

RICHLAND-CRAWFORD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

11:30 A.M.

Job and Family Services Conference Room

Zoom meeting

Zoom Attendance

**Beth Delaney
Carl Neutzling
Dorey Diab
Crystal Davis-Weese
Lori Bedson
Angel Neef
Mitch Jacobsen
Sherri Tinch-Greter
Tionna Perdue**

Physical Attendance

**Tim Bowersock
Clint Knight
Nikia Fletcher
Jill Gantt
Jenni Paramore**

Welcome and introductions

Career Institute Pilot

Clint provided an overview of the Career Institute Pilot that will begin in January with Madison High School tenth grade students. It was originally presented as work-based learning opportunity to be completed during the school day. However, a pilot is being launched as an after-school club. Clint is working on identifying the employer for the work-based learning project. Job and Family Services is providing the Youth and Family Council Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to assist with youth wages and transportation. NECIC will be the employer of record. The hope is that this pilot can be expanded to other schools and expand into the school day instead of after school.

Individual Training Account (ITA) policy revision

Teresa shared that both Angela and Lori have identified areas in the Individual Training Account policy that could be amended to serve the customer better. The major change is adding flexibility to allow the total cap of \$15,000 to be used over two years. The second major change is to allow participants to continue a career pathway that would provide a significant increase in the participant's earning potential. The supportive services area was removed as it is addressed in the supportive service policy.

Jenni made a motion to approve the policy with the changes, Dorey seconded the motion. Roll call vote was held.

Beth – Yes

Carl – Yes

Dorey – Yes
Jenni- Yes
Tim – Yes
Nikia – Yes

Business Outreach Grant Application

Teresa discussed the business outreach grant. Those who are interested in receiving funding should contact Teresa. A meeting will be set up on Thursday to discuss the proposals and next steps.

NEG Opioid Continuation

Department of Labor may be interested in giving Ohio another NEG Opioid grant after the current grant expires in March. Both Crawford and Richland OMJ Centers are interested in continuing the temporary disaster relief jobs.

Gear Up Grant (Gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate programs)

Nikia Fletcher provided an update on the Gear Up grant. This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year or seven years grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students.

Nikia thanked North Central State College for bringing the grant opportunity to Mansfield City Schools and assisting with the application. This grant will support two career coaches and a site advisor. It is a seven-year grant of \$1.9 million. These positions are posted on the College Now of Greater Cleveland website. They are the employer of record. The objectives are to increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education. Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education. Increase educational expectations and increase student and family knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing.

Outreach Efforts- social media campaign, billboards

Clint Knight and Jill Gantt have been working on billboard and social media campaigns. Quotes have been received and a billboard vendor has been selected. The billboard campaign is to recruit individuals to the OMJ Center's and businesses to contact the OMJ Centers.

Clint has been working with vendors to get quotes on making videos to tell the Richland County story. There are many innovative and unique things that are manufactured in

Richland County, but we do not do a good job of promoting our strengths. These videos are to recruit and retain recent graduates, new individuals into the workforce, and new workers into the community. They are also to promote the services of the OMJ Centers and career pathways. There was discussion on the marketing and social media campaign and measurable outcomes. The Board wants to see the data and results of the marketing and social media efforts.

Transformation Initiative

Jill Gantt informed the Board that ODJFS has contracted with McKenzie and Company to complete a survey to UI claimants and employers. The survey was supposed to launch last Friday. It has been delayed, but once it is launched the survey will be available for a couple of weeks.