells – Attachment**

**ODJFS Strategic Planning**

- Started this prior to COVID-19 and have now reinitiated everything.
- Working with a consultant group out of the Columbus area called RAMA.
- This week on Monday started a series of regional workgroup sessions where RAMA is working with representatives from leadership from the Public Assistance side of ODJFS, Child Support Enforcement, Children Services, and Workforce Development.
- **Meek Eells** is scheduled to participate in a session that includes this region and excited that Director Kimberly Hall with ODJFS has given locals an opportunity to give feedback and work with the State to move all of our social service and workforce programs forward.

**Business Outreach Grant – ODJFS to locals**

- ODJFS the Office of Workforce Development offered opportunities to local workforce boards to receive State Rapid Response money to engage in business outreach especially due to COVID-19.
- Locally just received a letter dated June 25<sup>th</sup> that our application for those funds was approved and will receive \$300,000.

- The bulk of that funding will be used to hire some staff to do outreach in both Stark and Tuscarawas Counties to compliment the work **Matt Falter** and **Laura Kopfstein** are doing around the Business Resource Network.
- A lot of the Workforce Board Directors had approached the State to put Business outreach as a priority in our application through the DOL for COVID-19 DLW grant funds and DOL was not receptive to that. They wanted more of the use of their funds for direct service to DLWs. The State pulled back and worked with the locals in this way through Rapid Response.

#### **COVID-19 Employment Recovery National DWG**

- Letter received June 23<sup>rd</sup> from the State, Ohio was approved for \$8.5 million from DOL for COVID-19 response to DLWs. Locally we will receive about \$127,000.00. These funds will be used primarily for training and On-the-Job training assistance.

#### **Presented to the Ohio Workforce Coalition Membership**

- **Meek Eells** had the opportunity to present during a virtual meeting of the Ohio Workforce Coalition Membership on June 25<sup>th</sup>. As President of the Ohio Workforce Association, **Meek Eells**, gave a briefing on workforce in general and talked about the business outreach and the COVID-19 DLW grant.
- Also spent some time from a local perspective talking with individuals about our Business Resource Network approach and how it compliments what we are doing with our businesses to help them reengage and connect them to talent as they emerge from COVID-19.
- Thanked **Sipe** for doing a great job in keeping the Board apprised of the Unemployment Rates.
- Thanked **Breedlove, Byrd** and **Fuller** for being in the office getting it ready to do some appointment only reopening this week. We will have services available in the building, but still want to make sure that we have as few physical people coming through the center as possible both staff and public.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 31, 2020 – C. Byrd – (Attachment)**

- One month to go in the Fiscal Year.
- Revenue side received some small additional allocations from the WIOA dollars. About \$8,000 from WIOA funds and received about \$55,000 in TANF funding from ODJFS.
- Expenditure side is on track to end the Fiscal Year with having fully spent all of our grant funds that are expiring as of June 30. Nothing will go back to the State.
- New Year began July 1 and for the new allocations for PY20, ended up with a \$72,000 decrease in WIOA funding from the previous year. This amounts to about 2% and all of that was DLW funding. This is a small decrease and nothing to be concerned about.
- TANF funding allocation isn't received until October. At this point, assuming it will be the same amount as this year but being cautious about that because the State's tax revenue has dropped off and have had to make cuts. Don't think it will affect us because of where our TANF funding comes from. This past year with COVID-19 over the last few months in some areas TANF expenditures have gone down and there should be money left.

**MOTION:      **WHEELER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MAY 31, 2020, TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. BEAUCH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.****

#### **ONE-STOP OPERATOR/CCMEP UPDATE – J. Breedlove**

- The One-Stop Operator continues to provide services virtually to customers since March and will continue through this week. Continue to help customers with Unemployment Insurance questions as well as specific job search assistance. In June reinstated the entering of customer data into our local customer tracking system, GSTARS, for individuals that we serve once again through the center and this information is submitted to the State's database. This includes customers served virtually as well as applicants requesting information about our workforce funding.
- Plans do include a soft reopening of our centers July 13<sup>th</sup>. Welcomed staff back to the centers this week, returning as needed to the centers. Staff will schedule appointments for customers to use the centers by using a screening process to determine the need for services and if there is a way to continue to assist customers virtually we will continue to do that. Individuals that would need to physically come into the center might be someone that does not have access to a computer or Wi-Fi and they will be scheduled into our Resource Room.

- Have acquired the use of online scheduling software, Appointy, used by the staff that needs to meet with the customers in the Resource Center or for enrolled customer appointments that would need to come in to the center. Thanked **Sipe** for his taking the lead on working with the vendor and training the staff.
- Have protocols in place for safety/hygiene and have been communicated to staff and will have additional training. **Miller** and **Breedlove** will also be working closely with the OhioMeansJobs Center Partners on the protocols.
- Placing a strong emphasis on all of our social media outreach and tools that are available to enhance this type of messaging. Wonderful tools to be able to communicate with the public.

