

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES  
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2015

Commissioners

Jacqui Romer-Sensky, Chair  
Jack Licate, Vice-Chair  
Jermaine Brown

David V. Daugherty  
Cynthia Rees

Staff: Kevin Miller, Executive Director, Mindy Duncan, BSVI Deputy Director, Susan Pugh, BVR Deputy Director, Erik Williamson, DDD Deputy Director, Shirley Marchi, Program Administrator

Guests: Christine Morrison, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Melissa Day, Disability Rights of Ohio

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Daugherty moved to approve the March 4, 2015 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Daugherty moved to approve the January 21, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Licate. Discussion:

Commissioner Brown moved to amend the January 21, 2015 Minutes to remove Barbara Corner's name from the Minutes and add William Pucket to the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Daugherty. Motion carried.

Commissioners approved the January 21, 2015 Minutes, as amended.

Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

Christine Morrison, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, provided information about policy and administrative direction of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

When the Governor came into office in 2012, he heard from businesses that they could not find skilled workers to fill open positions. Ohio had a skyrocketing unemployment rate. The Governor also heard from workers that they could not find jobs; the Office of Workforce Transformation was created to have a team of people who work to improve Ohio's workforce system.

The team approaches their work with three main areas: identifying Ohio's most in-demand jobs; better aligning education and training programs to the in-demand jobs; and reforming the workforce delivery system. The Governor's Office is looking forward

to a Unified State Plan that will include OOD as its new partner.

In 2013, a job forecasting tool was sent to 1700 companies across the nine job Ohio industry clusters. Those clusters have been identified as driving Ohio's economy now and into the future. Hospitals were included because in many communities they are the largest employer. Companies were asked to identify what their most urgent workforce needs were in one year, three years and five years. That data was rolled up with Labor Market Information (LMI) data and the job forecasting trend data on OhioMeansJobs. The information was put together and a list of 196 unique occupations tied to over 17,000 job titles were developed. The in-demand job list and new jobs online are reviewed monthly to review emerging industries.

The job training and educational programs are being aligned and a supply list is being developed. A catalog of the education and training programs (two-year, four-year, proprietary schools, career tech and apprenticeship programs) is being developed and data will be linked to the in-demand jobs data to show the gaps, the oversupply, undersupply, what businesses need and how to better direct resources to fill business's needs.

In 2012, an inventory of Ohio's workforce and training programs across the state was conducted. Ninety-one programs across thirteen state agencies were identified. Work is being done to better align and coordinate those programs at the state level, reduce duplication of services, have a better use of resources so everyone is not trying to do what everyone else is trying to do, promote best practices, and better align and coordinate the programs. There is an option in WIOA provided to the states to submit a Unified State Plan. Three programs were identified – The Workforce Act, Literacy Education and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. The Governor's Office started with these programs because of the number of people impacted, and the number of dollars that come into the state from the federal government. We began working with stakeholders on a monthly basis. A list of ten reforms were identified and the Governor's Office is moving forward with the reforms. We approached our work with two things in mind – get more people quality jobs that pay a living wage; and provide effective, efficient training aligned with in-demand jobs and getting people to jobs with credentials so that they can move up in life.

Several reforms include: required registration of Ohiomeansjobs.com; a common intake application; a common case management system; a common matrix for policy makers to know what is working; a common assessment strategy; career counseling; increase access to remediation and high school equivalency; a unified plan with local partners guiding their local strategy and decision making and resources; and co-enroll individuals into more than one program. The Unified Plan is due March 16, 2016. The Governor's Office is waiting on guidance from the federal government.

### Program Planning Committee Report

The Program Planning Committee met this morning and reviewed several upcoming items that will be on the May 20 Commissioners Meeting agenda including the VR State Plan, the VR Statewide Needs Assessment and the contract with Kent State University regarding transition youth. There are no action items to present to the full Commission.

Commissioner Dillingham participated in the Program Planning Committee meeting. Due to bad weather, she left prior to the full Commission meeting.

### Budget and Audit Committee Report

Chair Daugherty reported the Budget and Audit Committee met last Friday. The committee discussed the closeout of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014. FFY 2014 closed with total expenditures of \$235.7 million, which is \$11.7 million less than last year. The decrease in funds was in case services and dollars saved are reinvested into serving more individuals with disabilities. The VR program brought programs in-house. The administrative contract spending was down due to right sizing those contracts.

For FFY 2015, there are no major delays or acceleration of spending for any of the programs. Several programs are being transitioned to in-house models which will increase payroll costs but will be a better delivery of service to consumers.

Director Miller is scheduled to provide testimony at 9:00 a.m. OOD did well in the budget. The budget will fund the VR Self-Service Portal. OOD has an additional partnership with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). There are \$2.5 million with the ODE partnership.

If OOD dollars stay the same (flat) between 2016 and 2017, we will be within \$2 million of whole match. However, the VR grant may increase in 2017. If the VR grant increases, it could change the match from \$2 million to approximately \$5 million. This year we were at \$127.7 million; next year it will be around \$128.8 million. The VR grant is formula driven and OOD needs state dollars to match the federal dollars.

There is no single audit comments through the state report which is a great accomplishment for the VR program.

### Executive Director's Report

The Director, Legislative Liaison and Chief of Communications have met with 15 to 20 members of the Finance Committee and other members who are new in their positions to let them know who OOD is and the services provided.

