



Workforce Investment Board

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Debbie Lieberman, Karen Borgert, Marvene Mitchell Cook, Chris Williams, Carol Bise, Timothy Dutton, Jamie Gee, Walter Hibner, Dr. Nick Weldy, Diane Walsh, Linda Ashworth, Richard Wegmann, Sarah Hackenbracht

Guests Present: Garth McLean, Karla Creel, Gwen Eberly, Larry Lash, Jacqueline Williams, Susan Warren, Rosalyn Lake, John Trott, Lori Geary, Brandi Wilcox, Patty Buddelmeyer, Tawana Jones, Lee Hollis Jr., Regina Lewis

Call to Order, Introductions and Announcements: Karen Borgert

The meeting called to order by Chair Karen Borgert at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Karen Borgert called the motion to approve minutes: Motion to approve by Walter Hibner, Second by Linda Ashworth.

Minutes approved without discussion.

Purpose of WIB: The Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board purpose is to drive strategic alliances that advance the region's workforce initiatives and ultimately the region's economic vitality.

Role and Function: The role of WIB is to manage the strategic direction of workforce development activities through the investment in people, fulfilling employer needs, and improving the quality of life in Montgomery County.

Greater Ohio Workforce Board/Area 7 – Lori Geary

There is a new initiative from ODJFS looking to put unemployment insurance (UI) resources into select job centers across Ohio. ODJFS will be asking Montgomery County to possibly allow 2 cubicles for chat assisted unemployment claims. There is a webinar on Friday to discuss and will have more information then.

It's the State Budget Season and we talked about the need for more resources and help for high school students with career planning assistance. We pitched this to JFS and did get a line item in the Governor's budget. The amount allotted was much less than asked for, but it's in there and it's a start.

The State Senate is weighing in on education reform and introducing Senate Bill I which creates the Department of Education as a cabinet agency with the new name of Department of Education and Workforce. To be clear, the "workforce" component of that bill focuses on vocational learning and not our job centers or WIOA funding. We will be watching this closely.

Governor signed new executive order asking for a review of community college and tech center curriculum across the state. In the past, governors call for an inventory of all workforce resources. This is a much narrower focus, and we will watch this closely to see how it develops.

ARIES System (state system that took over the old system called OWCMS) – We have been having ongoing issues but are working to escalate the problems with this new tracking system. We now have direct communication with Director Dan Schroder and have made him aware of the issues, and he has assured us he is working to fix them.

Workforce Development – Marvene Mitchell Cook

We will start with all our initiatives, programming, and partnerships that we do within Montgomery County.

Our mission... “To promote and support a workforce system that creates value and offers individuals, employers and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity”

We have Ohio Means Jobs, which handles Job Seekers, Talent and Recruitment and does so well with job fairs and also working with individuals who come into our job bank resource area day to day. WIOA Adult Funding handles all the orientations for our training sources. Youth Career Services, which are also known as YouthWorks. Ready for Work, we have about five providers within the local region, and they help us present what we do and also enhance what we do by being in the neighborhoods.

Business Solutions Center – Marvene Mitchell Cook

The theme of the Business Solutions Center is to Connect Collaborate and Succeed. We have an internal collaboration with Economic Development. We do: Workforce Planning, Incentives/Financing, Labor Market Information, Navigating Government, Business Courses, Concierge Services, Business Networking, Event/Meeting Space.

Employment Opportunity Center– Garth McLean

Employment Opportunity Center – We are entering our second full year of service. This center is really a mini job center but does so much more. We do have the fundamentals around WIOA training dollars available with orientations going on at 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. We also have a computer lab to provide onsite employment connections. Our male and female leadership academies are housed here. One of our partnerships is with Miami Valley Career Technology Center and their implementation of the Aspire Program. It is an amazing GED and HESI program. It is completely booked through the next few cohorts with 10 – 12 students per class. Another partnership is with Sinclair College & BCC IT Apprenticeship Program. There are micro credentials around CompTIA and our first credential is in IT Fundamentals. We have had two cohorts so far and those individuals once they pass their certifications and go to the next phase will be able to get a learn and earn opportunity with our IT Department here in Montgomery County. This is an amazing opportunity for those individuals to get full-time employment with the county or can move on to unsubsidized employment elsewhere in our region. There will be a YouthWorks cohort bringing in some juniors and seniors and allowing them to get some of these credentials moving forward into the summer cohort.