### **CCMEP**

- Continue to receive referrals from Job and Family Services Partners regarding serving the 18-24 year old Ohio Works First (OWF) eligible and required population through the OhioMeansJobs Centers. The assessment appointments continue to be facilitated virtually and are referring individuals to our youth vendors for services. Vendor services since March has been provided virtually and will continue virtually. Have had recent discussions with vendors in terms of their reopening protocols and the need to follow the “Responsible RestartOhio” guidelines. Youth vendors have provided some reopening plans.
- Existing CCMEP youth vendor agreements have been extended for an additional year beginning July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### **OPIOID RECOVERY – FRIENDLY WORKPLACE RFQ – D. Sipe**

As part of our Opioid grant, we issued a Request for Quotes to secure assistance for the development of Opioid Recovery Friendly Workplaces in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties.

Although we sent the RFQ to more than 5 vendors, we only received one response from an organization called Working Partners®.

The quote was determined to be acceptable, responsive and from a highly qualified organization.

Working Partners® has assisted businesses with alcohol/drug issues for nearly 30 years. We will move forward with contracting to obtain an agreement.

As part of the agreement Working Partners® will coordinate with the Business Resource Network in contacting employers.

Deliverables will be:

- Two six-hour technical assistance clinics on recovery-friendly workplace policies delivered at the OhioMeansJobs Centers in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties; and as a result of those clinics and other outreach, they will assist employers to create and implement Opioid Recovery Friendly Workplace Interventions.

The main goal is to be:

- Written policies and procedures for those companies.
- Will have workplace drug education and outreach programs.
- Coordinate with the employee assistance and wellness benefit programs at those companies to create environments that will allow for the employment of individuals who have struggled with Opioid addiction.

The agreement will be for approximately \$40,000 and provide services through June 30, 2021. The agreement will be on a cost reimbursement basis and will be set in a way that the \$40,000 will last for the year.

### **OPERATIONS REPORTS**

#### **Public Relations – M. Gwin – (Attachment)**

- Article in Times Reporter announcing Workforce Initiative Association is accepting applications for workforce funded training opportunities.
- Article in The Canton Repository “Canton Summer Youth Program”. The article reported that the City of Canton and OhioMeansJobs Stark & Tuscarawas Counties recently awarded grants to several area organizations for summer employment programs. Local awards totaled \$418,000 this year when combined with OhioMeansJobs money – from federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds. The Stark County Community Action Agency received \$100,000 to help youth aged 14 and 15 explore career options. SCCAA also received

\$10,000 from the city and \$135,000 from OhioMeansJobs to assist 38 people between the ages of 16 and 18 with summer employment. This also received a shout out from the Stark Community Foundation's "Here's to a Good News Monday" section of The Repository.

- Stark County's unemployment rate in May fell to 12.6% after jumping to 16.2% in April. The local rate is more than three times the 4% posted in May 2019. Tuscarawas County's rate was at 11.5% compared with 15.2% in April and 3.7% last year.
- Resource room staff continues to offer Facebook Live sessions to enable job seekers to hear about a topic from a Resource Room Specialist and ask questions in real time.
- Noted that **Miller's** staff has done a phenomenal job of adapting to this way of reaching out to our job seeker customers.
- As of the end of June, 27 sessions have been produced with a total of 6,771 views with our most popular session continues to be our first Facebook Live session "Telephone Interviewing Tips" with 672 views.
- Now in YouTube and continue to add videos to our page. You can find us by searching OhioMeansJobs Stark & Tuscarawas Counties.
- Pleased to announce we now have a LinkedIn profile page. This is an important marketing tool for our organization in addition to our other social media platforms. Will be posting a variety of content and information that will engage both our business and job seeker customers.
- Conducted a few live telephone interviews to promote Workforce Funded training opportunities and are continuing to run commercials on radio stations announcing our closures and as we proceed with our reopening will be updating those commercials.

#### **One Stop Resource Center Report June 2020– A. Miller (Attachment)**

- This report is different from the normal report.
- Rapid Response – JC Penny's and Pier 1 declined any type of Resource Room activity or Rapid Response activity. Both will not be closing immediately so our Workforce Specialist will reach out to them again.
- Resource Room staff has primarily been answering the phone and getting creative with different social media things and different things to reach out to people since we are not in the office.
- When this first started in March/April we were getting about 75 calls per day in Stark County and 25 calls per day in Tusc. County. The vast majority of those calls were about Unemployment Insurance and while they continue we have definitely seen a decline in the number of calls and an uptick in the calls of people asking about things such as workforce funding and job search. Staff has been doing appointments with people as they request them.
- Facebook Live has been huge. Have been offering them on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. In July will be changing and going to Thursdays at 1 p.m. Also will be doing special events with the first one being with **Meek Eells** and the Strengthening Stark program talking about the StrengtheningStarkMeansJobs.com database. Did one yesterday in Stark called "Our New Normal" which was a walkthrough of the facility and will also do one in Tusc. County tomorrow. If you have a minute please check them out.
- Have done a lot with YouTube and had a great partnership with students from Stark State. **Hinkle** volunteered to have some of their students from the Advanced Video Projection class work on a video. The students worked very hard on this and with COVID-19 they had to rethink their process of using actors and created a video using animation.

