

Area 8 WIB Meeting Minutes

4/16/2026

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

Members Present: Rob Radway, Lesia Arnett, Josh Bloomfield ®, Justin Blumhorst, Carol Knapke, Jodi Knouff, Dave Krendl ®, Gary McPheron, Logan O'Neill ®, Fred Rush, Tara Shepard ®, Troy Suchland, Brad Wendel, Nathan Strange. Quorum met.

Members excused: Julie Marchal, Stacey Pickens-Smith & Tammy Eilerman

Approval of 1/22/2026 full Board meeting minutes as presented. 1st Brad Wendel; 2nd Gary McPheron with unanimous approval.

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. Tara Shepard reports that since Amanda's employer held the rights to the Survey Monkey that was used to develop the survey, she is working with the employer to have the survey sent to her for revisions. Once survey is updated, it will be sent to the employer lists.

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 reported that all OMJ's were instructed to work with their BAC's.

Goal #3: Committee member Tara Shephard reported that their committee has met again, and Chairman Rob Radway attended. Same as Goal #1

Chairman Rodway asked Member Arnett to report on the Executive Committee meeting from 3/19/2026. Those minutes were read and reviewed. Member Arnett 1st to accept minutes as presented, 2nd Fred Rush with unanimous approval.

Anita Kremer, Fiscal Officer, provided copies of the financial report. Anita received compliments from the Board on clarity of reports! Member Rush asked if all OMJ Center staff receive the same reports, Anita said yet. Anita updated on the meeting with all 4 OMJ Center staff and Director Freymuth regarding Projects #1 and #2. We are entering the last quarter for both so we are making sure all funds are spent. OMJ Centers report they are on target to spend all of these funds.

Discussion regarding the fiscal monitoring of Mercer County OMJ; Fiscal Officer Kremer has historically not provided this monitoring since she is considered a Mercer County employee, however she only monitors WIOA funds and has no access to anything other. After much discussion, it was decided that having other counties take turns providing this monitoring was not necessary and that the Board could prove she was not involved in JFS funding, Anita could indeed complete the fiscal monitoring for Mercer County OMJ. Anita will update her policy to reflect this change.

Director Freymuth reported as clarification on Special Projects #1 and #2 that not only were Anita and I carefully watching to ensure the grants were completely spent but also making sure that Formula funds were being spent as well. This is important to show “need” to the State so Area 8 can hopefully be funded by more Formula funds and not always needing to request Special Project funds. I will include these in my final report to the State.

Reviewed the need for Policy #190.01 to be changed to reflect a reimbursement of up to 75% vs 50%. Leisa Arnett 1st, Fred Rush 2nd with unanimous approval. Director Freymuth will update the policy and send it to all 4 OMJ Centers.

Federal/State focus on Pre-Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships. Our Area counties hope to gain more opportunities for those seeking such programs.

Reviewed OhioWorks and the addition of our website to the Toledo Chamber of Commerce’s.

Reviewed upcoming conferences and the need for her only to attend the OWA conference in September 2026.

Reviewed the Board’s liability insurance that will be due May 2026 for \$1,250.00. 1st by Carol Knapke 2nd by Justin Blumhorst, unanimous approval.

Board welcomed a new member, Hardin County Sheriff Keith Everhart. Resolution obtained by the Hardin County BOCC. Conflict of Interest policy and form will be sent to Keith. The Board allowed time for him to introduce himself, we are very pleased to add a member with Public Safety experience since this has risen to the top of our in-demand careers.

Chairman Radway moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of employment, 2nd by Fred Rush at 3:29pm. 1st by Chairman Radway 2nd by Troy Suchland to return to regular session and adjourned at 3:47pm with no action taken.