

Area 8 Workforce Board
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2025 @ 2:30pm
JTDMH Board Room

Board President, Rob Radway at 2:41pm, due to IT issues, called the Executive Committee Meeting to order.

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

Approval of Executive Committee minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting approved unanimously without additions or corrections moved first by Lesia Arnett; second by Carol Knapke.

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, they are still working on moving their funds to appropriate lines.

Special Project – Drive on Responsibility; Mercer, Hardin and Auglaize Counties are showing expenditures to this grant but concerned by may not be able to spend the entire grant. Auglaize requested \$1,000.00 be moved from direct costs to marketing so they could expand their campaign but have only had one client to serve. John McClure, state project manager was unsuccessful in getting permission to extend the grant until 9/30/2025 but did however provide permission changes on how the funds can be spent. Chairman Radway requested specific information be sent to the Executive Committee Members so they could follow up with Auglaize, Hardin and Mercer counties about expending the funds by the end of the grant cycle.

VR headsets are due for renewal. Area 8 has 6 in total. Amy did apply for a Statewide Grant for the \$35,100.00 needed to cover the renewal cost, it was awarded!

Board member training ideas are welcome. Chairman Radway suggested more discussion with the Committee Chairs so that those can become operational.

Re-authorization of WIOA is still not complete. Area 8 only sustained a \$1,800.00 cut but there could be draw issues and more cuts to come. Amy was asked to join a new State committee for lay-off aversion.

Mercer County OMJ Amendment is still out for signatures, Amy has sent follow up e-mails to keep the ball rolling.

OMJ Center Operator Agreements, Youth Provider, Governance Agreement, Career Services, Sub-Recipient all 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. All JFS directors verbally approved moving forward for another 2 years, Amy has the agreements out for signatures and Commissioner Resolutions.

MOU Agreements expire 6/30/2025, new ones are due 5/30/2025. Amy organized a full Area 8 Partner's meeting for negotiations on April 15, 2025 in the Auglaize County Administration building Assembly Room. No issues were presented so MOU is being worked on now so it can be sent out for signatures.

Amy attended the ODJFSDA conference in Columbus and the OWA Legislative Day. She reports both were beneficial.

Anita Kremer provided her fiscal updates. She provided fund balances through 4/30/2025. She continues to keep a watchful eye on Area 8's budget. She is pursuing additional RESEA funds and will pay the invoice for VR Goggles as soon as it is ready.

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. Chairman Radway sought a motion to go into Executive Session and invited Anita Kremer to join, 1st by Lesia Arnett; 2nd Carol Knapke. At 3:38pm, Anita was asked to leave Executive Session. At 3:45pm, Chairman Radway moved to come out of Executive Session with a second by Lesia Arnett. No action taken on said contract, Executive Members made a commitment to try to have budget figures by the end of May 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53PM, motioned by Joy Bischoff; second by Fred Rush. Motion approved unanimously.