

Area 8 Workforce Board
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025 @ 2:30pm
JTDMH Board Room

Board President, Rob Radway at 2:31pm, called the Executive Committee Meeting to order.

Roll call: Present, Lesia Arnett, Rob Radway, Fred Rush, Anita Kremer, Dave Krendl and Amy Freymuth. Carol Knapke (remote) Joy Bischoff (excused)

Approval of Executive Committee minutes from the October 17, 2024 meeting approved unanimously without additions or corrections moved first by Lesia Arnett; second by Fred Rush.

Amy Freymuth reported on the following:

Hardin County OMJ was awarded \$40,000.00 in Rapid Response funds to cover 2024 events. The award was greater than what was requested and will allow Hardin County to move funds back to where they need them.

Special Project – Drive on Responsibility; Mercer, Hardin and Auglaize Counties are showing expenditures to this grant. Auglaize requested \$1,000.00 be moved from direct costs to marketing so they could expand their campaign. John McClure, state project manager will be meeting with Amy, Anita and Area 8 staff in April 2025 to review where we are at now and hopefully prove we need to extend the use of these funds past 9/30/25.

VR headsets are due for renewal. Area 8 has 6 in total. Amy recommended that we apply for Statewide Funds to cover the costs for 2 years and only renew career exploration software. Counties are sending detailed data to Amy so she can complete the state required application.

Board member training was held on 1/30/2025. Only 2 Board members could not attend and most stayed for the entire day to attend the full Board meeting. Feedback was good; would like to see more training down the road that can focus on specific topics. Amy will work with Lisa Pratt-McDaniel once the budget is finalized.

Area 8 website has been updated with the new Board Member headshots. The meeting calendar needs updated to change the June 2025 Full Board Meeting

date from June 19th as it is a holiday. Rob Radway moved to change the date to June 26th; second by Dave Krendl. Unanimously approved. Brand It! will update the website if or when approved.

Two policies: #6 and #150 will be presented to the Full Board meeting for approval. Brand It! will update the website if or when approved.

Re-authorization of WIOA is still not complete. From a state meeting held on 3/19/2025, indications are that Ohio will sustain a 7 million dollar cut. However, a state surplus of WIOA Dislocated Workers and RESEA funds are available to counties. This has been discussed in meetings with JFS directors and program staff.

Rob Radway opened the floor for continued discussion on a Legislative day. Full agreement to pursue and find the “right time” to hold such an event. Recommendation to hold at an employer site vs county office seemed appropriate. Rob agreed to contact all elected officials that cover Area 8 counties.

Governor’s orders to have all State staff back in office has created discussions with Area 8 directors. Mercer County is considering being open on Fridays so that the offices the state pays for are available to their staff. Van Wert County is accepting in-kind staff to assist with OMJ services until another case manager is hired.

OMJ Center Operator Agreements discussed. The existing agreements expire on 6/30/2025 but allow for a 2 year renewal. Executive Committee instructed the Amy Freymuth to pursue the 2 year extension. She will reach out to the JFS directors.

MOU Agreements expire 6/30/2025, new ones are due 5/30/2025. Amy intends to have a full Area 8 Partner’s meeting for negotiations on April 15, 2025 in the Auglaize County Administration building Assembly Room. Goal is to have all 4 counties completed at the same time as many of the partners are the same.

OMJ Center certifications have been pushed back to 12/31/2025. There are questions on ADA compliance, guidance from the State is forthcoming.

Area 7 dropped their membership with OWA.

Anita Kremer provided her fiscal updates. She provided fund balances through 3/17/2025. She is anxiously awaiting the announcement of Area 8’s budget. She is pursuing additional RESEA funds.

Rob Radway opened the floor to discuss the Area 8 Director's contract beginning September 1, 2025. Amy Freymuth is retiring from Auglaize County on August 31, 2025. By-Laws will be reviewed to see what the next steps are for filling the position. Dave Krendl and Lesia Arnett will work with Rob Radway to determine the next course of action.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09pm, motioned by Joy Bischoff; second by Fred Rush. Motion approved unanimously.