



MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 9, 2021
9:30 AM

Radisson Hotel Akron-Fairlawn
200 Montrose West Avenue
Akron, OH 44321

Chief Elected Officials (CEOs)/COG Members Present:	Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Executive Colleen Swedyk, Medina County Commissioner
Summit & Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments (SAMWA COG) Staff Present:	Christine Marshall, Executive Director; Grace Glaubman, Policy, Procurement, and Performance Administrator, Tammy Kaser, Operations Coordinator
Area 2 Fiscal & Sub Fiscal Agent Staff Present:	Tom Jalbert, Fiscal Operations Administrator, SCDJFS
Legal Counsel Present:	Deborah Matz, Law Director, County of Summit Dept. of Law, Insurance, & Risk Management

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Chair Shapiro called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

II. INTRODUCTION

- a. Executive Shapiro welcomed COG members, Workforce Board members, and staff.

III. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to approve the SAMWA COG's 10/6/21 meeting minutes. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried, and the 10/6/21 minutes were approved.

IV. REPORTS

- a. There were no reports to present.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Director Marshall informed the SAMWA COG Board that the U.S. Department of Labor's "enhanced desk review" of Area 2's COVID-19 grant, which commenced 6/21/21, continues. No outcome has been reported, informally or formally. Marshall explained that the USDOL office conducting the review is located in Chicago, and the review is being conducted from their office, based on electronic records, without visiting the Centers or the SAMWA COG Offices.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Marshall informed those present that Area 2 received notice on 11/17/21 that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services will hold its entrance conference on 12/13/21 to commence a PY 20 WIOA program monitoring, focusing on Medina County services.

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- b. **Resolution 2021-24** authorizing the Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments to accept a special allocation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) Act funds from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) for the purpose of conducting a working-age adult survey across Summit, Medina and Portage Counties.
 - i. Director Marshall explained that this project is a result of collaboration among Workforce Area 2, Greater Akron Chamber, and Conxus. It includes Portage to be able to slice the data as the Akron MSA. We hope to see 800 responses for each of the three counties included in the survey, for a total of 2,400 responses. The survey will be conducted by a professional polling company, questions will focus on employment related issues, and respondents will have the opportunity to participate in a focus group.
 - ii. Executive Shapiro noted that equal representation for the three counties will mean that the larger Summit County will be underrepresented in the survey. Director Marshall agreed and explained that the polling company had a methodological reason for setting the same response goal for each county.
 - iii. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to adopt SAMWA COG Resolution 2021-24. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried.
- c. **Resolution 2021-25** adopting an addition to the Summit/Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments ("SAMWA COG") Personnel Policy Manual to include Paid Parental Leave.
 - i. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to adopt SAMWA COG Resolution 2021-25. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried.
- d. **Resolution 2021-26** of the Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments authorizing the execution of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Data Sharing and Confidentiality Agreement, between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Local Workforce Area 2, to provide Area 2's public workforce system with access to specific Wage Record information and Unemployment Insurance Claimant data during the period beginning upon the full execution of the Agreement and ending 9/30/2023.
 - i. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to adopt SAMWA COG Resolution 2021-26. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried.
- e. **Resolution 2021-27** authorizing the Summit and Medina Workforce Area of Council of Governments to appropriate to the Calendar Year 2022 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act funds totaling \$6,810,000.00, to establish a budget as a fiscal component unit of the County of Summit.
 - i. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to adopt SAMWA COG Resolution 2021-27. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Director Marshall reminded those present that the year-end December 31, 2020, Area 2 Auditor of State (AOS) Audit was submitted, with no significant findings, and informed the SAMWA COG Board that ODJFS submitted a letter to Area 2 on 11/15/21 notifying they accepted the AOS report as filed.
- b. Director Marshall informed the SAMWA COG Board that 2022 COG meeting dates will be sent to their calendars

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- i. Commissioner Swedyk deferred to Executive Shapiro to continue serving as SAMWA COG Board Chair in 2022.
- c. Director Marshall informed those present that she had been invited by the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agencies Directors' Association to make a presentation, virtually, to their 88 County-level Child Support attorneys on 11/5/2021, regarding the relationship between child support and the workforce system and ways the two systems can work together to ensure that parents obligated to pay child support are taking full advantage of the public workforce system to maintain employment.
- d. Director Marshall informed the SAMWA COG Board that she had been invited to serve as a panelist at the County Commissioner's Association of Ohio (CCAO) Winter Conference on 12/8/2021, to represent a metro area in a discussion of issues around employee retention and recruitment.
 - i. The presentation included statistics about the lack of population due to Baby Boomer retirement rate, factors affecting retention and recruitment, including a discrepancy between the high child and elder care needs of Ohio's population and the availability and affordability of child and elder care systems and services. Solutions were presented one of which is engaging non-traditional and hidden populations.
 - ii. Executive Shapiro discussed with those present the potential to work with Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority to find candidates for training and employment opportunities.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commissioner Swedyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Executive Shapiro seconded the motion. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Prepared by:

Tammy Kaser

Operations Coordinator, SAMWA COG