

STARK TUSCARAWAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

March 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Platform

PRESENT	ABSENT	STWDB STAFF
John Aldergate	Marla Akridge	JoAnn Breedlove
Damus Cole	Rick Baxter	Rebecca Harris
Andrew Fowler	Stephen Carson	Maddy Miller
Lisa Gould	Rick Moss	Aleisha Stout
Para Jones	Joseph Sekely	
Alison Kerns	Patrice Yacko	LEO
Mike Lauber		Commissioner Greg Ress
Susan Lenigar		
Marc Manheim		
Steve Rippeth	Guests	
Scott Robinson	Michelle Carver	ONE-STOP OPR/FISCAL AGENT
Tracy Sabo		Chuck Byrd
Sarah Spies		Freda Martin
Darren Van Winkle		Logan Little
		Amy Miller
		Dan Sipe
		Lori Yager

BUSINESS MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Scott Robinson, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Guest Introductions..... Scott Robinson, Chair

- Commissioner Greg Ress with Tuscarawas County
- Michelle Carver with Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Board Member Update:

Robinson reminded members that Breedlove previously shared information on board member Patrice Yacko who will undergo surgery today. Patrice has asked for our support and prayers during these next couple of months. The board staff will send a card to Patrice on the board's behalf.

New Staff Member Introduction..... Scott Robinson, Chair

Aleisha Stout has assumed the role of Assistant Director with the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board on February 20, 2025. She previously worked with the Stark Economic Development Board with the Strengthening Stark Initiative overseeing workforce components.

Breedlove thanked our board member, Darren Van Winkle, for assisting in the interview process.

Pathway Home 6 Grant Funding Opportunity

We are participating in a Pathway Home 6 Grant consortium application with Midwest Urban Strategies as the lead (which STWDB has a membership) and two other workforce boards (Northwest Indiana and Kansas City, Missouri). Aleisha Stout is the staff liaison with the grant application, and the deadline to apply is March 14, 2025. This is highly competitive, and they are awarding up to 9 awards nationally (allocations-\$25 million) which the funding is through the Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration. The goal of this grant is to provide workforce development services to incarcerated individuals before release and continue supporting post-release from a correctional facility. We are working through Stark Regional Community Correction Center (SRCCC) as the facility; SRCCC receives referrals from 4 counties from the Common Pleas court to the correctional facility. Locally, the grant will serve individuals returning home to Stark and Tuscarawas Counties with employment services and connections to resources. For the Pathway Home 3 Grant, our OMJ Stark County center housed an employment navigator through 2024 as one of the six participating counties.

Board Compliance Activities (Status Update)-JoAnn Breedlove

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Partner Negotiation for the Job Centers is a requirement every 2 years with all partners who make up the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) system. There are 16 different entities that make up our structure at our OMJ centers in both of our counties. The board oversees this process/the MOU. Biennial negotiations include an operating budget discussion/agreement, as well as how referrals are made to partner entities and more. The series of 4 meetings is scheduled to start March 7, 2025. Steve Rippeth, as the Job Center Committee chair, will assist in this effort that will lead to a partner MOU agreement. The MOU Agreement must be submitted to the state by May 31, 2025.

OhioMeansJobs Center System Certification

The OhioMeansJobs centers are required to be certified every 3 years. The state has informed us that they will be leading us in this effort and will provide checklists for these activities. The bulk of the activities have been adjusted to begin in June 2025 and the completion of those activities by end of December 2025 (6-month period) for that system certification process. The centers completed this process 3 years ago, which was a 3-phase process over a 5-year period. The boards are required to certify the centers.

The state has procured mystery shopper entities, and this mystery shopper activity will occur across the state of Ohio starting in April. The mystery shoppers will come through as customers and they will utilize their own checklist and report on their experiences physically in the centers as well as through virtual means (phones, website, etc.). This data/reporting from the mystery shopping will be completed and shared with our system in June 2025.

