**MEETING MINUTES**

**LAKE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**April 15th, 2025 @ 11:30 AM**

**Lake County Department of Job & Family Services**

**177 Main St. Painesville, Ohio 44077**

**Board Roll Call**Christina Balint Jackie Bongorno Brian Bontempo

Suzanne Casar Jacob Duritsky (V) Tim Flenner

Mark Goffinet John Griffin Shayna Jackson (P)

Terry Lazar Gretchen Skoke-Disanto (V) Sara Spence (V)

**Others in Attendance**

Joel DiMare, WDB Shawn Douglas, LCDJFS Myranda Keister, WDB

Patrick Mohorcic, WDB Leslie Ryan, LCDJFS

**Call to Order**

Joel DiMare called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

**Minutes**

Terry Lazar moved to approve the minutes of the November 20th, 2024 meeting. Suzanne Casar seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

**Staff Reports**

**Introduction of New Board Members:**

Joel DiMare introduced the new board members, John Griffin, Christina Balint, and Jacob Duritsky.

**SFY26/PY25 Funding Allocations:**

Joel DiMare discussed the Federal and State cutbacks and how next year’s budget will be less. Due to a low unemployment rate, the government allocates less money to Workforce Development Boards.

**MOU Update:**

Patrick Mohorcic talked through the MOU that is due May 30th to the State. This is a 2-year contract that outlines all State and local partner’s budgets through WIOA funding designated to Area 5 (Lake County). Some of these partners include the State of Ohio JFS, Lakeline, Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Lakeland Community College.

**One-Stop Operator RFP:**

Patrick Mohorcic gave an update that the Planning and Programing Committee (P&P) approved going out to bid for the One-Stop Operator contract that is 4 years with a 1-year renewal. There was one bid received from LCJFS. An upcoming P&P Committee meeting will approve the contract for the One-Stop Operator.

**NOW Regional Plan:**

Myranda Keister discussed the Northeast Ohio Workforce Regional Plan. The Northeast Ohio Workforce Boards hired a consultant with a $3,000 fee to each workforce board to help put together this regional plan that is required by the state every 5 years. Myranda is working on the local plan that is required for this. The next Lake County Workforce Board Meeting will require a resolution to allow Lake County Workforce Board to sign the final plan. The plan will have a 30-day public comment portion that the Lake County Workforce Development Board can comment on. The plan will be finished in September and final signatures will be sent to the State.

**Committee Reports**

Joel DiMare made the comment that the committees will be restructured for efficiency and due to new leadership and board membership.

**Old Business**

**Balanced Scorecard:**

Joel DiMare discussed the balanced scorecard that is internally tracked by Leslie Ryan and her team. This measures success through the programs for example, ITA’s that place people directly in job in the community.

**New Business**

**Veteran Policy Update:**

Patrick Mohorcic discussed the state required update to the veteran policy.

**Authorization to Support the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program:**

Joel DiMare overviewed the state required update that is a reauthorization of the CCMEP program requirements and funds.

**Resolutions and Motions**

1. Resolution of the Workforce Development Board to update Area 5 Priority Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Policy Letter No. 15-20-3.

Motion to approve by Brian Bontempo, seconded by Jackie Bongorno. All in favor, motion passed.

1. Resolution of the Workforce Development Board to Update Area 5 Authorization to Support the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program (G-2627-15-0005).

Motion to approve by Suzanne Casar, seconded by Brian Bontempo. All in favor, motion passed.

**Board Remarks**

Suzanne Casar wanted to thank the incredible job of the CCMEP and One-Stop employees for their help with working closely with the school districts and supporting the events and programs they put together. They also do great work with the CCMEP and youth programs.

Shawn Douglas highlighted that Catholic Charities and OhioGuidestone are programs that help with case management and help bring people out of poverty. These programs also take volunteers. Sarah has also done a great job helping Riverside Schools with their needs and programs.

Joel DiMare also mentioned the packet includes the events that the JFS staff are working on in 2025, including the most recent Auburn Career Center Reverse Job Fair and May being In-Demand-Jobs Week.

Tim Flenner discussed the updated committee and roster included in the packet. They are also looking into merging the one-stop and marketing committees.

Patrick Mohorcic offered that he is willing to meet with anyone who is a new or existing board member and help them understand everything involved in the Workforce Development Board and JFS more in-depth if they ever have any questions.

Brian Bontempo reflected that the Auburn Reserve Job Fair. He mentioned middle school career development in expanding and the school district is adding 68 classes in 10 school districts, which will impact 3,300 kids. This will hopefully help career center enrollment growth as families think about career development at an earlier age. He also announced his retirement in July.

**Terry Lazar motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jackie Bongorno seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:21pm.**