

Minutes
OSAC Regular Meeting
April 2nd, 2015
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
4020 East Fifth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219

Welcome/Introductions:

Chairman Lipster called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call of Council:

Chairman Lipster called the roll.

Chairman Lipster announced that Thomas Conley had requested and was excused from the meeting.

Present:

Members: Stephen Lipster, William McNally, Deborah Catri, Robert Gartner, David Siravo, Douglas Soma, David Hittinger, Joseph Igel

Advisors: Andrew Maciejewski (Assistant Bureau Chief, ODJFS), Linda O'Connor (Ohio Department of Education)

OSAC Staff: Patrick Reardon (Executive Administrator), Dan Baechlin (Program Support)

Guests: Vince Irvin (Ohio Laborers' District Council), Connie Sink (Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons JATC), Tony Swoope (United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters - UA) Chris Haslinger (UA), Rebecca Richardson (UA), Mike Hazard (UA), Annemarie Caudill (Ohio Valley Association of Builders and Contractors - OVABC), Faye Barry (OVABC), Joe Travis (Ohio Carpenters' JATC)

February 2015 Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Soma, seconded by Mr. McNally, the February minutes were approved unanimously without amendment.

Council Unit Reports

Mr. Reardon discussed the recorded reports on apprenticeship oversight. Highlights and comments were as follows.

OSAC Report

Compliance Enforcement

The temporary personnel who for some months was the sole apprenticeship compliance monitor, is nearing the end of his allowable work hours with ODJFS.

The agency's Fiscal and Monitoring Office will soon resume that function. The DOL project that dominated unit resources has ended, and Mr. Reardon has provided the staff with preliminary refresher training.

Marketing

Council staff worked with the Office of Communications to ensure implementation of agency standards for the appearance and content of public information on Registered Apprenticeship. Based partly on last year's town meetings, the staff has drafted technical assistance guides about issues raised in the recently revised state rules. These documents will be posted on line, with a hyperlinked table of contents divided by topic.

Council Meeting Schedule

Staff will edit the council's calendar web page, to remove the designation "tentative" from each scheduled meeting date. This revision has been delayed, pending maintenance to the web-site management server.

Dr. Catri asked about the recent unavailability of Fiscal and Monitoring staff, and whether their resumption of apprenticeship duties would affect the council budget. Mr. Maciejewski said the project that had pre-occupied them, involved data validation tied to the transition from WIA to WIOA. He reported that Fiscal and Monitoring is funded by a standard allocation from all OWD sections, and its apprenticeship work will not change this formula.

Mr. Hittinger received confirmation from Mr. Reardon, that pending staff changes would not affect the field assignments. He commented that the new service provider for his area, Ron Middleton, is doing a great job.

Fiscal Report

A comparison of the SFY2014 and SFY2015 budgets were provided, along with current and projected expenditures by quarter.

Dr. Catri applauded the current adherence to spending targets and appreciated the inclusion of spending projections in the report.

Credit Voucher Report

Mr. Reardon presented a summary of advanced credit granted in SFY '15 to date, and a break-down of credit approvals in the preceding two months. At Mr. Siravo's request, Reardon agreed to group the break-down data by occupational sector in future reports.

OSAC Status Report

Mr. Reardon discussed printed tallies of various transaction types since December involving apprentices (registrations, cancellations, automated record updates, etc.) and programs (new registrations, standards updates, etc.), and of technical

assistance consultations between ASPs and sponsors. He noted a seasonally typical down-turn in apprentice enrollments and completions, but cited a surge in Davis-Bacon certificates for current apprentices. With a recently full complement of ASPs, the unit has stepped up its outreach to sponsors, and the de-registering of those found to be inactive. A back-log in this function should soon dissipate, making the net growth rate of apprenticeship more evident.

Dr. Catri commented on the potential feasibility of having the regularly scheduled OSAC meetings off-site at a sponsor location. Mr. Reardon noted that could be a possibility dependent upon Council member interest.

Executive Administration Report

DOL Office of Apprenticeship (OA) Conference Call

Mr. Reardon had taken part in a February 5th DOL conference call with state apprenticeship directors. The agency updated them on its Apprenticeship Initiative, which now features a website promoting Registered Apprenticeship and providing current sponsors with best-practice information. The call included a discussion of plans to redesign the federal management information system for apprenticeship (now called RAPIDS), aiming in part to make it more adaptable to diverse state-level needs.

Recognized Pre-Apprenticeship

The staff office has been advising the Ohio Department of Education and four of its Career Centers, on earning state recognition for pre-apprenticeship programs that were in various stages of development. Mr. Reardon said these discussions happen amid growing, statewide interest in pre-apprenticeship.

DOL American Apprenticeship Initiative Grant Release

The report cited ODJFS as the grant applicant in a \$5 million proposal, involving registration of twelve University System of Ohio (USO) campuses as apprenticeship sponsors. Dr. Catri asked how the schools would qualify for this, given that they don't employ many people in apprenticeship trades. Mr. Reardon said they would coordinate other employers in group sponsorships. Mr. Siravo commented that schools are unfamiliar with sponsorship. He added that employers are unfamiliar with schools in that position, but would welcome them taking on the administrative functions involved.