East Ohio Regional/ Local Planning

Breedlove shared the Regional Plan process happens every 4 years per our current Federal workforce legislation; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). Workforce areas are required to complete a regional and a local plan; this process will start in April and this plan will be due October 31, 2025. It has been 4 years since our last regional and local plan. Modifications to the regional plan are then completed, approved, and submitted 2 years after the regional plan is completed (we completed the updates two years ago). Our workforce area (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties) is

included as part of a region known as the East Region which includes Stark, Tuscarawas, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties. The plan typically is a framework for those areas to define how their system is going to achieve the purpose of the WIOA legislation. The plan is for 4 years and is intended to develop, align and integrate the workforce system, and how we are going to meet those strategic operational goals. Trumbull County workforce area will take the lead in this process.

Other Updates-JoAnn Breedlove
Welcome-Assistant Director, Aleisha Stout

Breedlove reinforced the welcome of Aleisha Stout in her role as Assistant Director to the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board. In her role, she will be dedicated to the leadership of the board policy work, responsibility over WIOA performance and oversight of the Business Resource Network (BRN).

PY25 Ohio’s WIOA Funding Planning Estimates

Ohio will receive a 7.3% reduction in WIOA funds for PY25 starting July 1, 2025. Beginning May 2025, we should receive our final allocation for PY25.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act (WIOA Reauthorization Update)

Breedlove shared an update on “A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA) that is proposed Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Reauthorization. She has provided regular updates regarding this proposed legislation and changes since 2023. In December 2024, the Reauthorization did not move forward in the 118th Congress and a new reauthorization bill must be introduced in the next Congress. WIOA was last authorized in 2014 and that reauthorization lapsed in 2019 (a 5- year authorization). Programs with lapsed authorizations typically continue to operate if Congress allocates funding. Senator Michael Rulli serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee and Senator John Husted serves on the Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee.

Outreach with Newly Elected Local General Assembly Representatives

- Met State Representative, Jody Salvo (OH51) in Columbus which covers Tuscarawas County and southwestern Stark County.
- State Representative, Matt Kishman (OH50) whose area covers eastern, southern, and western Stark County, recently visited our Stark County OMJ Center.
- Plan to meet with State Senator Jane Timken (OH29) in the near future who is fulfilling the late State Senator Kirk Schuring’s term.

Future Meetings:

- The May 2025 Board meeting, scheduled during the state’s “In Demand Jobs Week”, will be held at the Canton Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center. Thank you to Damus Cole for hosting the meeting location.

Treasurer’s Report (Attachment) Dan Sipe, Fiscal Agent

Sipe shared the Treasurer’s Report on the screen. The first section of the report represents our formula funds. The PY23 Adult funds are fully expended, and the PY24 are approximately 60% disbursed and the balances are fully obligated. The PY24 monies need to be spent by June 30, 2026, and the goal is to have them liquidated by December of this year (2025). The PY25 formula allocations will be received in July 2025.

Under the other funds, the first allocation of RESEA grant was fully spent and are 15% expended on our PY24 allocations that run through March 2026. All other funds in this section are spent except for the Urban League Navigators grant and associated admin which will end in June 2025.

Our FY24 TANF allocations for CCMEP were closed at the end of December 2024 and all available funding was spent. Now we are expending the FY25 allocation that runs through September 30, 2025.

The Job Center (One-Stop) MOU budget is 57% expended which is in line with completing 7 months of the 12-month period.

MOTION: KERNS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 31, 2025; TREASURER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED. ALDERGATE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OhioMeansJobs Operator Update / Operation Reports Summary.....Scott Robinson

Communications Report (Attachment) Maddy Miller, Communications Manager
Miller reported on the upcoming Alliance Area Career Fair on April 3rd from 11-2 p.m. at the University of Mount Union. This career fair is in partnership with Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce, Alliance Area Development and University of Mount Union. Currently there are 29 employers registered for the event, and the deadline to register is March 14th. Outreach to job seekers was kicked off this week and will continue till the event date. The goal is to see an increase in employer registration.

