

October 30, 2024

Ross County Service Center

Board Members: Stephen Carson, Missy Clum (virtual), Renee Conley, Carrie Fife, Jennifer Friel, Nathan Hale, Kimberly Jeffers (virtual), Katie Karwatske, Michael Linton, Theresa Ragosta (virtual), Jessica Stroh, Mike Throne, 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, and Rick Szabrak

Guests: Rick Henson, Medea Loibl (virtual), Josh Renison

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. Nathan Hale motioned to approve, and Mike Throne seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of July 24, 2024, Minutes

Stephen Carson motioned to approve the July 24, 2024, minutes and Jennifer Friel seconded. The motion passed.

Board Staffing Update

Rick Szabrak reintroduced Tia Dauterman, a new staff member to the board, who is assisting with communications and marketing and shared that Bayley Fields has been promoted to the position of Deputy Director for the board.

Board Roster Update

Rick Szabrak shared that there is one opening within the board. This position is available to a business in any county within the area. Rick added that the business should be within an in-demand industry. Michael Linton called for a quick discussion for the board to share any businesses that would be a good fit. Rick Reynolds suggested it would be a good idea to have someone from the 5G industry and Cristy Stewart mentioned she has reached out to someone at Atomic Credit Union as there is currently no representation from the banking industry. Carrie Fife said she would try to reach out to a contact in the 5G/broadband industry.

Financial Report

Rick Szabrak presented the area's financial report. Starting off by reviewing 2025 funds, Rick shared that the area is more than halfway to its goal of committed funds—

explaining that these funds are used to cover things like training and ensures that the area doesn't overspend. Rick also shared that the area is seeing more layoffs lately and that dislocated worker funds may be used more heavily. A discussion ensued regarding the various layoffs in the area including Post Consumer Brands, Kenworth, DuPont, and an Anchor Hocking facility in Pennsylvania that will potentially affect the Anchor Hocking facility in Lancaster by adding another line.

Performance Measures

Rick Szabrek presented the area's performance metrics for the last fiscal year. The report looks at whether or not participants are still employed after six months, earnings, credential attainment, and measurable skill gains. The area's numbers in the adult and dislocated worker categories exceed the statewide average; however, in the CCMEP category, the area's numbers dip below the average. A discussion opened on credential attainment as that number was the lowest in the report; Jodi Smith suggested a possible explanation stating that many youths in Fairfield County come from the justice system and they are typically engaged in the beginning of the program but then quit. The board reviewed the report and looked at county-specific data and demographics. Rick Szabrek shared that male involvement in WIOA has increased— helping bridge a labor gap. Rick Reynolds suggested it may have to do with the increase in CDL requests.

Incentives Policy

Bayley Fields reviewed a revised incentives policy including the following edits: adding "per program" under some incentives to encourage participants to continue their education, revising the number of part-time hours as it was previously incorrect, and deleting the "Increase WorkKeys scores" incentive as it overlaps with another, similar incentive. Carrie Fife motioned to approve the revised incentives policy and Nathan Hale seconded. The motion passed.

Car Purchasing Policy

Bayley Fields recounted a trip to Allen County and discussed the strengths of that particular youth program including helping participants purchase a vehicle to assist with transportation barriers. In the Area 20's supportive services budget, there is a substantial amount of money being used to pay for transportation for participants. Bayley proposed that a car purchasing policy would help cut down on that spending and set the participants up for success by teaching them valuable skills and providing them sustainable transportation after exiting the program.

In the policy, participants must work with a career advisor to complete a budget and ensure they can afford a car; up to \$5,000 may be provided toward a down payment for an approved car. Bayley added that participants will take financial literacy and car maintenance courses to help ensure success with the vehicle. During a discussion, it was shared that this policy is for youth participants only (up to age 24), but Rick Reynolds suggested offering a similar program to adult programming as well after

seeing how this program fairs. Katie Karwatske asked about buying a vehicle from a private individual; Rick Reynolds stated that Allen County has established relationships with car dealerships, so it was suggested that, in the policy, the language “from a preferred supplier,” should be added. In addition, it was discussed that a case manager should not have to assist with test driving; instead, case managers will accompany the participant who will test drive the vehicles. Katie Karwatske motioned to approve the new car purchasing policy and Nathan Hale seconded. The motion passed.

Youth Council Update

Bayley Fields informed the board that youth council created a cohesive eligibility packet for the area to streamline the eligibility process and remove redundancies within the forms. The new packet is also PDF fillable, so it can be completed digitally as well. The next step for the youth council is to discuss the supportive services policies and spending caps to fully incentivize youth in the program.

Employer Services Update

Bayley Fields provided an update on the outreach efforts of promoting the area's employer services; the staff has engaged with the Ross, Pickaway, and Fairfield chambers. In Ross County, the chamber is starting a workforce newsletter. Tia Dauterman will assist in providing some information to be sent out to the chamber's members in this communication. Bayley attended a new member event in Pickaway County and plans to continue doing so on an ongoing basis to increase awareness. In Fairfield County, Rick Szabrek will be speaking at a safety council meeting (hosted by the chamber), and Bayley and Tia will have a table at the event with employer services information to hand out to attendees. Michael Linton added that the Public Services Committee of the governor's Workforce Policy Board is making a recommendation to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to communicate and educate employers on what public benefits are available.

Training Provider Catalog

Rick Szabrek explained that the Fairfield County Foundation has scholarships for trades, but the organization is not seeing interest. With that, the workforce staff is helping by creating a catalog to look at in-demand jobs and training options available within the region. In addition, Rick suggested that providers could come talk to the youth council to ensure the council is aware of all the opportunities available for training.

Presentation: Post Consumer Brands Job Fair Recap

Bayley Fields presented on the activities surrounding the closure of Post Consumer Brands and how the workforce staff as well as OhioMeansJobs Fairfield County assisted 150+ dislocated workers. Activities included meetings with leadership at Post and employees, hosting rapid response events (how to file unemployment, resume writing, interviews, open office hours, etc.), and hosting a job fair with two sessions to

accommodate various shifts. It was shared that the job fair had good engagement with over 30 employers in attendance.

OhioMeansJobs Center Updates

Cristy Stewart from OhioMeansJobs Pickaway County informed the board that her office is now fully staffed with a new WIOA case manager and there are six new enrollments—five of which have been under the new case manager. Cristy added that her office has been sending welcome letters to new chamber members to assist with advertising employer services. The team will also host a once-a-month information session about a short-term program in addition to some workshops. Cristy shared that her team was able to host a rapid response event at DuPont.

Jodi Smith from OhioMeansJobs Fairfield County shared that her team's job fair, hosted on October 17, was very well attended with 65 registered employers and approximately 150 jobseekers. Jodi also shared that her office has seen 69 adult/dislocated worker training orientations this quarter and nine credentials obtained. South Central also saw seven hiring events and has 26 people enrolled in training.

Rick Moore from OhioMeansJobs South Central Ohio discussed the combined numbers of Ross, Vinton, and Hocking counties. For the quarter, South Central has had 1,467 resource room visits, which is an increase over last year.

Fairfield County Engineering Tech Lab

Rick Szabrabek invited everyone to the Fairfield County Workforce Center's ribbon cutting on Wednesday, November 6 to celebrate the completion of the new Engineering Technology Lab in partnership with Hocking College and Ohio University.

Open Discussion

The next Board meeting will be January 22, 2025, at the Fairfield County Workforce Center. Mike Throne motioned to adjourn the meeting and Carrie Fife seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Area 20/21

Representative



2-3-25

Date

Area 20/21 Board

Chair



2/3/2025

Date