

RICHLAND-CRAWFORD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

11:30 A.M.

Zoom meeting/Job and Family Services

**Tim Bowersock
Dorey Diab
Lori Bedson
Angel Neef
Mitch Jacobsen
Jill Gantt**

**Crystal Davis-Weese
Clint Knight
Sherri Tinch-Greter
Nikia Fletcher
Sharlene Neumann**

Welcome and introductions

Teresa Alt

Business Outreach Grant Reports

Crystal discussed a partnership with Ohio Health in which young people between the ages of 18 and 23 are recruited to work at Ohio Health starting at \$15 per hour with the opportunity to further their education through Strayer to earn a certificate or up to an associate degree. There were 38 students on the call in which this program was presented. The first cohort begins on August 10th. NECIC is also working with six small businesses on low interest loans.

Crawford Partnership provided an update that includes 362 businesses on the platform and 2,695 students, with 93 profile users and 109 job postings. Community Opportunities platform has a resume template now.

RESEA Update

Teresa provided an overview of the performance report that was shared by ODJFS. Angela reports that their staff have access to the program now. The main concern for Richland and Crawford is the number of people available to select. ODJFS sends a spreadsheet with the number of potential participants. The goal for Richland is to select nine individuals per week. However, for the last four weeks, only four applicants were available to select. The same issue is true for Crawford. There are not enough applicants to choose on the report which will make it difficult to hit the target number of participants served.

Performance Reports

The unadjusted fourth quarter preliminary report was reviewed and discussed. Adult credential attainment measure is just slightly under the acceptable standard. Employment second quarter after exit for dislocated workers is under the standard. Due to the low number of participants, this will be a failed measure. This measure was affected by the pandemic closures. The CCMEP Youth credential attainment measure

is under the success level, but Mitch believes that they can do some data clean up. He also believes that he found a glitch that affects the measure if the youth is continuing to post-secondary education.

Brainstorm Session Discretionary Funds

The discussion revolved around how to motivate people to work and to engage in training to improve their skills and earning power. The pandemic unemployment compensation will end in early September. The three major barriers to employer were discussed and identified as housing challenges, transportation challenges, and low wages.

A wage study was completed a few years ago. The wages of employers have increased, but they are still far behind the major metro areas. There are many people traveling to Cleveland and Columbus for those higher wages.

Deanna joined the conversation and suggested a survey or study to find out why people are not working. Other issues discussed were marketing campaigns and branding campaigns to educate residents and others outside the area what opportunities are available in this region.