PY24 Operations Report Update (Attachment)Amy Miller, Deputy Director of Program Services
Miller stated the **Resource Center Update** is the part of the report that compares the November and Year to Date traffic numbers in Stark County, Tuscarawas County, and systemwide, and it also shows the year-to-date customer visits. In January 2025, there were **554** customer visits systemwide and Year-to-Date customer visits were **3109**. There has been an increase in unemployment numbers in Tuscarawas County.

Rapid Response

The following Rapid Response events occurred:

- Old Navy in Stark County, and the employer declined assistance.
- Party City in Stark County which impacted 10 employees, and there was rapid response packets delivered to the employees.
- There are a few companies that do not appear in the report:
 - JoAnn Fabrics is closing all stores nationwide which affects stores in Stark and Tuscarawas counties. Sue Bressler, Rapid Response Workforce Specialist, with ODJFS is working with the corporate office.
 - The 19th Hole Restaurant / Bar in downtown Canton is closing but employees are accepting other positions, so no rapid response is needed.
 - Battle Motors in Tuscarawas County laid off employees per a newspaper article. It is estimated 140 employees are affected but not all employees are from the Tuscarawas County location. A WARN (Worker Adjustment Retraining Notification) notice was not issued and there was no other information to report at this time. Sue Bressler from ODJFS is involved.

Miller provided an update for **Employer Services** for January and year to date (YTD) **Job Postings** in the two largest areas which are Manufacturing and Healthcare. Miller reported on the January Job Postings in the

following areas: Manufacturing average wage was \$20.48 per hour with 15 postings and Healthcare was \$21.60 per hour with 5 postings.

Miller provided an update for January and year-to-date (YTD) **placements**. She highlighted the following industries in January: Manufacturing had 13 placements with average wage of \$15.50 per hour and YTD: Manufacturing had 195 placements with average wage of \$17.30 per hour.

Miller reported the limited Business Resource Network (BRN) activity as this program transitions to the STWDB. The **Business Resource Network** (BRN) report includes any leveraged resources accessed through the partnership; \$13,5000 of leveraged resources included in January with information through the Stark Economic Development Board and \$90,020 Year to Date. The **Incumbent Worker Training Program** (IWTP) is an employer-sponsored program that provides grant funding to assist eligible businesses to offset the cost of training their existing workers. There have been 4 IWTP contracts in PY24 with 4 in manufacturing for approved contracts of \$44,982.00 and \$45,960.99 have been spent. The reason some of the contracts may not be fully expended is dependent on when the training they were requesting funding for was being completed.

MOTION: COLE MOVED TO ACCEPT THE OPERATIONS REPORT AND THE COMMUNICATION REPORT PER ATTACHMENTS PREVIOUSLY EMAILED TO MEMBERS. LAUBER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time in the meeting, all STWDB/WIA Contracted CCMEP Youth Providers were excused from the meeting.

- Alison Kerns with Harcatus left the meeting.

CCMEP WIOA/ CCMEP Vendor Agreements Discussions/Recommendations... JoAnn Breedlove

Breedlove displayed a letter which was addressed to our WDB Chair, Scott Robinson from the STWDB Youth Committee dated March 5, 2025. This letter is regarding the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program (CCMEP) Youth/Young Adult Service Provider Agreement Recommendations.

Breedlove gave a summary of the letter noting: Ohio's Comprehensive Case Management (CCMEP) integrates youth programming funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) funding. Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board (STWDB) awards WIOA-funded contracts to youth service providers to carry out some or all of the youth workforce investment activities on a competitive basis. STWDB and Workforce Initiative Association (Lead Agency for CCMEP that receives the TANF funding) jointly procure youth service providers. The length of youth service provider contracts shall be for no more than 4 years, including any extensions.

STWDB's most recent procurement (2023) resulted in the following board approved providers and (2) one-year service agreements with the option to renew for (2) additional one-year agreements.

