



OhioMeansJobs.

## Workforce Development Area 16

Belmont, Carroll, Harrison & Jefferson Counties

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

### AREA 16 Council of Government (COG)

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2025

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

**Present:** Tony Morelli, Commissioner (Jefferson Co.), Jennifer Burns, JFS Director Carroll Co. for Chris Modranski (Carroll Co.), Deb Knight, JFS Director Harrison Co. for Dustin Corder, Commissioner (Harrison Co.) and Jerry Echemann, Commissioner Belmont Co.

**Visitors:** Rebecca Safko, Michelle Santin, Mike Schlanz, Hope McAfee, Rich Gualtiere, Jacob Barr, Lisa Duvall, and Rob Guentter

1. **Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Tony Morelli at 10:05am.  
A quorum of COG members was present to conduct business.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion 01-2025 to approve December 20, 2024, COG Minutes as written.  
1<sup>st</sup>-Echemann 2<sup>nd</sup>-Knight Motion Carried

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

Rebecca reviewed the February 2025 financials. She covered fund balances and overall spending patterns. Rob provided a little more detail about how carry over funding works and that all areas in Ohio are using their allocations this cycle.

**Transfers:** Accept \$41,913 reallocation of State RESEA to Dislocated Worker (DW) to Jefferson Co

Accept \$4,657 of additional DW Administrative funding

Motion 02-2025 Motion to approve financial report and transfers as described above.

1<sup>st</sup> Echemann 2<sup>nd</sup>- Burns Motion Carried

4. **WIOA Update: Staff Report (Rob)**

Rob provided a written report on the following topics:

- ✓ WIOA and RESEA Reauthorizations
- ✓ Local and Regional Workforce Plan update
- ✓ WDB16 2-year Board appointments/recertification
- ✓ Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) 2-year agreement
- ✓ OMJ Center Recertifications
- ✓ WDA16 Subgrant Agreement with Ohio and county subgrant agreements

Rob gave more details to the COG about the appointment of WDB16 Board members for the next 2 years, terms beginning 7/1/25. He also offered congratulations to Hope McAfee for being selected as one of the top 5 GRIT practitioners in Ohio this year.

#### 5. Staff to the Board Contract: Year 3 of 4

Rob explained that he was retiring 12/31/25 and that the proposed six-month contract from 7/1/25 to 12/31/25 was recommended by the WDB16 Board. They will decide if any transitional support will be needed for the new Staff to the Board, based on the qualifications and experience of the person selected. Rob has offered to help as requested with any transition needs. The new search will likely start in October.

**Motion 03-2025 Motion to extend the RFG Associates Inc, Rob Guentter Staff to the Board contract from 7/1/25 to 12/31/25 for a fee not to exceed \$61,750.00**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Echemann 2nd- Knight Motion Carried**

#### 6. County Reports

**Belmont Co:** Mike Schlantz reviewed the Belmont Co data handout report covering Adult (49), Dislocated Worker (3) and Youth (81) exits and employment. He discussed the recent closing of East Ohio Regional Hospital and the actions the OMJ is taking to help those 500 people secure new employment. The May 1 scheduled Job Fair, to be held at the Ohio Valley Mall, already has 83 business and agencies signed up. Mike also discussed the upcoming state Mystery Shopper program and Rapid Response efforts for other local businesses with layoffs.

**Carroll Co:** Jennifer Burns shared that during this period they had 415 visits to the OMJ Resource Room. 40 were for unemployment insurance assistance. CCMEP staff have been working with students at Conotton Valley schools.

**Harrison Co.:** Jacob Barr covered the February 2025 OMJ data. They are currently serving 3 adults and 36 CCMEP youth. Staff have been attending local events and fairs to provide information about OMJ services.

**Jefferson Co:** Hope McAfee highlighted their report data including Adult (71), Dislocated Workers (10), CCMEP (225), and GRIT (21). She discussed the use of VR in local schools, and how students respond positively to the units. They have had a good number of visitors to the OMJ resource Room for assistance with OH ID and IRS ID. Jefferson Co OMJ recently held an outreach event at the Schiappa Library and are planning monthly events at libraries around the county.

- 7. **Other Discussion:** Rob explained that the June meeting is very important as all contract and vendor agreements will be up for approval at this meeting.
- 8.

9. **Next Meetings – Fri June 20, 2025 10am Cadiz**

Future 2025 COG dates (all Fridays at 10am) September 26, 2025; and Dec 19, 2025

10. **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 04-2025 Motion to Adjourn  
1<sup>st</sup> Echemann 2nd- Burns Motion Carried

Adjournment- 11:02am

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COG Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date