#### **One Stop Business Services Report June 2020– Kristen Beckman – (Attachment)**

- Seven new employers.
- Found that half of the job postings were actually extended from prior months because most employers are continuing to struggle with their staffing needs. The report shows 34 new postings but those were new and unique postings. Had another 30 plus postings that were extended from previous months. Noticed an uptick on certain industries such as machinist positions and also CDL driver positions.
- Average wage of the job postings is around \$13-\$14/hour.
- Placements average wage was higher than normal. Placed seven individuals with Scott Process Systems which was originally a BRN referral. **Falter** and **Kopfstein** continue to try to meet with those employers to understand what their staffing needs are and assist in a manner that they can.
- In the Tusc. County area most placements were in the nonprofit area.
- Overall wage with the two counties averaged about \$19.00 (\$21.00 in Stark and almost \$16.00 in Tusc.)

- 250 active postings which were openings from employers that have needs continuing from previous months even pre COVID-19 and some were new and unique openings.
- Conversation with the Stark Economic Development Board because noticed an increase in positions for CDL drivers and want to work with them to figure out what could be done better to connect employers with candidates. **Jones** commented on Stark State's CDL program and great staff who could work with individuals Beckman is sharing CDL opportunities with. It is a 6-7 week program depending on credit or non-credit. Would like to work with the Business Services Unit to get the word out to more people.
- Continue to assist employers through social media efforts.

**Meek Eells** announced that **Smith** had to leave the meeting at 12:50 p.m. and **Beauch** continued the meeting.

#### **BRN – Matt Falter June 2020 – (Attachment)**

- Comparing the numbers from last program year to this program year all the numbers are up. This is a testament to the Partnership with all of you and all of the networks; **Beckman** and her team, Stark Economic Development Board and the Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation because we are all doing a lot of business retention expansion. Also the partnership with ODJFS and **Kopfstein** coming onboard to help with follow up has been a great asset.
- An uptick in On-the-Job Training contracts. Most recent with Central Coated Products in Alliance to assist with new hires due to expansion project and with Seifert Tech in Massillon. Think this will continue and a lot of companies are still in need of skilled people.
- Working with Blane Canada and 25 other economic development agencies across the country to help shape the new Synchronist post COVID-19 BR&E survey.
- During COVID-19 employers have had some disruptions with their supplies. One of our partners in the network, Export Assistance Center based out of Youngstown State made an emphasis on offering some reshoring assistance working with some of their national contacts to help companies.
- Asked by the Ohio Economic Development Association to present at their September 2020 Workforce & Talent class on the BRN – will be virtual format.

#### **WIOA Program Report June 2020 – S. Berardo (Attachment)**

- PY19 had 160 people enrolled during the year in some type of training. Had 165 in PY18. Struggling to get the numbers of people that would normally apply for funding this year. Continuing to take applications. Have sent out over 100 applications by request and the bulk of the people interested are in CDL but also some LPNs and a few others in various other occupations.
- Have 109 still in active job search between last year and this year of people that have completed.
- Average wage rate now is \$18.34 and is because of the high paying jobs in truck driving as well as LPNs.
- Mentioned the Youth Program report and the CCMEP referrals from Job and Family Services. Did not have anyone enrolled that started this month but do have youth that has been applying for occupational skills training to start July and forward.
- A comprehensive Youth program enrollment levels show that JOGS in School and Out-of-School has the bulk of people. Have two small summer programs one through Goodwill and one through Stark County Community Action Agency.
- Moving along, staying busy, and continuing to do a lot of things through mail. Will start making appointments with those that are interested in going to school to get the required documentation that is necessary and signatures.
- Planning to accept applications for funding for school beyond our normal time period.

**Meek Eells** offered that the newest edition of *The Source* that **Miller** provides will be emailed out to everyone and there is a detailed story in there about our partnership with Stark State for the video they made for us. Also wanted to thank Buckeye Career Center and there was also a story about highlighting nine of our CCMEP participants where all nine of them recently finished their training program through Buckeye. Really appreciate the support and the fact that the folks that get trained and complete their certification there is such a big difference in how much money they can make.

**MOTION: HANNON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 2020 OPERATIONS REPORTS PER ATTACHMENTS PREVIOUSLY EMAILED TO MEMBERS. WHEELER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEXT MEETING: September 2, 2020 – probably virtual at 12 noon**

**MOTION: HANNON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 1:01 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**