July 1, 2023-June 30,2024 (1st Agreement)

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 (2nd Agreement)

VENDOR	FUNDING	PROGRAM TYPE	COUNTIES SERVED
Commquest (Next Level Employment)	TANF/WIOA	Vendor, In School Youth, Out of School Youth	Stark
Goodwill Industries	TANF/WIOA	Vendor, Out of School Youth, Single Service	Stark / Tuscarawas
Harcatus Community Action Organizations, Inc	TANF/WIOA	In School Youth, Out of School Youth	Tuscarawas
Tri-County Job for Ohio's Graduates	TANF/WIOA	Vendor, In School Youth, Out of School Youth	Stark
Coleman Health Services	TANF/WIOA	In School Youth, Out of School Youth	Stark
Early Childhood Resource Center	TANF/WIOA	Vendor, Single Service	Stark
Project Rebuild	TANF/WIOA	Out of School Youth	Stark
Stark County Community Action Agency	TANF/WIOA	In School Youth, Single Service	Stark

The Youth Committee met on March 3, 2025, and offers the following recommendations to the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board for its action:

- Extension of existing youth provider agreements for (2) additional one-year agreements

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

Breedlove noted all youth providers have sufficient monitoring, clean audits and invoices are detailed and timely.

MOTION: ALDERGATE MOVED TO EXTEND THE EXISTING YOUTH PROVIDER AGREEMENTS FOR 2 ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR AGREEMENTS. COLE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MANHEIM ABSTAINED.

At this time in the meeting, all Workforce Initiative Association staff members were excused from the meeting.

- Chuck Byrd, Amy Miller, Dan Sipe, Freda Martin, Lori Yager, Logan Little

At this time in the meeting, all STWDB/WIA Contracted CCMEP Youth Providers returned to the meeting.

- Alison Kerns with Harcatus returned to the meeting.

Breedlove noted January 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes were emailed out prior to the meeting only to STWDB board members since there was discussion on the Job Center Operator RFP at the January meeting.

January 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes..... Scott Robinson, Chair (**Attachment**)

MOTION: ALDERGATE MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2025, MEETING MINUTES. GOULD SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Job Center Operator Procurement Recommendations.....Rebecca Harris, Operations Manager
Harris displayed a letter on the screen, which was addressed to WDB Chair, Scott Robinson from the staff to the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board (STWDB) dated March 5, 2025.

Harris gave a summary of the letter noting as required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA), the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board issued a Request for Proposals for the Job Center Operator.

Below is an overview of the **Procurement Process**

January 8	STWDB Board Approved RFP release
January 10	Broadcast Letter of RFP release sent to board members, local officials and 174 recipients
January 17&19	Public Notices published in the Canton Repository and Times Reporter
January 21	RFP posted on the STWDB website and LinkedIn
January 21-February 7	Q&A Period , no questions were submitted on the RFP
January 24	Hosted Bidder's Conference via Zoom with 6 organizations in the meeting
January 27	4 organizations submitted a "Letter of Intent to Propose"
February 19 at 4:00 p.m.	RFP Submission Deadline: One proposal received
February 21	Sent inquiry to ODJFS to confirm the next steps given only one proposal was received
February 24	ODJFS confirmed policy supports awarding the contract since a competitive procurement opportunity was posted publicly

In response to our request, only one response was received from the existing provider. This result necessitated communication with the state.

Based on the information we provided and confirmation that the procurement complies with WIOA Policy Letter (WIOAPL) 16-08, the Office of Contracts and Acquisitions recommended that the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board proceed with a contract award to the sole responder of the Job Center Operator RFP.

The staff to the STWDB offers its recommendation to the full Workforce Development Board for its action:

The board staff recommends the following provider be selected as the Job Center Operator for Program Year 2025 with an option for renewal.

1. Workforce Initiative Association

MOTION: COLE MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE JOB CENTER OPERATOR (WORKFORCE INITIATIVE ASSOCIATION) FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2025 WITH OPTION FOR RENEWAL. ALDERGATE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. KERNS AND MANHEIM ABSTAINED.

Adjourned: 12:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2025, 12:00 PM
Canton JATC Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC)
3855 Wales Ave. NW. Massillon, OH 44646