

Area 8 WIB Meeting Minutes

1/22/2026

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Radway at 2:30pm

Members Present: Rob Radway, Dave Krendl, Nathan Strange, Tara Shepherd ®, Lesia Arnett ®, Amanda Miller ®, Fred Rush, Justin Blumhorst, Jodi Knouff, Dave Krendl; quorum met.

Members excused: Julie Marchal, Carol Knapke, Gary McPheron, Tammy Eilerman, Brad Wendel, Josh Bloomfield, Stacey Pickens-Smith and Logan O'Neill.

Jodi Knouff motioned to approved the 11/20/2025 full Board meeting minutes with Dave Krendl seconding, unanimous approval.

Chairman Radway reviewed the standing Committees:

Goal #1: Committee Chair Krendl shared an employer survey has been converted to a Survey Monkey with the assistance of Tara Shepherd and Amanda Miller. Survey was emailed to Director Freymuth and Chairman Radway for review and comments. During the meeting, the Survey was displayed for all to see and provide suggestions/comments. Goal #2 and Goal #3 committees decided that it would be best to send one comprehensive survey to employers in all 4 counties. Any additional questions that need added can be sent to Amanda Miller, potentially adding AI. All 4 OMJ offices are to share their spreadsheet with employer names and contact information.

Goal #2: Committee: Same as listed above

Goal #3: Committee: Same as listed above

Anita Kremer, Fiscal Officer, provided copies of the financial report. Hardin County was able to release \$40,000.00 of their CCMEP Youth funds, Anita distributed. Anita also developed and provided a separate spreadsheet that tracks both Special Projects. Special Project #1, Drive on Responsibly, has \$23,088.23 left to spend. Special Project #2 has a balance of \$177,820.24 however, all counties report future expenditures that will bring the balance very low before June 30,2026. For this reason, Director Freymuth will schedule a fiscal meeting in March 2026 to see if movement of funds is needed and to ensure that all funds will be spent.

Director Freymuth reported information provided by Area 8's JFS Workforce Specialist regarding TechCred, LMI and Unemployment rates. Additionally, provided an update on Rapid Response events.

MOU has been signed by Director Damschroeder however, there are issues when forwarding as not all signatures appear. She will continue to work on a solution.

Hardin County OMJ's program and fiscal monitoring are complete with no issue to report.

Board needs to approve the Certification of all OMJ Centers. Justin Blumhorst made motion to approved, second Fred Rush. Unanimous approval. Director Freymuth will forward meeting minutes to the State.

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

Special Project #2 requires a monthly report to our State Project Manager however; they continue to be submitted late. Director Freymuth asked all 4 counties to set up some type of system that reminds them to submit their information on the 1st working day of the month.

Liability Insurance will be due May 2026 however, price quotes will not be available until 30-60 days before renewal.

OWA met with Assistant Director Brad Barger to discuss waivers. Director Freymuth provided said information to the county program staff today.

Director Freymuth requested permission to add Area 8's gmail account to her cell phone. Board agreed that it was appropriate and reminded Director Freymuth that if requested, it would need to be available for any public records requests.

Area 8 website is update to date and Brand It! Will continue to provide any requested updates until the funds paid for their services have been spent.

Question to the OMJ Center staff: Have you been participating/been active with your county's Business Advisory Councils. All counties reported that they are.

Chairman Radway inquired about Board Membership as it appears there are 2 professionals in the Area 8 district that are interested in becoming a member. After discussion about each county's representation and the use of At Large members, Chairman Radway instructed Director Freymuth to provide potential options and policy changes for each option to be provided at the next Board meeting.

With no further business, Dave Krendl motioned to adjourn at 3:26pm.