

**July 24, 2024**

**Fairfield County Workforce Center**

**Board Members:** Stephen Carson, Matt Claypool, Missy Clum, Renee Conley, Jeremy Dennis (virtual), Jennifer Friel, Sally Galecki (virtual), Richard Games, Richard Groves, Kellie Gunn, Kimberly Jeffers (virtual), Michael Linton, Micah McCathrén (virtual), Ben Smith, Jessica Stroh (virtual), Mike Throne (virtual), Chuck Zender

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

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

**Guests:** Amanda Lemke, Jarrod Tudor

**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. Missy Clum motioned to approve, and Stephen Carson seconded. The motion passed.

**Approval of May 1, 2024, Minutes:**

Stephen Carson motioned to approve the May 1, 2024, minutes and Ben Smith seconded. The motion passed.

**Board Staffing Update**

Rick Szabrak informed the board that Bayley Fields has hired her first employee, Tia Dauterman, who has a background in social media marketing and will help the team get the word out about OhioMeansJobs services.

**Board Roster Update**

Rick Szabrak shared that the board is mostly full, but that there is an opening with Adena and Ross County; the previous person in that position left and the board is working to fill that spot. In addition, there is another open position which can be filled with a business from any of the five counties.

**Appointing of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chairman Linton asked the board for nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair. Jennifer Friel nominated Michael Linton for Chair of the Board, and Kellie Gunn seconded. Michael Linton was unanimously elected to Board Chair. Jennifer Friel nominated Theresa Ragosta for Board Vice Chair, and Kellie Gunn seconded. Theresa Ragosta was unanimously elected to Board Vice Chair.

**Financial Report**

Rick Szabrak presented the Area's financial report. He commended the OMJ Centers for spending funds and working together to do so. He also explained that the Area is on track with spending. Rick informed the board that every month during a call with the OMJ Operators, a fiscal agent is on the meeting to discuss how we are spending. At the last meeting, the position for a fiscal agent was approved, but that has fallen through, so the team is looking at other options. Lastly, to keep spending top of mind, Bayley Fields has added a review of spending to the Area 20 Youth Council meetings as youth is an area that struggles with spending.

### **Approval of Budget**

Rick Szabrak explained that the Area received its allocation for its budget and there is a 15% increase for funding next year. He also mentioned that the Area is starting to see unemployment increase with some local closures, so he anticipates a greater need in the near future. In addition, more training options are becoming available. Chairman Linton asked for a motion to approve the budget; Stephen Carson motioned, and Richard Games seconded. The motion passed.

### **ARHCO (Apprenticeship Resource Hub of Central Ohio)**

The Area partnered with Area 11 (Franklin County) and received a \$4 million grant from the Department of Labor for apprenticeships with a three-year timeframe to spend it. The funds can be used to develop apprenticeships, covering training for apprenticeship programs, and hiring. Chairman Linton inquired about the intended outcome of this grant; Bayley Fields answered by explaining the Area will create deliverables that provide guidance to creating apprenticeships and therefore creating more registered apprenticeships in the Area (using the funding to remove that barrier for employers). Matt Claypool asked if the state intends to relax its regulations on private employers having registered apprenticeships to which Rick Szabrak answered the Workforce Board can sponsor apprenticeships.

### **Youth Council Update**

Bayley Fields explained that Youth Council is a quarterly meeting a week before the Workforce Board meeting to bring the Youth Providers, OhioMeansJobs staff, and board members together to collaborate in the planning and implementation of the Area's youth programming. Bayley updated the group on recent projects including a supportive services menu (helping youth bridge the gap to employment). The goal of this is to let youth know what services are available to them. The menu will also help increase youth spending. In addition, Bayley mentioned the Area has been working on a revised youth prescreening, helping bolster participation, by making the eligibility process more efficient. She also made note that at the last Youth Council meeting, the group worked together to create an Area-wide eligibility packet.

### **Employer Services/BRN Update**

Bayley Fields explained that the Business Resources Network Grant is a grant the Area received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Using some of the

funding, the Workforce Board developed a portfolio that will be used when working with businesses promoting the employer services that are available in the Area. Chairman Linton suggested finding a person at the state or regional level who is knowledgeable about all the programs to sit with employers and explain the available services. Amanda Lemke suggested meeting with chambers to share the information and Bayley agreed that would be a great first step in terms of outreach. Micah McCathren suggested implementing a program implementation subcommittee that would work with businesses to learn about the offerings; Chairman Linton asked to schedule a meeting to further discuss this idea and Mike Throne added that chambers could function as ambassadors by sitting down with employers to discuss employer services.

### **OhioMeansJobs Branding Update**

Rick Szabrak explained that with some funding, OhioMeansJobs rebranded. There will be new signs at the OhioMeansJobs Centers with the rebranded marketing.

### **OhioMeansJobs Center Updates**

Jodi Smith provided an update from OhioMeansJobs Fairfield County, saying that visits to the Resource Room are up, several hiring events are planned, and there have been 102 WIOA Adult/Dislocated orientations so far this year. Jodi also discussed that Post Consumer Brands in Lancaster is closing in October; OhioMeansJobs will have a presence at Post to hold interview classes, resume writing, and provide resources to employees. Post is allowing OhioMeansJobs to host a job fair for its employees within the facility.

Cristy Stewart reported that OhioMeansJobs Pickaway County reported that their Resource Room is doing well with over 100 visits and 12 orientations. Cristy also explained that in August, they will be helping Ross County with meetings at Kenworth to help some people through a layoff. In addition, they remain busy educating people using SNAP EBT about WIOA funds available to be used for training.

Rick Moore of OhioMeansJobs Vinton County shared combined statistics of Vinton, Ross, and Hocking Counties—highlighting that Resource Rooms visits are up in comparison to 2023. They hosted a job expo with 45 employers and 60 jobseekers in attendance and conducted a Rapid Response session at Commercial Vehicle Group in Chillicothe.


### **Hocking College Presentation**

Jarrod Tudor, Executive Vice President of Hocking College, gave a presentation on Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology including detailing the partnership between Hocking College and the Workforce Center. Highlights include the ASCENT Grant (creating a pipeline of workers for Intel), routes to the career (two-year degree, certificates, apprenticeship), and perception of the field and reaching students.


### **Open Discussion**

The next Board meeting will be October 23, 2024, at the Ross County Service Center. Stephen Carson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Missy Clum seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Area 20/21

Representative  10-30-24  
Date

Area 20/21 Board

Chair  10/20/2024  
Date