



Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2019 – First Citizens National Bank

Members in attendance:

Steve Seitz – Wyandot County Commissioner

Bonnie Shaw - First Citizens National Bank

Frank Gibson - Facilitator

Laurie Vent - Upper Sandusky Schools

Leanna Barnes - Vaughn Industries

Deana Piekos – Custom Glass Solutions

Brian Kimmel - Kimmel Corporation

Tammy Groves – Wyandot Memorial Hospital

Angie Morelock – Vanguard Sentinel

Scott Moore – Open Door Resource Center

Greg Moon – Wyandot Economic Development / Wyandot Chamber of Commerce

Jason Eibling – Mid-American Therapy / Wyandot Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Grasz – Wyandot Chamber of Commerce

Call to Order:

Jason Eibling called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Introductions and Progress Sharing:

Introductions of new attendees were given. Jason asked for progress that had been made since the January WETF meeting beginning with his own update:

- Jason: He and members of his staff had scheduled a meeting with Jeanette McClain of the Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services to discuss the possible implementation of a pre-apprenticeship program within his organization.
- Steve: Explained that the Apostolic Gospel Church in Upper Sandusky was 3-4 months away from becoming a licensed daycare facility. It was noted that the church's space would allow it to support about 35 children; more than likely still leaving a need for further licensed daycare in the city.
- Laurie: Announced the school held an Employer Student Panel, which included all the USHS junior students. The panel discussed many aspects of preparing to enter the workforce, and multiple students indicated its helpfulness.
- Kathy: Announced the Chamber of Commerce reapplied for a grant through the U.S. Chamber for its Workforce Initiative. Kathy also announced and explained the offering of the Amplify Business Seminar on March 25th in Upper Sandusky. There will be many speakers covering many topics for businesses and entrepreneurs in various stages, and will include speakers covering workforce components as well.
- Greg: Announced he had worked with all of the Carey HS juniors and seniors to get them entered into the Community Opportunity system (website). The students were unaware of the resource and the time spent allowed for raising awareness of what the site could offer as well as the abundance of local career opportunities.
- Brian: Linked In message received from an Ashland U student looking for internship.

- Bonnie: Met with Ms. Kellogg from Marion Tech. Hiring 2 students at Marion Tech (need 150 hours).
- Deana: Explained that job shadowing and internship opportunities could be very helpful within her organization. Currently two-thirds of Custom Glass engineers were interns. While some employers may find it hard to have a full-time job shadow or internship ongoing, there could be the opportunity for multiple employers to ban together to create a 'rotating' opportunity. Deana noted that in many cases, their summer help and interns are the individuals that come back for full time employment.
- Frank: Announced he spoke with the second half of USHS juniors during their career exploration class. He covered what they could control as they move toward graduation and after high school to better prepare them to enter the workforce.
- Scott: Briefly described the Getting Ahead at Work program, and an informational session on the program that was heavily attended in late 2018. Open Door is still looking for an employer partner that would like to offer the free program to their team members.

Vision Statement:

Jason explained the WETF Steering Committee had compiled 3 different vision statement proposals based on input received from all members over the past 2 meetings. Out of the 3 options, attendees gravitated to one they thought best fit the ideal future state for the WETF, and tailored it further. After much discussion, the WETF Vision Statement was finalized as:

"A community with purposeful and diverse employment opportunities."

In Demand Jobs Week:

Frank Gibson explained the statewide push for in-demand jobs week, and the group discussed how the WETF could serve as a conduit for the effort within Wyandot County. After much discussion, it was decided that a group of WETF volunteers would work together to compile all of the applicable events and happenings within local schools, employers, and the community that would apply to the effort. This list will then be submitted to the applicable state entity compiling the In Demand Job Week events statewide.

Greg will also work to have employers enter their current job opening in the Community Opportunity website, and extract all of those Wyandot County job postings into a marketing piece that will be distributed through multiple channels during In Demand Job Week.

Themes - Action Teams Breakout:

The working WETF Action Plan was referenced before members were broken into their respective theme teams to update their goals, methods of measurement, and action items for each of the 4 primary theme areas, and to assign new tasks as needed.

After 15 minutes, the teams quickly shared their updates and ongoing tasks with the larger group:

Communication:

- Creating an HR Network – tasks include developing a name, setting up a LinkedIn or Facebook group as a platform, developing a script to use in reaching out to HR representatives from the top employers in Wyandot County.

Education:

- Making connections with HR representatives from around the county to host one-on-one meetings with students and guidance staff in the schools - Will compile a list of those HR representatives from around the county (may piggyback on the HR Network).
- Laurie will also be reaching out to the other school district superintendents around the county.

Attraction:

- Gather tuition assistance programs available throughout the county – Will work to contact employers to see what tuition assistance programs they have to offer and begin compiling a database. May also piggyback on the HR Network members by using an online survey instrument to collect the data.

Retention:

- Licensed daycare in Wyandot County – Upper Sandusky should soon have a licensed daycare facility at Apostolic Gospel Church, but the group will continue to work to see how that service can be expanded or an additional operation created. Will also continue to work with interested parties to create a facility located in the Village of Carey.
- Public Transportation – Retention group will also add a goal to support an ongoing public transit system in Wyandot County. Current funding secured to run a pilot program for roughly 1 year beginning in July-August timeframe.

Next Meeting:

Jason then reminded the group that the next meeting would occur at the same time and location on March 20th (3rd Wednesday of each month).

Meeting Adjourned