STARK TUSCARAWAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 12, 2025
Zoom format

PRESENT:	ABSENT:	**STWDB STAFF**
Damus Cole	John Aldergate	JoAnn Breedlove
Alison Kerns		Rebecca Harris
Steve Rippeth		Aleisha Stout
Scott Robinson		
Joe Sekely		

BUSINESS MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER
Chair, Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-(Attachment)
Robinson called for a motion to approve the February 27, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION: KERNS MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024; MINUTES AS PRESENTED. RIPPETH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR UPDATES / REVIEW – JoAnn Breedlove, STWDB Executive Director

WIOA funding (PY25)
Breedlove noted that she provided an update at the May 2025 STWDB meeting that the workforce development board will take a 5.7% decrease ($162K) in WIOA funding for Program Year 2025 (PY25). The final number was provided this week effective July 1, 2025, to be a decrease of 6.1% which equates to $171,000.

The last several years we have been fortunate to have access to additional grants/special project funding that has allowed us to charge expenses to those special grants to help preserve the formula funding; the special project/special grant funding has not been readily available the last year or so.

In anticipation of the budget proposal to the COG, we have had conversations with contracted youth vendors about budgets for the next program year. As a reminder, at the March 2025 board meeting, the board approved extending the youth vendor agreements, pending funding availability, for the next 2 years instead of moving forward with a procurement; much of the youth funding utilized for the CCMEP Youth program is TANF of which the Lead Agency (WIA) receives. All eight (8) contracted vendors will be impacted by cuts and the Workforce Initiative Association (fiscal agent/lead agency), and board staff are working through that process now. One of the agenda items in the packet is potential adjustments to Youth Incentives.

Jobs Platform Status
The current job platforms websites for Stark and Tuscarawas County know as StrengtheningStarkMeansJobs.com and TuscCountyMeansJobs.net will be replaced and will transition from two separate county websites to a new data tool. The new tool will provide quarterly updated dashboards, and customized county and area level data/information. It is estimated to be a 50% cost reduction from the existing jobs platform sites and will provide 15 different data dashboards.

Regional Planning
The Regional Planning process is required every four years. It was previously shared with the board that it will be completed by 9/30/25. We are part of the East Ohio Region and working with our regional partners from Mahoning/Columbiana and Trumbull counties, and have created a timeline where we will have the draft plan completed by 6/27/25; with a required 30 day public comment period from 7/14/25-8/13/25 which will then allow us to address any public comment, share with the board well in advance of the September 2025 meeting, and gather final signatures from the LEOs and board chair.

CCMEP WIOA Youth Policy (Incentives Recommended Updates)
Breedlove notes incentives are allowable for the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program (CCMEP) as it is intended for goal achievements and milestones and aligned with WIOA/CCMEP performance metrics. Previously the Executive Committee acted on the Incentive which went in effect 7/1/2023 and we have funded over $300,000 in a year through 8 vendors and the OMJ center staff in incentives to participants for these achievements/milestones.

The proposed change for 7/1/25, if approved, will help save costs and still support the integrity of incentive purposes; it is anticipated to save $150,000 per year. The modification proposes to reduce employment milestones payments and limit post-secondary enrollment incentives, with prioritizing for those in-school youth.

Alison Kerns will abstain from this vote since her organization is a contracted youth vendor.

> **MOTION: COLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED STWDB CCMEP WIOA YOUTH INCENTIVE AMOUNTS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025. RIPPETH SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED. KERNS ABSTAINED.**

Designated Services (Scope and Evaluation of Services)
Procured Job Center (Operator Services Scope and Evaluation of Services)
Breedlove reported each year that the board receives the WIOA allocation in late May/June, and we are working through a budgeting process now with a budget that will be proposed to the COG on 6/23/25. This budget includes funds for designated services provided by Workforce Initiative Association (WIA) as well as funds for the procured Job Center Operator agreement with WIA as a separate agreement. Locally, the board creates a subgrant agreement with WIA that specifically states the designated services (business services, career services, Rapid Response services, RESEA services, etc.) and then an approved budget is included. The board chair signs this document.

The Board and WIA increasingly see the need for a common understanding and expectations of the services to be provided. A mutually agreeable understanding of the "scope" of each designated service as well as an objective evaluation of those designated services is proposed. Likewise, the "scope" of the Job Center Operator services has been defined along with the objective evaluation of such services.

The first year will be a high-level evaluation of the designated services with no formal quantitative metrics but more or a qualitative review. We anticipate PY26's agreement to have a bit more quantitative included and next year will come back to the Executive Committee and have a desire to have the board involved.

The scopes of service / evaluation framework is about 90% complete and attached/included for the Executive Committee's review with a request for action before the start of PY25.

MOTION: KERNS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCURED JOB CENTER OPERATOR SERVICES SCOPE AND EVALUATION OF SERVICES, and DESIGNATED SERVICES SCOPE AND EVALUATION OF SERVICES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025. COLE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Other

Breedlove reported that the **Job Corps** Center closures will go in effect at the end of June 2025. Job Corps is a partner in our OhioMeansJobs Center. This will have a potential impact on local workforce systems and there will be a need for transition support for affected students.

Breedlove informed the Executive Committee of the retirement of **John Aldergate** (Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital). There are plans to identify a new board member from Cleveland Clinic

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:56 a.m.

Next Meeting (August 2025-dates forthcoming)
Yearly Governing Board Meeting (Executive Committee and Local Elected Officials)