OOD recognized a consumer for their great customer service at Taco Bell. His parents were there and thanked OOD for the services he received.

OOD will be sending a letter to RSA proposing that the transition age population be counted separate from the adult population. OOD works with transition age youth beginning at 14 years old.

OOD is working with the Governor's Office and SSA to eliminate the barrier between the Social Security field offices and the VR field offices.

Congress passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) in December. This Act allows individuals to set up a savings account up to \$1500. Rules have not yet been published.

#### Legislative Report

OOD is meeting with the House subcommittee, then the full Finance committee and then new members of the House. After meeting with the House, OOD will meet with members of the Senate. We will be reaching out to legislators after the budget and invite them to OOD events like the ADA 25th anniversary, where they can spend more time with individuals in the agency to see what we are doing, how it works, etc.

The Champion of Opportunity events have gone very well. The last one is March 18 in Mansfield. Strategizing for the future, we want the Champion of Opportunity events held in October to garner additional media coverage.

#### Business Relations Report

Sixty-two companies have joined the Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN) since the January Commissioners' Meeting. OHBLN's Executive Board asked OOD to provide Windmills training to their membership in Cleveland and Columbus.

We continue to track placements and consumers who are in applicant interview status in Central Ohio. We are three-fourths of the way of having all of our Caseload Assistants in place. The Caseload Assistants will facilitate work between OOD and the employer once we have identified a consumer that is suitable for placement. A job fair will be held in Toledo.

The Business Sourcing Analysts (BSA) were granted licenses through the Department of Job and Family Services to use the help wanted online tool or wanted analytics. This tool compiles the want ads for jobs across the state, search multiple job boards, and group the jobs available in specific areas. This will enable the BSAs to search for the companies that are hiring on a consistent basis in a specific area and identify the types of jobs being offered. This will help the BSA with their strategy of engaging businesses.

In WIOA, there is a strong emphasis on apprenticeships. We presented to the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council about OOD and who we serve and they have been helpful and granted us opportunities to talk to other organizations with specialties in electricity and other skill trades.

A link to all of the apprenticeships available in the state was provided. This information will be shared with counselors.

### DDD Report

DDD is awaiting approval of its spending plan and work goals. Three different models are being looked at. DDD could have the highest goal or the lowest goal on the scorecard. We have Continuing Disability Reviews, which are reviews of people who are already on benefits. This is a discretionary workload in that SSA can send us as many or as little of those cases that they want. DDD's applications are decreasing. DDD's average pending is 124 cases and the accuracy rate is 99.5%. SSA's goal is 97%. The case process time is 86 days, which is close to the regional and national averages.

DDD is working in a supportive role with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation on the transformation to Medicaid 1634 status. The SSA application will become the Medicaid application in the 1634 environment. This will change the process for when someone files for SSI or SSDI in the SSA field offices. SSA has procedures and additional forms that need to be completed by the claimant. The claimant must sign they understand that it is Medicaid determination in addition to SSA determination. We will work with SSA partners to make sure staff are educated and the process goes smooth.

DDD is working with SSA and CSAVR on a demonstration project where we refer people that have been turned down, or who want to work, or transition students, to VR directly which we are currently not able to do. We are interested in doing some expedited eligibility where a person may get benefits from DDD on a time-limited basis as they work with VR to get in the workforce. We invited the Associate Commissioner to visit Ohio to look at both sides of our operation and see how we can work together.

SSA is developing a new claims management system. Ohio volunteered to be a part of the beta sites and should know within a week or two if we are selected. We would start with two units to make sure the software is usable. If the software works, we will expand into other units.

### VR Report

*BVR:* VR has been working on the elimination of the "D" waiting list and expansion of the Employment First project. Twenty-five counselors have been hired to keep counselor territories manageable. This will help OOD get more people served and enhance relationships because counselors will be able to spend more time at the local level with the county boards.

VR is shifting its case management model with the Bridges Contract on April 1, 2015. Counselors will have the caseload and the counties will have the specialists focused on providing direct service to students and be more engaged. This is a partnership where

VR brings the skills of the counselor and the DD system brings the skills of their staff.

Over the next several months, VR will be working on the medical, psychological and dental fee schedules. We are ready to move from Medicare rates to Medicaid rates which puts OOD more in alignment with what other state agencies are doing. A lot of OOD's consumers are on Medicaid expansion. It will be a couple of months before the new rates are implemented.

*BSVI:* BSVI had 274 placements. Applications are up 61 over this time last year. The Office of Communications is helping BSVI with outreach, networking opportunities, and engaging with the media. BSVI has brought the case management function of the Independent Living/Older Blind (ILOB) program in-house. Contracts end March 31, 2015. A supervisor and three Caseload Assistants have been hired to manage the ILOB program.

The new rebranding for rest areas for the Business Enterprise (BE) Program has been printed and sent to the Ohio Department of Transportation offices. There is new branding on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the Riffe. We were invited to add branding under the State House and have accepted the invitation because it is important for people to understand the BE Program.

Windmills Training, a tool kit for employers, and development of the VR Self-Service Portal are some of the recommendations being implemented under the Workforce Integration Task Force. A Business Analyst will be hired to help OOD get in line with industry standards on what is being used and integrate those standards into our AWARE system and the OhioMeansJobs database to not duplicate services.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Commissioner Licate moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.