Leadership Academies – Larry Lash

This initiative came by a desire of the county commissioner, the county administrator and Director Marvene Mitchell Cook to produce a program that will enhance and provide some core values for the youth of Montgomery County. It started off with the Male Leadership Academy in 2019 and because of the success of that, two years later the counterpart Female Leadership Academy was started. The group is now referred to as The Leadership Academy.

The Mission – committed to impacting, enhancing, and changing the lives of the youth residing in Montgomery County, and ultimately, the world. Instilling the core values of character, soft skills and leadership, Montgomery County has built an Academy dedicated to producing outstanding leaders. Thus, the Academy's theme is "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow."

Cumulative Impact – To date the Leadership Academy has successfully served 65 male mentees and 41 female mentees. We have been privileged to partner with over 60 committed mentors: 37 male and 26 female. We have awarded 49 Dell laptops to program participants. In 2022 the Leadership Academy hosted Montgomery County's first Youth Leadership Summit, which hosted over 200 area youth. The program has provided mentee families with holiday food baskets every year since its inception. We have successfully assisted all high-school graduates with post-secondary plans including Ohio University, Alabama A&M, University of Cincinnati, Sinclair Community College, Flyght Academy, Dayton Barber College, and US Marine Corps.

Compliance and Review – Larry Lash

The Montgomery County Business Services (MCBS) Compliance and Review Unit serves as an advocate support entity entrusted to ensure that programs and providers meet regulatory standards and obligations required by their contractual arrangements. We do this through monitoring and technical assistance.

Talent and Adult – Susan Warren

Currently in 2023 we have serviced over 2,000 individuals. Services offered: OMJ registration, labor market information, community resources and programs, career assessments, job search assistance, career counseling, workshops, skill level assessments, development of individual opportunity/employment plans, short and long-term training services, career planning, literacy activities.

Adult Career Services – Jacqueline Williams

We are responsible for supporting the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act Program which was signed into law on July 22, 2014. It's a coordination and alignment of workforce development services. It is our goal to close the skills gap because what we know is the demand for skilled workers is greater than ever before, but the availability is in short supply. We are responsible for supporting individuals with in-demand occupations (healthcare, information technology, aerospace, transportation, and manufacturing).

YCS 365 – Karla Creel

Our goal is to help students figure out as they are graduating high school what they want to do. We do this by helping them determine career pathways. It is a lot of one-on-one interaction and conversation to try to help them figure out where they want to go. Historically this was a summer employment opportunity for youth. The funding changed approximately 6 – 7 years ago to Career Comprehensive Case Management allowing for more holistic and wrap around support for students. One of the biggest challenges is letting the community know we are not the old YouthWorks that just does work experience. We can now do so many more things for our students.

The program is geared toward 14–18-year-old in school students.

Board Member Comments

Karen Borgert – I’ve been on board since 2014 and have heard this presentation, but every time there is even more. There is always a program or something happening that I wasn’t aware of, and I always learn something new. The team comes across as accomplished and very knowledgeable. It’s interesting the depth and passion of the team. For the employers and partners represented on this board it is very helpful to really see a comprehensive scope of the services the workforce team and the county provide.

Tim Dutton – We have worked very closely with Marvene and the team there and certainly have learned a lot about how we can integrate both of our opportunities in the community. I learned a lot from Karla’s presentation today and just wanted to call that out in particular just in terms of new information for me. Thanks to the whole team for being able to partner with us.

County Administrator and Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Lieberman – Great job by our team. You all are doing a great job and really proud of you all. This was a great example of what we are doing.

Meeting Adjourned – 10:30 AM

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Wednesday, November 8, 2023