

**Lucas County Workforce Development Board**  
Meeting Minutes for: February 21, 2024, 2:00PM  
Location: Lucas County Shared Services Building  
3737 Sylvania Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43623

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**Board Member Roster**

|   |                  |   |                    |   |                   |
|---|------------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| P | LaTonya Boyd     | P | Matthew Kibler     | P | Brandon Sehlhorst |
| P | Khary Carson     | P | Jeremy Knisely     | P | Denise Smith      |
| P | Lee Daher        | N | Karyn McConnell    | P | David Takats      |
| P | Tom Demitrew     | N | Michelle McDougall |   |                   |
| N | Vanessa Gonyer   | P | Valarie Moffitt    |   |                   |
| P | Luke Grabel      | P | Teresa Moore       |   |                   |
| N | Candice Harrison | N | Debra Morris       |   |                   |
| N | Scott Hayes      | N | Mike Pfeiffer      |   |                   |
| P | Laura Jenkins    | N | Scott Potter       |   |                   |

**Board of County Commissioners**

|   |              |   |             |   |             |
|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| P | Lisa Sobecki | N | Pete Gerken | P | Anita Lopez |
|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|

**Staff, Visitors, and Others**

|   |                       |   |                |   |            |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|---|------------|
| P | Tonia Saunders        | P | Jessica Ford   | P | Dave Glaza |
| P | Josh Thurston         | P | Rachel Hannon  |   |            |
| P | Dana Pierce           | P | Dave Timmerman |   |            |
| P | Darlene White         | P | Katie Perry    |   |            |
| P | Angela Miller         | P | Andrew Urrutia |   |            |
| P | Alexus Miller-Schmenk | P | Sarah Elms     |   |            |

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Lucas County Workforce Development Board was called to order by Board Vice-Chair Valarie Moffitt on February 21, 2024 at 2:07 pm. It was determined by a roll call voice vote that quorum was reached.

Vice-Chair Moffitt welcomed Commissioner Lisa Sobecki as the new representative from the County Commissioner's Office asked Commissioner Sobecki if she would like to deliver any remarks to the Board.

Commissioner Sobecki told the board about her experience at Lucas County Job and Family Services and is happy we are all located together at the Lucas County Shared Services Building. During her time as Commissioner, Commissioner Sobecki told the board she had been watching closely Commissioner Wozniak and is proud to be appointed to this position. Commissioner Sobecki also introduced Commissioner Anita Lopez to the Board.

Vice-Chair Moffitt also introduced new members of the Board, Brandon Sehlhorst, Director of Economic Development for the City of Toledo. Mr. Sehlhorst introduced

himself to the board and discussed his work at the City of Toledo. Vice Chair Moffitt also introduced Vanessa Gonyer, Human Resources Manager at Buckeye Broadband. Ms. Gonyer introduced herself to the board and discussed her work at Buckeye Broadband.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Board Vice-Chair Moffitt allowed a few moments for the Board to review the minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting of the full Board and asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Teresa Moore and seconded by Laura Jenkins. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **WIOA Sub-Grant Agreement**

Vice-Chair Moffitt introduced Director Saunders for an update on the WIOA Sub-Grant Agreement. Director Saunders told the board that the sub-grant agreement is a routine agreement between the Department of Planning and Development and ODJFS, and Workforce Area 9 and will stand for two years until June 30, 2025. This agreement secures funding for the department through ODJFS.

Vice-Chair Moffitt asked for a motion to accept the Sub-Grant Agreement. A motion was made by Denise Smith and seconded by Jeremy Knisely. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Policy Updates**

The Board was briefed by Tonia Saunders, Department of Planning and Development Director on policy re-formatting. Director Saunders told the board that the policy team had been working on ensuring that all policies have a uniform look and that state re-branding was also incorporated and these changes did not approval from the Board.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 3: Provide holistic, customer-centric, streamlined, and team-based career services**

*Adult and Dislocated Workers* -Angela Miller, DPD Workforce Innovation Manager gave an update to the board regarding an update on Adult and Dislocated Worker and RESEA program. Angela discussed that nursing had overtaken CDL as the top requested training. Angela also highlighted a success story regarding a client working towards training in the medical field and had completed her training program and had received a substantial raise. Angela also discussed the new hiring in the RESEA program. Director Saunders gave the Board an update regarding the RESEA program and how DPD handles these processes.