Advisor Reports

Ohio Department of Education

Linda O'Connor reported on her joint visits with Mr. Reardon to secondary schools - mostly Career & Technical Centers (CTCs) - to promote development of pre-apprenticeship programs. One challenge, she noted, was to overcome academic biases against apprenticeship trades as a career path for students. Mr.

Siravo commented that the Wood and Fulton County CTCs were arranging field trips for parents and teachers to manufacturing sites, to help overcome such misgivings.

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services - Office of Workforce Development

Mr. Maciejewski reported on restructuring in ODJFS. Office of Local Operations staff who work in the operational side of workforce development programs (WIA, Trade Adjustment, etc.), will transfer to the Office of Workforce Development (OWD), more than doubling the personnel size. Most of them will retain current work functions. The restructuring is to conclude by mid to late April. Maciejewski did not expect any resulting decrease of the OSAC unit personnel; although he hopes that the office merger will result in an expansion, particularly within the compliance functions of the unit.

The lately revised federal training law - renamed from Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - has a new provision requiring each Workforce Board to include a JATC representative. OWD has sent all Ohio JATCs a letter announcing this policy and explaining how WIOA works. The aim is to facilitate their involvement in the system. A letter will also go to local elected officials, similarly explaining Registered Apprenticeship, to help them as WIOA partners to work with JATCs.

In answer to a question from Dr. Catri, Maciejewski said the field supervisor's position cannot be redefined. The restructuring is taking place under a level-budgeting mandate, so care is being taken to simply move - not create or expand - agency positions.

Guest Reports

Vince Irvin – Apprenticeship Coordinator, Ohio Laborers’ District Council

Mr. Irvin reported on major growth in construction activity and the consequent opportunities for laborer apprentices. He described new and expanding projects by companies including Ohio Dominion, Sector Energy, and Columbia Gas.

Joe Travis - Apprenticeship Coordinator - Ohio Carpenters’ JATC

Mr. Travis described positive effects from construction growth - including new chances to apply the Carpenters' pre-apprenticeship curriculum, Career Connections. Fifteen schools in Ohio have adopted the curriculum. In reply to a question from Mr. Reardon, Travis said it is too early to gauge the success of Career Connections by indicators such as apprenticeship enrollment rates for its graduates.

Anne Marie Caudill - Apprenticeship Coordinator - ABC Ohio Valley

Ms. Caudill reported on upgrades to ABC's related instruction, including increased use of digital technology and web-based applications. The number of

ABC apprentices increased in 2014, from 90 to 130, and is expected to keep growing at that rate. She noted that the greatest expansion has occurred in ABC's electrician and HVAC training

Old Business

OSAC Leadership Structure and Selection

Chairman Lipster reviewed council's proposal to create an executive board comprising one member from each of the three representative sectors, with board tenures that match the governor's term of office. The purpose is to allow consistent interaction with the governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. On a motion by Mr. Soma, seconded by Mr. Hittinger, the proposal was adopted without objection.

The meeting was suspended to allow the council's three representative groups to caucus for the nomination of their executive board delegates. When the council re-convened, the candidates were identified as Mr. Lipster, Mr. McNally, and Dr. Catri, each of whom accepted their nomination. The council is scheduled to vote in June on their appointment to the executive board.

New Business

Vice Chairman McNally proposed to amend the council's absenteeism rule, in keeping with the now bi-monthly meeting schedule. He agreed to draft language for discussion at the June meeting.

Mr. Siravo moved that the council adopt a policy promoting direct entry for veterans and CTC graduates. Mr. Soma seconded the motion. Mr. Hittinger noted that this is a subject of state rules that doesn't leave much room for adjustment. Mr. Maciejewski concurred and said the normal avenue for amending rules is the five-year review process, the latest cycle of which had just ended. On a motion by Mr. Gartner, seconded by Mr. Igel, the council tabled the motion, to allow more time for consideration of the questions brought up.

Good of the Council

UA Training Director Chris Haslinger brought up Ohio's questioning of direct entry for Veterans in Piping (VIP) participants. UA spokes-person Mike Hazard mentioned he is concerned about the high unemployment rate among veterans. He said the UA addresses that issue through the VIP program. They collectively asked the Council to consider the allowance of this direct entry in Ohio for the UA sponsors to include in their program standards.

Chairman Lipster asked about the difference between VIP and Helmets to Hardhats (H2H). Mr. Hazard said H2H provides on-line information about where and how to apply for Registered Apprenticeship; whereas VIP interviews people, asks each to name three preferred areas of residence, and arranges direct entry with a JATC near one of those. Chairman Lipster asked why these individuals do not apply through the normal methods. Hazard said VIP only refers its participants to programs with approved direct entry.

Mr. Lipster suggested that access to JATCs might increase, with a more frequent schedule for applications. Mr. Hazard replied that returning military personnel need to find apprenticeships in a short period of time. Mr. Gartner asked if direct entry falls short of the requirements for affirmative action in apprentice selection. Mr. Hazard said VIP graduates tend to generally be more diverse than the overall population of people exiting the military.

Mr. Gartner asked if direct entry through H2H would improve apprenticeship access. Mr. Haslinger replied that the individuals need to be quickly entered into programs.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Catri, seconded by Mr. Soma, the council unanimously voted at 12:15 PM to adjourn.

Minutes Approved

Steve Lipster, Chairman

Date

Patrick Reardon, Executive Administrator

Date