



Area 20 Workforce Development Region
Fairfield – Hocking – Pickaway – Ross – Vinton

April 23, 2025
OhioMeansJobs Pickaway County

Board Members: Missy Clum (virtual), Jeremy Dennis, Carrie Fife, Jennifer Friel, Sally Galecki (virtual), Richard Games, Richard Groves, Chelsie Huffman, Kimberly Jeffers, Katie Karwatske, Michael Linton, James Martin, Theresa Ragosta (virtual), Chuck Reisinger, Ben Smith, Jessica Stroh, Mike Throne (virtual), Tom White

Partners: Corey Clark, Rick Moore, Rick Reynolds, Jodi Smith, Cristy Stewart, Nick Tatman, Jody Walker

Staff to the Board: Angel Conrad, Tia Dauterman, Bayley Fields, Jo Miller, and Rick Szabrak

Guests: Medea Loibl (virtual)

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Linton called the meeting to order and brief introductions took place among the attendees.

Approval of Agenda

Rick Szabrak called for the addition of renewal for OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Center operators and career services providers. Ben Smith motioned, and Jeremy Dennis seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of January 29, 2025, Minutes

Kim Jeffers motioned to approve the January 29, 2025, minutes and Carrie Fife seconded. The motion passed.

Board Roster Update

The Board welcomed James Martin and Chelsea Huffman to their first official meeting. In addition, Aaron Graham will be taking Kellie Gunn's spot as the Kenworth representative.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Rick Szabrak asked the Board for Chair and Vice Chair nominations. Michael Linton was nominated for Chair by Tom White and seconded by Jennifer Friel. Carrie Fife nominated Theresa Ragosta for Vice Chair and Katie Karwatske seconded. Both motions passed.

Financial Report

Rick Szabrak presented the area's financial report. Rick shared that the Area has been performing well in terms of using and investing WIOA funds. For funds set to expire in June 2025, the Area is almost completely spent. In addition, looking at categories (CCMEP, Adult, Dislocated), the Area is also performing well and has almost completely invested its WIOA funds. For total funds, the Area has spent approximately half; Rick expressed this is a good thing as the Area can continue to serve its people accordingly. Rick also shared preliminary allocations for 2026. The Area will receive a 6.4% cut.

Pixelle

Rick Szabrak shared that Pixelle, a large employer in Chillicothe, announced its closure that will impact approximately 830 people. Pixelle agreed to push the closure until the end of the year, but some employees have started leaving the company and that has caused some uncertainty for if the plant will be able to stay open. Area 20 staff has been working with Pixelle to create a roadmap on how to help employees including the planning of a job fair.

Anduril

Rick Szabrak stated that Anduril, a California-based defense technology company, will be opening a location in Pickaway County near Rickenbacker Airport. It is estimated to be a \$1 billion investment that will create

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approximately 4,000 jobs over the next eight years. Some hiring has already begun. Rick then shared with the group a recruitment video called, "Don't Work at Anduril," that highlights the company's culture.

On-the-Job Training Policy

Bayley Fields explained to the Board how on-the-job training (OJT) is an employer service which incentivizes employers to hire employees (that meet WIOA eligibility requirements) with a skills gap and then train them on-the-job. She also shared that the OMJ Centers can reimburse up to 50% of the training wages. Bayley introduced an update to the policy—to revise a clause that says the Area can reimburse up to six months of training wages; with this, the Area spent a lot of money on on-the-job training and upon discussion with the OMJ Centers it was concluded that not every participant requires six months of training. The updated policy calls for the OMJ Centers to look at the job description and use discretion as to how long the training contract will take. Theresa Ragosta motioned to approve the policy, and Kim Jeffers seconded. The motion passed.

CCMEP Authorization

Rick Szabrak explained that Workforce Areas must opt into CCMEP, and it must be renewed in order to continue to participate and receive funding. Jeremy Dennis motioned, and Katie Karwatske seconded. The motion passed.

OMJ Renewal

Michael Linton explained that the Board would be voting to extend the contract with each OMJ provider. Starting with Pickaway County Job and Family Services (JFS), Chuck Reisinger motioned, and Ben Smith seconded. Moving to Fairfield County JFS, Jeremy Dennis motioned, and Jennifer Friel seconded. Then, to South Central JFS, Carrie Fife motioned, and Theresa Ragosta seconded. All motions passed.

