



Mission: “To passionately connect talent with employment opportunities”

Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2020 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Bonnie Shaw - The First Citizens National Bank
Kyle McColly – Wyandot Solid Waste District
Angie Morelock – Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technical Centers
Jason Eibling - Mid-American Therapy/Wyandot Chamber of Commerce
Amanda Fleming – Wyandot Chamber of Commerce
Greg Moon – Wyandot Economic Development
Frank Gibson – Workforce Consultant
Tami Galloway – Retired / Marion Technical College
Michael Augenstein – Marion Technical College
Laurie Vent – Upper Sandusky Schools
Steve Dunn – Liberty Engineered Wire Products
Jenn Rathburn – Village of Carey

Call to Order:

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

Action Recap:

Members shared information about recent meetings they had attended to share information and progress of the WETF:

- Workforce Stability Series
 - Scott was not on the call to answer whether these sessions will take place further out in the future as it has been cancelled this past month.
- TechCred Program
 - Applications were accepted during the months January and March.
 - Freedom Caregivers had one office person apply for Microsoft Excel training. Their application was approved.
 - The Recycling Center did submit an application for a new welding certification with Tri-Rivers CC, and it was approved. Their employee started classes already.
 - The most difficult part about the application process was that Kyle was required to enter all the information about the new credential.
 - Lu Cooke noted that the program now has online courses available and listed on the website.
 - MTC is still operating some TechCred related training programs virtually instead of face-to-face. Unfortunately MTC is not able to certify teachers for new trainings right now until they can get back to in-person instruction.

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- Strategic Doing Workshop
 - One was held in Wyandot and another in Union County. Another will take place in Crawford at some point.
- Attraction & Retention Session
 - Postponed, but new date has yet to be determined.

COVID-19 Updates:

Participants shared updates on what was happening in their organizations:

- Laurie – USEVS like all Ohio schools were shut down. At first, physical copies of work were distributed and turned in at the schools, but that changed as no outside visitors are now permitted enter buildings.
 - Over 7,000 meals (breakfasts and lunches) have been handed out to date. This was a big lift for the schools as they do not normally operate meals throughout the off-months/summer.
 - Biggest challenge has been the wide disparity among families in terms of making sure everyone can manage expectations for their children. Continuing mental health services has also been a challenge.
 - Summer payment from the state (based on property and income taxes) may create a significant decrease in income for the district.
- Angie – Vanguard-Sentinel was prepared in terms of technology, but making sure all instructors are able to utilize it has been a challenge. Overall there has been good adoption. 116 people were on a professional development Zoom earlier this week.
 - Applications and enrollment were projected to be up for next year, but since touchpoints and activities are now going to be down there is hope it will not have a large negative impact on upcoming enrollment.
- Tami – All of her children are home or in the area, and most of them are working from home in their professions right now.
 - She is also still involved with Whirlpool classes (MTC) that has been put on hold as well as The Forge entrepreneurship classes, which have also been put on hold.
- Mike – In charge of non-credit training at MTC, and only some of it has been able to be moved online. It is anticipated there will be somewhat of a jam in the pipeline from too much demand once in-person classes are able to resume.
- First Citizens – Have been dealing with some staff who have higher anxiety due to their life situations. DJFS has been providing some information on how best to deal with these situations.
 - Bank is down to drive-thru only service, and is focusing heavily on the new SBA Payroll Protection Program. Have partnered with another bank who is more heavily involved with SBA to be able to handle the demand.
 - Some employees have not been working for a week, but are still receiving full or partial pay so they do not have to deal with unemployment.
 - Still having their annual meeting this week, but all virtual besides 4 people who will physically be in the office.

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- The bank donated a large care package to the hospital and to Open Door to keep supporting the community. Also, they are buying lunches for employees on Fridays, and encouraging employees to buy their lunches from local businesses.
 - Another thing they did was had a spirit week to keep morale up.
- Lu Cooke – In-demand Jobs Week (first week of May) is not going to happen this year.
 - State did create an essential job posting website that has seen a lot of traction.
 - The unemployment website on the other hand has been very difficult to deal with for many applicants.
 - There have been some pushes for the state to begin opening up certain industries in certain geographies soon.
 - National auto industry is even talking about bringing back the “clunker program”.
 - Latest round of TechCred and the Industry Sector Partnership Grant awards have yet to be announced.
 - Good contact for SBA Programs is Kathy Keller – SDCA @ Rhodes State - 419-995-8184
- Amanda – Chamber and Economic Development have had conversations with local lenders and financial advisors to gauge their knowledge and use of the new SBA products. We have since organized a webinar with some of those local resource providers on Monday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m.
- Frank – Backed off communications to most contacts besides daily OMA updates to some of his economic development and chamber contacts.
 - Taking a look at how he can do his business remotely as a result of what has been happening.
- Steve – Liberty Engineered Wire Products still has all of its plants in its division running. They removed mandatory overtime, and currently are only off about 15% labor-wise.
 - All sister companies are still working. April business looks to be a little off, but they are hopeful May and June will be back up.
 - There was some initial contact with the health department, who was very accommodating in making suggestions for ongoing operations.
 - EWP is maintaining a no visitor policy, and have even eliminated things like trade magazines being delivered.
 - Health Dept. only pointed out a few things such as too close proximity in the break room, and therefore the break room had to be closed.
- Kyle – Recycling Center employees have moved to half days.
 - Even though recycling is a dirty business, the overall sanitation of their equipment has moved to a higher level as the virus can live on almost any surface.
 - On the City council side, they are still wondering about how their meetings will operate. As far as their budget goes, they have yet to receive projections regarding negative impacts to revenue.
- Jason – Mid-American Therapy currently has 3 COVID positive clients, and there is question about how they handle these situations. They have created dedicated teams to take care of these clients to the best of their ability.

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- Business has been impacted about 15-20%, but will change to almost 40% over the next few weeks as only emergency procedures are moving forward at hospitals.
- Freedom Caregivers is still operating with the same staffing capacity. Some alternatives have been taken to keep all of their employees busy and being paid.
- Jason has been working with both SBA programs, but has yet to see any result of those efforts due to associated red tape. He is hopeful that there will be a change soon, but at this point is not able to access needed immediate capital for payroll.

Additional Discussion:

Discussion formed around moving into the future, where might the Task Force’s challenges and opportunities lie?

- Greg: Currently it is unknown what specific challenges our local business community will be facing. The next few months will paint a clearer picture of where we can fill needs.
- Frank: There will be a push to ramp up to full production, and the information collected through BR&E will be one of the best ways to inform us of the needs of businesses.
- Amanda: Want to make sure we are still coming together and sharing information.
- Jason: The private sector will be pulling us out of this, but we need to make sure our small businesses have access to good assistance from the public sector.

Meeting Adjourned:

The next regular meeting was scheduled for May 20th (3rd Wednesday of the month), and maybe virtual again if required.

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