Board Vice-Chair Moffitt asked Board Member Knisely from ODJFS if the RESEA program would continue to operate for the foreseeable future. Board Member Knisely stated that the RESEA program had been many things over the last number of years, including as profiling program as its original purpose over 20 years ago and doesn't see it ending as it has had a great impact on reducing the duration rate of unemployment. Director Saunders added that over the last number of years, the state has added

additional funds to the program. Commissioner Sobecki asked if the department was aware of any conversations around additional funds being available to boost enrollments in CDL training and licensure as a result of a bill passed by the previous State General Assembly. Staffed answered that they had not.

*Board Member Lee Daher joined the meeting.*

*CCMEP Youth Program* - Rachel Hannon from Harbor presented her report and a success story video from the CCMEP program. Board Vice-Chair asked if the video was available on the website and Rachel answered that the video was just approved and would be out to the public shortly.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 1: Prepare a pipeline of work-ready individuals based on the needs of employers**

*Construction Career Workshop*- Board Member Laura Jenkins discussed with the board the successful Construction Career Workshop that took place on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Jenkins told the board that the event was very successful for both the attendees and the businesses involved. The workshop was also held twice for attendees who arrived late, Vice Chair Moffitt commented on the ability of staff and partners to quickly adapt and serve as many customers as possible and asked about next steps. Ms. Jenkins said that AGC is working with high schools in the area and may try to have another event with that age group. Chair Member Daher asked if the show could be taken to the students and Ms. Jenkins answered that that was currently happening.

*Career Services* - Katie Perry from Harbor presented her report to the board. Ms. Perry told the board that Career Services has had an increase in referrals in the last few weeks. Ms. Perry told the board that the Career Services team were increasing job search training and services to individuals who qualify for services. Ms. Perry also shared a success story from a recent job seeker. Vice Chair Moffitt asked what the engagement timeline looked like for this particular case. Ms. Perry answered that it was about six months for this particular job seeker and that the usual timeline is anywhere in between a few weeks to a number of months.

*WorkReady Lucas County*- The WorkReady Lucas County progress report was included for review by the Board and required no board action.

Director Saunders discussed with the Board that DPD had reached 70% to its goal of maintaining WorkReady status and have until October 20, 2024 to reach the goal. Secondly, Director Saunders highlighted the transitioning goal and told the board that these individuals have to self-identify and may fall off the program quickly. Director Saunders also highlighted the WorkReady ACT NRCR certificate program telling the board it is not mandated.

### **Strategic Plan Goal 2: Provide proactive and adaptable business services and solutions through meaningful employer engagement**

*Incumbent/On-the-Job Training* - Director Saunders told the board that the report was included and had no updates. Director Saunders updated the board on the open and pending business services training contracts. The Business Services training program operates as a reimbursement program; therefore, training has to be completed before costs and invoices can be paid. While funds may be committed to a specific employer, the board may still see funds that are left to be spent because the department has not received documentation from the employer that the training is completed.

#### *Business Services Update -*

Commissioner Sobecki gave an update on the two job fairs that were held at the Shared Services building in January and February. Commissioner Sobecki told the board both events were very successful despite weather challenges. Director Saunders acknowledged the team effort of DPD, OMJ, and ODJFS at both. Vice Chair Moffitt asked if there was thought to hold more job fairs on a regular basis. Director Saunders told the board that these particular events were based on need from the recent layoffs and said our next job fair could be in May in coordination with the state's In-Demands Jobs Week.

#### **Strategic Plan 4: Enhance public perception of the Lucas County workforce system by providing effective, timely, and accurate communication**

##### *One-Stop Outreach and Engagement-*

Darlene White from Harbor presented a video of two success stories from job seekers at the OMJ center.

Ms. White invited the board to visit the resource room to see the OMJ team in action and the people we serve.

Director Saunders gave an update to the Board regarding the State of Ohio's re-branding efforts including a new logo for Workforce Area 9. The implementation of the new logos must be completed by June 30, 2024 to remain in compliance with state guidelines. Commissioner Sobecki asked if the state provided any money for this process, Director Saunders answered no but they are allowing Workforce Area's to use dollars from training programs.

#### **Financial Report**

Dave Glaza gave a fiscal update to the board and told the board we are on track to spend our allocated dollars. Director Saunders shared that the allocation for dislocated worker funds could vary depending on the state and local workforce area unemployment rates. Vice Chair Moffitt asked for a key trend chart that tracks for the past ten years the rise and fall in allocations received by Area 9 compared to the rise and fall in unemployment. There was discussion.

#### **Other Business**

Vice Chair Moffitt asked the board to check out the Board's LinkedIn page and gave an update to the board regarding the Career Services RFP process.

Hearing no other business, Vice Chair Moffitt called for a motion to adjourn the meeting that was made by Lee Daher, seconded by Michelle McDougall, and approved by unanimous voice vote by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.