

Lucas County Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes for: October 16, 2024, 2:00PM
Location: EMS Building Downtown Toledo
2144 Monroe St
Toledo, OH 43604
Conference Room, Third Floor

Board Member Roster

N	LaTonya Boyd	P	Laura Jenkins	P	Brandon Sehlhorst
P	Adrienne Bradley	P	Matthew Kibler	P	Denise Smith
P	Lisa Burton	P	Jeremy Knisely	N	David Takats
N	Khary Carson	P	Karyn McConnell		
P	Lee Daher	P	Michelle McDougall		
P	Tom Dimitrew	N	Teresa Moore		
P	Vanessa Gonyer	N	Debra Morris		
P	Luke Grabel	N	Mike Pfeiffer		
P	Scott Hayes	P	Scott Potter		

Board of County Commissioners

P	Lisa Sobecki	N	Pete Gerken	N	Anita Lopez
----------	--------------	----------	-------------	----------	-------------

Staff, Visitors, and Others

P	Matthew Heyrman	P	Latrese Lofton		
P	Christine Varwig	P	Sarah Franklin		
P	Burma Stewart	P	Dave Timmerman		
P	Chad Olson	P	Rachel Hannon		
P	David Glaza	P	Darlene White		
P	Alexus Miller - Schmenk				

Call to Order

The meeting of the Lucas County Workforce Development Board was called to order by Board Chair Scott Hayes on October 16, 2024, at 2:07 pm. It was determined by a roll call voice vote that quorum was reached.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes allowed a few moments for the Board to review the minutes of the August 21, 2024, meeting of the full Board and asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Lee Daher and seconded by Laura Jenkins. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Policy Updates

No Policy Updates for this meeting.

Executive Director Report

Chair Hayes called for any other business to be discussed. Interim Director Stewart discussed the new partnership with Harbor's Benefits Bridge Program. Harbor has requested 5 cubicle spaces in the Shared Services Campus to conduct the program. The program will receive referrals from the Lucas County JFS, collaborate with the OMJ Center and the Department of Workforce Development and share in the operation and expenditures costs of the OMJ center.

Interim Director Stewart introduced Chief Vocational Officer Dave Timmerman to speak on the Benefit Bridge Program. CVO Timmerman stated The Benefit Bridge Program is intended for individuals who are receiving SNAP Benefits and Food Stamps and have gone back to work. The program helps those individuals who experience a benefit cliff as their income increases (due to pay raises and increased hours) and their benefits are reduced. The program offers a variety of supportive services to help them navigate the changes in their economic situations. Commissioner Sobecki spoke on the initial Lucas County Benefit Bridge initiative and the positive impact this will have on Lucas County residents and businesses. It will assist the State of Ohio in moving Lucas County away from being a Benefits Bridge state to a Benefits Cliff state. There was discussion on the role of other organizations, such as Lucas County JFS and LMH.

Interim Director Stewart discussed the renewal of the Harbor/CCMEP lease which extends through September of 2025. The Department of Workforce Development exercised a one-year renewal of CCMEP's contract to provide youth services, and that will be effective from October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025.

Interim Director Stewart discussed a previous request from the Board for information on In-Demand Jobs listed within Lucas County. Board members were directed to the information from the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) contained in the packet. Chair Hayes expressed the Board's desire to understand the calculus used to determine what the in-demand jobs are in Lucas County. There was discussion on the tools used to obtain in-demand occupation information.

Interim Director Stewart discussed the partnership with Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services (LCDJFS), Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), The Zepf Center, and AGC, on an Apprenticeship Event (November 20) for National Apprenticeship Week, which is November 17 - 24. There is a Resource and Job Fair in the morning, with ApprenticeOhio from the State offering an informational session in the afternoon.

Interim Director Stewart introduced Deputy County Administrator Matt Heyrman to

discuss the Department of Economic Development. Matt Heyrman discussed the restructuring of the Department of Planning and Development into a Department of Economic Development, a Department of Workforce Development, and Building Regulations. Heyrman discussed the focus of the Department being three main areas and initiatives: Business Retention and Expansion, Site Development, and Start Up Ecosystem and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. An additional initiative is Regulatory Efficiency. The Economic Development Department will hold a Press Conference at Designetics on October 28, 2024, to discuss the new department. There was discussion on succession planning for employers in the Lucas County area. Chair Hayes introduced Board Member Brandon Sehlhorst to discuss Economic Development at the City of Toledo. Commissioner Sobecki expressed her appreciation for the enhanced collaboration between the City of Toledo and Lucas County to promote and support economic development initiatives in our area.

Strategic Plan Goal 1: Prepare a pipeline of work-ready individuals based on the needs of employers

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board. Interim Director Stewart shared that our activities met the WorkReady goals necessary by our goal date of August 2024 in order to maintain our ACT WorkReady certification. The new goal deadline is October 20, 2026.

Strategic Plan Goal 2: Provide proactive and adaptable business services and solutions through meaningful employer engagement

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board. Business Services Manager, Chad Olson discussed a new employer partnership with Piston Automotive.

Strategic Plan Goal 3: Provide holistic, customer-centric, streamlined, and team-based career services

Chair Hayes instructed the board that this would be a report only item and no action needed from the Board. Chair Hayes introduced Latrese Lofton, Client Services Specialist to share a success story on an individual who received WIOA training funds. Chair Hayes introduced Rachel Hannon, Vocational Manager, of the Lucas County CCMEP to discuss the youth program. Vocational Manager Hannon shared program goals met and the successful outcome of the Summer Youth Program. The CCMEP program is always looking for additional worksites for program youth to gain work experience.

Strategic Plan 4: Enhance public perception of the Lucas County workforce system by providing effective, timely, and accurate communication

Chair Hayes introduced Darlene White, Program Manager of OhioMeansJobs Lucas County. Program Manager White shared the collaboration with Lucas County JFS to

provide resources to SNAP participants that are required to engage in work activity. She also provided an overview of OMJ's new podcast featuring open jobs in the area.

Financial Report

Chair Hayes introduced Senior Budget Analyst Dave Glaza to discuss the financial report.

Other Business

Chair Hayes called for any other business to be discussed. Chair Hayes discussed the Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 that is due in May of 2025, and asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee. Chair Hayes discussed Valerie Moffitt resigned as Vice-Chair and asked for nominations for the role. Chair Hayes discussed the need for more Business and Workforce representation on the Board to meet the requirements for ODJFS's Workforce Development Board Certification requirements.

Recommendations for potential board members should be sent to Interim Director Stewart or Business Services Manager Olson.

Dates for the 2025 Workforce Development Board meetings will continue to occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. and will be sent out by the end of the month.

Hearing no other business, Chair Hayes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting that was made by Scott Potter, seconded by Luke Grabel, and approved by unanimous voice vote by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.