



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

July 23, 2025
Fairfield County Workforce Center

Board Members: Stephen Carson, Matt Claypool, Missy Clum, Renee Conley, Jeremy Dennis, Jennifer Friel, Sally Galecki, Richard Games, Aaron Graham, Chelsie Huffman, Kimberly Jeffers (virtual), Michael Linton, James Martin, Theresa Ragosta, Josh Renison, Ben Smith (virtual), Jessica Stroh

Partners: Corey Clark, Raeh Ledford, Rick Moore, Jodi Smith, Bryn Stepp, Cristy Stewart, Nick Tatman, Jody Walker

Staff to the Board: Tia Dauterman, Bayley Fields, Jo Miller

Guests: Audrey Ansel

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of Agenda

No additions or deletions.

Approval of April 23, 2025, Minutes

Jennifer Friel motioned to approve the April 23, 2025, minutes and Missy Clum seconded. The motion passed.

Board Roster Update

Bayley Fields provided the update, stating there is an open position for a Pickaway County business. She shared that Chuck Reisinger and Cristy Stewart have recommended someone from Engineered Plastic Components (EPC). Aside from that position, the board is now full. Bayley and Michael Linton both commended the board members for great attendance and participation. Bayley also shared that an orientation will be taking place in August for new board members.

Financial Report and Budget Update

Michael Linton reviewed the financial report and asked the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) directors if they have any concerns regarding being able to effectively utilize funds before they expire; no concerns were reported. Bayley shared that the state has yet to come out with county-specific allocations, but that Area 20 will see a decrease of 6.7% in funding. Despite this decrease in funding, Bayley shared Area 20 remains in good condition overall.

Tour of Workforce Center Summer Camps

Audrey Ansel, intern at the Fairfield County Workforce Center, took board members on a tour of the Workforce Center's summer camps. On the tour, Bayley shared some construction updates regarding the Workforce Center's ongoing renovations. Upon returning to the meeting, Bayley also provided an overview of the pre-apprenticeship programs available at the Workforce Center. Michael Linton suggested that the board members attend the next Workforce Center graduation to see the impact the programming has on the students and the workforce.

Pixelle

Jody Walker discussed the August 10, 2025, shutdown date for Pixelle's facility in Chillicothe including that 600-650 employees remain at the plant (down from the initial ~800 in April). Jody also shared that a Workforce Hub has been created at the Chillicothe library to assist those impacted by the closure, and an exclusive Pixelle job fair was hosted and garnered 152 attendees. Bayley added that Area 20 is working with JobsOhio



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Cristy Stewart provided updates for Pickaway County OMJ. Cristy reported Resource Room visits are relatively consistent month-over-month, averaging 200 visits. Pickaway OMJ has had 60 employer job postings in the last six months (20 for the quarter). Cristy shared that her team has 10 open WIOA cases, including seven new enrollments just within the past quarter. She added that Pickaway OMJ has recently brought its youth program in-house in an effort to be more involved in that process.

Rick Moore from South Central Ohio OMJ discussed the combined numbers of Ross, Vinton, and Hocking counties. Rick reported that the OMJs saw 1,330 visits last quarter, which is down from the first quarter. Rick shared that, in April, South Central Ohio OMJ assisted with a hiring event for Herr's Food. In addition, the Ross County Employment Expo happened on June 25; 70 employers and 217 job seekers attended (65 from Pixelle). In July at the Pixelle-exclusive job fair, there were 72 employers and 152 job seekers. Bayley added that a third job fair is slated to happen in mid-September.

Industry Trends/Climate

Michael Linton shared his involvement in business advisory councils (BACs) and expressed the importance of employers getting involved with BACs as its important for educators to hear from businesses in their communities. Michael also discussed the importance of maintaining a regional focus to align workforce development efforts with organizations like JobsOhio and OhioSE and encouraged board members to attend regional meetings as they come up. In addition, Michael addressed budget cuts by seeing it as an opportunity to do things more efficiently. Lastly, he shared a report is coming out in September that will define the subsets of the 42% of Ohioans who don't work. The report will help identify the issues that hinder people from working and allow insightful strategies to be generated that can strengthen the workforce by getting people into jobs.

The next board meeting will be October 22, 2025, at the Ross County OhioMeansJobs Center. Michael Linton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh Renison motioned, and Jennifer Friel seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Area 20/21

Representative

10.22.25

Date

Area 20/21 Board

Chair

10/22/2025

Date