Youth Services

The Board reviewed proposals and voted on contracts with Youth Service Providers in each of the Area's counties. For Pickaway County, Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center was the only proposal and up for renewal; Tom White motioned, and Jeremy Dennis seconded. For Hocking County, Hocking-Athens-Perry County Community Action was the only proposal and up for renewal; James Martin motioned, and Richard Groves seconded. For Fairfield County, there were two respondents, and the Board decided to award two contracts in an effort to refer specific participants (that are not up to the 20-24 age range). The providers will share allocated funds. Fairfield County's contracts are for Opportunity Works, formerly Teen Works, and Functional Training Services. Jeremy Dennis motioned, and Ben Smith seconded. Before moving on, Bayley Fields explained that Sojourners Care Network bid on both Ross and Vinton County, and another respondent bid only on Vinton County (Buckeye Hills Career Center). Bayley also explained the scoring process then stated that Pickaway-Ross won the scoring in Ross County and that Sojourners won for Vinton County. Kim Jeffers motioned, and Ben Smith seconded. All motions passed.

Employer Services Update

Rick Szabrak shared with the Board that the Area has a new representative for the region, Raeh Ledford. Raeh works for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Raeh will be providing quarterly reports to showcase her engagement with businesses.

Youth Council Update

Bayley Fields explained that, due to scheduling conflicts, the quarterly Youth Council has been moved to the following week. However, Bayley shared that Youth Council will host a speaker from Williams County to speak on some of the work they're doing in their Area. Bayley also mentioned that she has been trying to secure training from ODJFS at Youth Council meetings, but ODJFS is going to start technical assistance visits in the early summer for youth providers and OMJ staff.



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OhioMeansJobs Social Media

Tia Dauterman shared analytics regarding the social media profiles of the OMJ centers in Area 20. Tia shared follower counts, page reach, reactions, shares, and clicks. Tia also shared some examples of posts that have performed well on the various pages.

Grant Update (ARHCO)

Bayley Fields introduced Jo Miller, the Area's new apprenticeship coordinator. Jo works on behalf of the Apprenticeship Resource Hub of Central Ohio, a product of the "Apprenticeship Building America" grant. Jo's role is to raise awareness of and build apprenticeship opportunities in the Area. Jo shared that the Area will take over the sponsorship of some of Hocking College's apprenticeship programs including manufacturing. Jo also stated that she has been working with the Area's healthcare facilities and Educational Service Centers (ESCs) to establish apprenticeships in the healthcare and education fields. Michael Linton called for a motion to create an ad hoc apprenticeship committee. Tom White motioned, and Chuck Reisinger seconded. The motion passed.

OMJ Center Updates

Jodi Smith provided updates for Fairfield County OMJ. Jodi stated that the OMJ Center is averaging around 500 Resource Room visits each month with approximately 30 being new visitors. The OMJ Center hosted a hiring event for Michaels and 37 people attended. The OMJ will also soon be hosting workshops for financial literacy and certified nursing. Jodi shared that in the last quarter, the OMJ saw 12 employees complete an incumbent worker training (IWT), one OJT, 35 open cases, and 12 new enrollments.

Cristy Stewart provided updates for Pickaway County OMJ. Cristy reported Resource Room visits ranging from approximately 150 to over 200. March saw more visits due to the job fair the OMJ hosted; approximately 75 job seekers attended, and Cristy stated she has received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event. The OMJ has eight open WIOA cases and four new enrollments since January. The OMJ continues to host informational sessions with a CDL session happening later in the week.

Rick Moore from South Central Ohio OMJ discussed the combined numbers of Ross, Vinton, and Hocking counties. Rick reported that the OMJs are seeing about 500 visits a month with 127 new visits last quarter. In addition, South Central OMJ saw one OJT contract and 16 trainings for the quarter. Rick also shared that planning has begun for the annual Ross County Employment Expo which is slated to happen in June.

Industry Trends/Climate

Michael Linton shared that he will be meeting with Ohio's new Lieutenant Governor, Jim Tressel, next week to discuss workforce and the organization of regional workforce boards. Rick Szabrak expressed concern regarding regional boards becoming metro-driven as they may focus on new industry over existing jobs.

The next board meeting will be July 23, 2025, at the Fairfield County Workforce Center. Michael Linton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Dennis motioned, and Ben Smith seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Area 20/21

Representative _____

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Date

Area 20/21 Board

Chair 

Date