

MINUTES OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Friday, November 30, 2018

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ashtabula County Educational Service Center,
2630 West 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dan Brubaker, Worthington Cylinders
Mr. Mike Candela, Superintendent Pymatuning Valley Local Schools
Mr. Richard L. Jackson, Executive Vice President, Operations ASHTA Chemicals, Inc.,
Ms. Laura Jones, Executive Director, Leadership Ashtabula County
Mr. Greg Myers, Executive Director, Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County
Ms. Christina Ray, Human Resources Director, Ashtabula County ESC
Mr. John Rubesich, Superintendent Ashtabula County ESC
Mr. Mike Sass, Director of Human Resources, Community Care Ambulance
Mr. Craig Sernik, Executive Director Area 19 NOC COG
Dr. Sue Stocker, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, Kent State University at Ashtabula

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Patrick Arcaro, Executive Director, Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services
Dr. Jerome R. Brockway, Superintendent Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus
John Ringer, President, Ringer Screen Print, Inc.
Sharon Shoneman, ACESC Board Member
Leonard Stepp, Senior Vice President, Administration, APMC Healthcare System
Ms. Wendy Zele, Manager, External Affairs, FirstEnergy Corp.

GUESTS:

Hattie Grubke-Barnard: Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services

ITEMS DISCUSSED

1. Mr. John Rubesich,
 - Mr. Rubesich opened the meeting.
 - He conducted introductions of members
 - He reviewed the items provided in the packet
 - Mr. Rubesich requested motion to approve the minutes. Dean Stocker approved the minutes and Mr. Candela seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Mr. Craig Sernik:

- Mr. Sernik provided a handout and conducted a presentation on The Future of Workforce.
- The presentation addressed a Gap Analysis Area developed by data collected by NEO. The report is largely based on differences between education and employment NEO Northeast Ohio. This report and information should assist us as we moved forward with developing our strategies to meet our plan. The hope is to help direct and align the student population toward the in demand workforce needs and gaps.
- Mr. Sernik discussed the 4 “E”s: Education, Employment, Enlistment, Entrepreneurship.
- Mr. Sernik will email the document to Ms. Ray for electronic distribution to the committee.

3. Round Table Discussion:

- Some discussion around what are the trade unions doing to help with this skills gap.
- What can the committee do to assist with this gap and create more opportunities and pathways for our community? What are we doing to attract more people to move into our community? There is also concern about people coming into our community because of the lack of cultural activities.
- What are the more difficult positions to fill in our local businesses? Does it seem like skilled positions or entry level? Seems like the general labor.
- Mr. Rubesich encouraged employers to go to the schools to speak to teachers/staff at the schools to try to recruit direct and discuss attendance and ethic while in school. There is a huge opportunity with regard to alignment of schools and business to attract students as potential employees.
- Mr. Candela noted to create a seamless transition for our youth; the pathway needs to be established early on in life. The opportunities need to be presented to our youth.
- Mr. Sernik commented the biggest indicator of success follows the culture, specifically the wealth.
- Concerns about just getting students to graduate high school.
- What are the schools doing now? Mr. Rubesich mentioned the ACCESS program. He also discussed that Guidance counselors are now conducting more testing than being able to provide guidance and are actually called school counselors. Other items mentioned are the current college fair, the senior job fair, the FAFSA assistance from ACCESS, the youth opportunities program. We will be gathering information, developing a summary and discussing this information at our next meeting.

4. Next Steps:

- Discussion around the next steps. Now that we have this report and our plan completed, the next meeting we can focus on data and information gathered with what activities, programs and events are already occurring.
- What are the things that are causing the skills gaps?
- What are the things that are assisting with filling the gaps?

- Discussion around who to invite to our next meeting to conduct presentations on what is currently being done in schools:
 - College ACCESS
 - Junior Achievement
 - Youth Opportunities Program

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Richard Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dan Brubaker, all in favor.

ATTACHMENTS:

- *Minutes from September 14, 2018 Meeting
- *The Future of Workforce Presentation document from Mr. Craig Sernik

Next Meeting:

The next Meeting will be held on February 15, 2019.

Additional Meeting:

May 17, 2019