



Workforce Development Area 16 Belmont, Carroll, Harrison & Jefferson Counties

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AREA 16 Council of Government (COG)

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2024

Harrison Co DJFS, 520 N. Main Street, Cadiz OH

Present: Tony Morelli (Jefferson Co.), Chris Modranski (Carroll Co), and Deb Knight, JFS Director Harrison Co, (for Commissioner Corder)

Visitors: Rebecca Safko, Mike Schlanz, Hope McAfee, Kate Offenberger, Jana Kizito, Mike McGlumphy, Rich Gualtiere, and Rob Guentter

1. **Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Modranski at 10:06am.
A quorum of COG members was present to conduct business.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion 01-2024 to approve Sept. 15, 2023, COG Minutes as written.
1st-Morelli 2nd Modranski Motion Carried

3. **Financial/Participant Reports and Transfers (Rebecca):**

Rebecca reviewed the January and February 2024 financials.

Transfers:

\$15,000 of Business Resource Network (BRN) funding released back to the State of Ohio
\$1,595.00 from area Admin to Carroll County (as per County Cost Allocation Plan)
Accept \$17,000 from ODJFS for mandated area rebranding efforts.
Accept \$85,511 of supplemental WIOA Youth funding from ODJFS.

Bills to Pay: Reimburse RFG Associates Inc. \$1,075.07 for documented hotspot expenses for the Virtual Reality (VR) headsets.

(All of the above Recommended by WDB16 Motion 02-2024)

Motion 02-2024 to approve January and February 2024 Financial Reports, transfers, and bill to pay as presented.

1st Morelli 2nd- Knight Motion Carried

4. WIOA Update: Staff Report (Rob)

Rob provided a written report on the following topics:

- ✓ TransfrVR update
- ✓ Virtual Job Fairs
- ✓ Gener8tor on-line IT training
- ✓ GRIT (Growing Rural Independence Together)
- ✓ WDB16 Board reauthorization with ODJFS
- ✓ Ohio Means Jobs Re-Branding
- ✓ Jason Project
- ✓ Rapid Response Plan update
- ✓ Broadband OU

5. OMJ Operator Reports

Belmont Co: Mike Schlanz reviewed the Belmont Co data handout report and said the OMJ traffic is slowly picking up and is about 25% of what it was pre pandemic. He also covered ongoing issues with serving clients regarding their Unemployment Insurance (UI) issues. Belmont has held 2 hiring events recently and job postings with 21 businesses. Mike now has over 60 businesses registered for the April 17, 2024, 1pm to 4pm, Job Fair at the Ohio Valley Mall.

Carroll Co: Kate reported that recent Carroll Co OMJ job events with PCC had good turnout. She also shared that the center is seeing a lot of UI claimants, and that Alex Logan has been hired as a new supervisor.

Harrison Co: Hope McAfee shared that the Harrison Co OMJ served 2 dislocated workers last month and that job center traffic is low.

They are actively working on a **Let's Educate** event set for June 12, 2024 at Sally Buffalo, Wallace Lodge, Cadiz. This event is intended to be an area -wide event to help youth and families learn more about all the educational and other services available in our workforce system and beyond. As of this writing, OU-Eastern and Billy Big Rig are signed up educational providers.

Jefferson Co: Hope reported that there is a lot of VR activity happening at Indian Creek HS. They are also training Indian Creek educators and students on the latest strategies on preparing resumes (how to write effective resumes which are being reviewed by AI).

6. Appalachian Regional Incentive for Stronger Economics (ARISE) Grant

(Recommended by WDB16 Motion 34-2023)

Rob explained to the COG that a 3 state (PA, OH, WV), 9 workforce area consortia has applied for a \$500,000 planning grant focusing on improving/expanding apprenticeships. This application has passed the first review and has been *invited* for full submission. Each of the 9 workforce areas participating have been asked to provide \$1,000 toward preparing the full application. One of the PA One-Stops is leading this effort.

Motion 03-2024 to authorize \$1,000 toward a grant writer for the Regional ARISE planning concept paper/application, focused on improving/expanding pre and apprenticeship programs. 1st Morelli 2nd- Knight Motion Carried

7. **Data Share Agreement**

Rob explained that the area still does not have a Data Share Agreement from the state, but he has been told it is forthcoming. WDB16 should have had this agreement for approval in June 2023.

(Recommended by WDB16 Motion 04-2024)

Motion 4-2024 to authorize the Staff to the Board to negotiate and have signed the Data Share Agreement with ODJFS

1st Knight 2nd Morelli Motion Carried

8. **GRIT: Growing Rural Independence Together**

(Recommended by WDB16 Motion 05-2024). GRIT is a state funded initiative intended to address gaps in workforce services. It has very few restrictions, unlike our WIOA funding. WDA16 became eligible for GRIT as of January 2024.

Motion 5-2024 Authorize entering an MOU with WDA1 for \$400,000-\$500,000 of GRIT funding through 2025 to address gaps in WDA16 workforce services.

1st Morelli 2nd Knight Motion Carried

9. **BuildEd**

This effort is intended purchase of up to 10 client units of *BuildEd Career Ownership, Performance and Advancement Training* at \$965/client, not to exceed \$9,650. This training will be used with selected at-risk OMJ clients as a demonstration of the programs' effectiveness.

While the WDB16 approved this action in Motion 06-2024, the Staff to the Board advised the COG not to authorize final approval as the State has advised the area that we need to conduct a simple short list procurement before securing such services. Rob will conduct the procurement and have something for Board consideration at the next COG meeting.

10. **Other Discussion**

The COG discussed the need for a May makeup meeting due to a of the lack of quorum at our scheduled 12.15.23 meeting. It was determined that the COG has timely met all its obligations, no pressing matters are pending, and that a makeup meeting is not necessary.

11. **Next Meeting Fri June 21, 2024, 10am at**

Harrison Co DJFS Office, Cadiz OH

Rob shared that this is an important meeting to approve all FY 24-25 contacts for 7/1/24 starts. Also, the Board asked to discuss a different meeting date (other than Fridays) at the next COG meeting.

12. **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 06-2024 Motion to Adjourn

1st Knight 2nd- Morelli Motion Carried

Adjournment- 11:14am



COG Chair



Date