

Lucas County Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes: December 11, 2024, 2PM
Location: Shared Services Campus
3737 W. Sylvania Ave.
Toledo, OH 43623
Whitehouse Room

Board Member Roster

N	LaTonya Boyd	P	Scott Hayes	P	Denise Smith
N	Adrienne Bradley	P	Laura Jenkins	N	Molly Stevens
P	Stephanie Branco	N	Matthew Kibler	N	Phillip Stockwell
P	Lisa Burton	P	Jeremy Knisely	P	David Takats
P	Khary Carson	N	Karyn McConnell	P	Stephen Vasquez
N	Lee Daher	P	Teresa Moore		
P	Tom Dimitrew	P	Mike Pfeiffer		
N	Vanessa Gonyer	P	Scott Potter		
N	Luke Grable	P	Brandon Sehlhorst		

Board of County Commissioners

P	Lisa Sobecki	N	Pete Gerken	N	Anita Lopez
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Staff, Visitors, and Others

P	Matthew Heyrman	P	Angela Miller	P	Darlene White
P	Christine Varwig	P	Alexus Miller - Schmenk	P	Sarah Franklin
P	Sarah Elms	P	David Glaza		
P	Tisha Carroll	P	Safaa Khechen		
P	Burma Stewart	P	Rachel Hannon		
P	Chad Olson	P	Dave Timmerman		

Call to Order

The meeting of the Lucas County Workforce Development Board was called to order by Board Chair Scott Hayes on December 11, 2024, at 2:06 pm. It was determined by a roll call voice vote that quorum was reached. Chair Hayes introduced four new board members: Stephen Vasquez from Wurtec, Inc., Stephanie Branco from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Molly Stevens from Hilton Garden Inn & Homewood Suites Downtown Toledo, and Phillip Stockwell from Penta Career Center.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hayes allowed a few moments for the Board to review the minutes of the October 16, 2024, meeting of the full Board and asked for a motion to approve. The motion was made by David Takats and seconded by Tom Dimitrew. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Policy Updates

No Policy Updates for this meeting.

Executive Director Report

Interim Director Stewart discussed activities from the past month as well as future activities. Interim Director Stewart briefed the Board on the amendment to FY24 Partner MOU that added the Lucas County Benefit Bridge Program. The Department of Workforce Development is working with Support Services on a Request for Qualifications for Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Facilitator. Renewal for this Strategic Plan is due in May 2025 (this has now been extended to September 2025). Interim Director Stewart reported DWD will hold informational sessions for the FY25/26 Partner MOU that is due at the end of May 2025. These meetings will review expectations, partner participation and engagement, as well as identifying the needs of the partners.

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.

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. Interim Director Stewart and Business Services Manager Chad Olson discussed the recent Rapid Response efforts between Workforce Development and the State of Ohio Office of Workforce Development. Chad spoke on the recent announcement of Stellantis layoffs, as well as the impact this has on the automotive suppliers Syncreon, Mobis, and Kuka. In coordination with the State and the three employers, our Rapid Response team made visits to Stellantis and Kuka to discuss unemployment insurance, and OMJ resources and services, such as resume writing, interviewing skills, and potential training supports that affected individuals can access.

Commissioner Sobecki inquired on the effects of the recent Mobis' recall notification of impacted workers with a reduction of pay. At this time, the team has not been able to assess the effect the notification will have on impacted workers. On November 20, 2024, The Department of Workforce Development, in coordination with Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Lucas County Job and Family Services and the Fatherhood Coalition held an Apprenticeship Job and Resource Fair that was a great success. Over 280 job seekers attended the event and were able to connect with 11 employers and trainers, as well as many agencies that offer additional resources and support. An employer focused apprenticeship panel followed the event so that interested employers could learn the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship Programs through the State. Apprentice Ohio for Employers to learn the

Upcoming Events:

On March 10, 2025, The Department of Workforce Development and The Area Office on Aging NWO is holding a breakfast event where people 55+ can come and listen to Employers speak on Part-Time and Full-Time work opportunities. This will be located at the hotel on the UTMCC Campus from 8am-10am.

On April 2, 2025, The Department of Workforce Development and OMJ will partner with area agencies to provide a Reentry Resource Event. OMJLC Program Manager Darlene White discussed the opportunity to hold a first Wednesday event at the Shared Services Campus. This event is designed for individuals who are reentering society after being incarcerated, to engage with support services available in the community as well as discover available employment opportunities. There was a discussion.

On April 23, 2025, The Department of Workforce Development in partnership with Toledo Public Schools will be holding a Youth Hiring Event at the Glass City Center in downtown Toledo. This event will host over 500 TPS seniors entering the workforce. The event is from 9:30am-1pm.

Khary Carson of Verde Logistics asked about funding for CDL for individuals who are reentering society from incarceration. Interim Director Stewart discussed the process for training, some of the suitability requirements, and disqualifying offenses that may create a barrier to CDL employment.

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 Safaa Khechen, Client Services Specialist to share a success story on an individual who received WIOA training funds.

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 outreach and activities currently going on in the One-Stop, including Lucas County's Jobs and Family Services' (LCJFS) able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) program. The program has received 50 referrals, with 29 individuals engaging in programming services.

Chair Hayes 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 employed and receiving SNAP benefits and food stamps. and have gone back to work. The program helps those individuals who experience a reduction in their benefits as their income increases. The program offers a variety of supportive services and incentives to help them navigate the changes in their economic situations. Commissioner Sobecki discussed the initial Lucas County Benefit Bridge initiative and the positive impact the program has had in other areas.

She emphasized the critical importance of the program to improve employee retention and reduced unemployment rates in Lucas County.

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. Interim Director Stewart discussed the Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 that is due in May of 2025, and asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee. There was discussion. The department will send out an email to all board members and if interested, board members should RSVP by the end of January 2025. Interim Director Stewart discussed the need for a sub-committee for the subrecipient contracts.

Chair Hayes requested a motion to approve the new Board Vice Chair, Laura Jenkins. The motion was made by Teresa Moore and seconded by Mike Pfeiffer. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Chair Hayes inquired about potential economic development opportunities for 2025, prompting a discussion.

Commissioner Sobecki thanked board members for their commitment to serving on the Workforce Board. She provided an update on some of the administrative activities that are projected/planned for 2025.

Hearing no other business, Chair Hayes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting that was made by Brandon Sehlhorst, seconded by Teresa Moore, and approved by unanimous voice vote by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.