

AREA 8 WORKFORCE BOARD MINUTES

Location: Auglaize County
Administrative
Building
Date: 4/17/2025
Time: 2:30 pm

Chairman Rob Radway called meeting to order at 2:30pm.

Board Members Present: Rob Radway, Carol Knapke, Nathan Strange, Jodi Knouff, Dave Krendl, Stacey Pickens-Smith, Lesia Arnett, Troy Suchland, Justin Blumhorst, Tammy Eilerman, and Brad Wendel

Board Members Absent: Joy Bischoff, Julie Marchal, Gary McPheron, Amanda Miller, Fred Rush, Tara Shepard, Josh Bloomfield and Logan O'Neill

Dave Krendl moved to accept the 1/30/2025 as presented; Brad Wendel 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees:

Dave Krendl volunteered to Chair **Goal #1: Nurturing Flexible Work Environments**. All three goals now have Chairs. Meetings will progress once the Area 8 WIB Member training is complete.

Chairman Radway reminded all committee Chairs to begin scheduling meetings. He also reminded them that a Legislative Day is still being organized to be hosted sometime Fall 2025. All Area 8 WIB Members, Boards of County Commissioners, County Elected Officials, Business Leaders, etc. need to be invited.

Unfortunately, Joy Bischoff submitted a letter of resignation from the Board. She has been promoted to Vice President of Ohio Health and can no longer attend our scheduled meetings. She did provide 2 potential replacement candidates and Board members encouraged to provide to Director Freymuth any potential candidates soon so she can provide recommendations to Hardin and Van Wert Boards of County Commissioners.

Chairman Radway presented the Liability Insurance for approval of 1 year. Troy Suchland moved to approve; Jodi Knouff 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Inventory:

At the January 2025 Board meeting, Director Freymuth reported the need for anti-virus software for the new laptop. Logan O'Neill offered assistance by recommending AVG free version. That had been working up to the end of March 2025, AVG free version does not provide enough necessary protections. Brad Wendel moved to purchase AVG Internet Security Unlimited for 1 year for a cost of \$46.68; Justin Bloomhorst 2nd. Dave Krendl asked for clarification of the cost. Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal:

Anita Kremer presented the Area 8 fiscal report. She provided a statewide Area breakdown of the FY26 preliminary WIOA funds and how the \$1800.00 loss affected each of the 4 counties, provided an expenditure update on special grant being used by Auglaize, Hardin and Mercer counties: Drive on Responsibly and all other program and administrative funds.

Director Freymuth provided further explanation of the \$1800.00 WIOA loss. While it is a loss, we were very lucky as it could have been much larger. Constant communication with State fiscal staff and participating in the State fiscal meetings helps to keep an eye on potential funding opportunities.

Legislative & Director Updates:

Applied for Statewide funds to cover the costs of VR Goggle software renewal for \$35,100.00.

Meeting with John McClure, State Special Project Manager along with Mercer and Hardin County staff to review Drive on Responsibly. We will more than likely request an extension on this project past 6/30/2025.

Applied and was approved for a waiver on the Local Plan. Area 8 was late in their submission in 2023 due to the Strategic Session at WSLC. We will now back in alignment with the rest of the State with the next one due in 2027.

All 4 counties have agreed to the 2 year extension on the Youth Provider and OMJ Operator Agreements. Board minutes need to reflect this and was decided to have a document for the Chairman Radway, County Commissioners and Fiscal Agent to sign.

Governance Agreement is ready to be sent to the Boards of County Commissioners, there was a last minute change before the beginning of this meeting.

Board Certification is almost ready for submission. 2 Boards of County Commissioners need to sign. Director Freymuth thanked the Board members for submitting the Conflict of Interest forms timely!

MOU negotiation meeting held on April 15, 2025. All counties and many partners were present. There will be little change to the existing costs. Waiting on counties to submit their budget documents and then it will go out for signatures.

Mercer County JFS has a pending MOU amendment (Area 8 #2). Angela Nickell sent a letter to all affected partners in her OMJ with an explanation and new budget amount. The Change will take place in this current quarter. Board approval is necessary. Brad Wendel moved to accept the MOU amendment; Justin Bloomhorst 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

OMJ Secret Shoppers are out and a reminder that OMJ certification completions have been extended to 12/2025.

State budget has not yet been finalized, Director Freymuth will attend the Legislative Day with OWA on 5/13/2025.

Van Wert County OMJ Presentation: Mindy Eales, Supervisor presented a slideshow of fun events and serves that are being provided. She is tracking OMJ usage by employers, walk-ins and clients. It should be noted that Mindy has been doing a fantastic job as a "one woman show" for a very long time and is excited to be training new staff!

Chairman Radway announced that the Executive Committee met in March 2025 and made the decision to not post the Executive Director position but instead, have entered into negotiations with the current Director, Amy Freymuth. Amy retires from Auglaize County 8/31/2025; Executive Committee hopes to have a contract prepared for vote at the next Full Board meeting on 6/27/2025.

Adjournment: Troy Suchland moved to adjourn at 3:46pm, Dave Krendl 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.