

## Area 8 WIB Meeting Minutes

11/20/2025

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Radway at 2:32pm

Members Present: Rob Radway, Dave Krendl, Stacey Pickens-Smith, Nathan Strange, Josh Bloomfield, Lesia Arnett®, Logan O'Neill®, Amanda Miller®, Tara Shephard®, Troy Suchland  
quorum met. Members excused: Julie Marchal & Carol Knapke

Approval of 9/25/2025 full Board meeting minutes as well as Executive meeting minutes from 10/16/2025. Director Freymuth indicated an amendment to the Executive meeting minutes needed to be reviewed and approved as she did not include approval of her purchasing software for the Area 8 laptop. Amanda Miller moved to approve, Nathan Strange second, passed unanimously.

Chairman Radway reviewed the standing Committees:

Goal #1: Committee Chair Krendl shared an employer survey that will be either shared via Google Analytics or Survey Monkey. Thank you, Tara and Amanda, for offering to assist with this project! OMJ Centers agreed to share their employer lists including contacts. Survey to be sent out in December 2025 with a return date of January 2026.

Goal #2: Committee Chair Bloomfield shared a recommendation that all OMJ Centers actively participate with the established Business Advisory Councils in each county. All OMJ Center counties have established BAC's, to not duplicate efforts this committee recommends reports come from their BAC meetings. Chair Bloomfield will reach out to the 4 BAC's to ensure the OMJ Centers are invited to their meetings.

Goal #3: Committee member Tara Shephard reported that their committee has met again, and Chairman Rob Radway attended. They too have developed a survey to send to high schools, Career Centers and other post-secondary schools to gather data on what career pathways and job fairs they offer. After further Board discussion, it was decided to combine these surveys and compile the data collectively so as not to send too many surveys at the same time.

Anita Kremer, Fiscal Officer, provided copies of the financial report. Anita has continued to ask for clarification on questions regarding the expenditure and reporting on Special Project #2. Anita reviewed current financials. Board recommends that after 6 months, expenditures be reviewed as Hardin County has a large amount of Youth funds that may need to be transferred to other counties for use.

Director Freymuth reported the government has reopened, not much effect to Area 8.

MOU has been verbally approved but waiting on Director Damschroeder's signature.

OMJ Center secret shoppers will continue. Only Comprehensive and some Affiliate sites have been visited.

OMJ Center certifications are being conducted. Auglaize and Van Wert counties are finished, Mercer just conducted (Board Member Gary McPheron was in attendance for this review) and Hardin is scheduled for November 25, 2025 at 10:00am.

With Anita Kremer, we are finalizing Hardin county's monitoring.

Special Project #1 and #2, continue to be spent. Van Wert county offered to be included in Project #1 should they identify a client in need. Monthly reporting is being submitted by Director Freymuth once State required templates are submitted from the OMJ Center staff.

2026 Meeting Calendar: Proposal submitted by Director Freymuth for the Board to consider. Nathan Strange moved to approve as submitted, Logan O'Neil seconded, unanimously approved. Director Freymuth will provide the calendar to Brand It!, it will be added to the Area 8 website.

Good of the Order: Director Freymuth submitted an email request from Auglaize County OMJ Center requesting changes to their current CCMEP Incentive Plan.

1. Requesting an increase to the Auglaize Work Experience incentive hourly rate from Ohio minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour.
2. Requesting to add an additional incentive of up to \$1000 matching participant savings toward the purchase/down payment of a vehicle.

Auglaize JFS Director Julie Gossard answered questions from the Board. Stacey Pickens-Smith moved to approve, second by Dave Krendl. Unanimously approved.

With no further business, Josh Bloomfield moved to adjourn.