



Mission: “To passionately connect talent with employment opportunities”

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2020 – Wyandot Chamber of Commerce and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Bonnie Shaw - The First Citizens National Bank
Angie Morelock – Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technical Centers
Jason Eibling - Mid-American Therapy/Wyandot Chamber of Commerce
Greg Moon – Wyandot Economic Development
Frank Gibson – Workforce Consultant
Laura Gier – Department of Job and Family Services
Michael Augenstein – Marion Technical College
Laurie Vent – Upper Sandusky Schools
Leanna Barnes – Vaughn Industries
Tammy Groves – Wyandot Memorial Hospital
Steve Seitz – Wyandot County Commissioner

Call to Order:

Jason Eibling called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Action Recap:

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

- Workforce Stability Series
 - Bonnie indicated these sessions were still on hold, and the EMS conference room was still not available for use to the public. The plan is to start these again as they were well attended.
- TechCred Program
 - Applications are again being accepted during the month of June.
 - Frank noted he was working with a few companies that are making applications for the program.
 - One change during this application round is that names of employees who will receive training are no longer required.
- Student Perception Survey Results
 - The results of this year’s surveys of area Junior and Senior students were shared.
 - Greg noted that many more responses were received versus last year.
 - Jason noted the changing trends in students’ preference for future residence as well as some other changing preferences.
- Community Opportunity Business Survey Results
 - Greg also shared results of the survey sent out to Wyandot County businesses who used Community Opportunity.

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- The feedback was overall positive, and even though the 16 respondents noted they had not hired applicants for open positions through Community Opportunity, they all still planned to keep using the platform to post new positions.

COVID-19 Updates:

Participants shared updates on what was happening in their organizations:

- Bonnie – FCNB is working through the changing medical and paid leave policy changes now in effect as many employees at the bank are utilizing these programs.
 - They recently posted a couple IT related positions that they anticipated would be hard to fill, but instead had over 60 applications for.
- Laura – the Dept. of Job and Family services has been busy dealing with unemployment related issues; most of which have now been solved.
 - The department has had little contact from employers recently.
 - The summer youth employment program had to be cancelled.
 - Over the past few months there has been very little if any traffic in their resource room.
 - JFS saw a major influx for unemployment and other benefits as applicants did not have to verify their current income.
 - Now that policies have changed, and income verification has returned, the number of applicants for these benefits have dropped off significantly.
- Tammy – WMH recently used OhioMeansJobs.com to post a couple of open positions, and had a few positive replies from applicants using the system.
 - The hospital ended with a better May than anticipated, but there are still many restrictions on visitors and many patients are still leery of visiting the hospital.
 - Job care (onboarding) for area businesses had dropped off, but is beginning to slowly come back.
- Angie – Vanguard-Sentinel schools are shut down until June 30th, and everyone has been working remotely. They are planning to head back soon, but some guidance still has yet to be released from the state that will dictate how operations are going to look.
 - OMJ in Ottawa County had piloted a program for transferring high school student “backpacks” to “briefcases” around their graduation. Angie wondered if this was something OMJ was practicing in other communities or could be done in Wyandot County.
- Jason – Freedom Caregivers was up around 130 employees pre-COVID, and is now back up to 109. Its Wyandot County business has dropped off by almost half, but the Mansfield and Marion markets have been strong.
- Steve – County sales tax revenues so far had not decreased as much as initially expected and are so far only down about \$41,000 (not that large of a percentage).
 - Wyandot County Skilled Nursing has seen 4 cases of COVID-19, and 1 death as a result.
- Leanna – Vaughn Industries only had a few staff working remotely for a very brief period of time. Otherwise, the company has maintained operations as normal.
 - Leanna also noted that putting out communications to the local business community asking for those who need assistance could be a positive effort.

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Upcoming events:

- Frank announced that OSU would be offering a free Business Transition Training webinar on June 24th focusing on those who do not have a clear succession plan.

Themes – Collaboration and Report:

Due to some attending the meeting in-person and virtually, only progress updates were provided by members of each Theme Team:

- Communication
 - Jason noted they are trying to think of new ways to disseminate information to the HR Network group.
 - On the job fair topic, it is expected that these events will more than likely not be held for some time.
- Attraction
 - Greg noted the first of hopefully many county marketing videos was completed and posted online a month ago.
 - Greg asked everyone to consider helping compile high quality video from our local businesses so that it can be used in future marketing videos targeted at specific audiences.
- Retention
 - Bonnie noted the need to get the retention seminars restarted when possible. She stated the feedback from the first few classes was very positive.
- Education
 - Laurie gave an update on the work-based learning curriculum offering at USHS. This past year was the third year it was offered.
 - In year 1 there were 5 participating students, 12 in year 2, and 33 this past year.
 - Of the 33, 30 of the students obtained their Job Ready Seal. Also this year, a new partnership with Kalmbach Feeds allowed 6 students to find employment there.
 - It was noted that the Work Based Learning program could be a positive future session / offering from the WETF. The session could both inform local businesses of the opportunity to engage students as well as create more opportunities for those students.

Meeting Adjourned:

The next regular meeting was scheduled for July 15th (3rd Wednesday of the month), and is planned to be in person.

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