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Belmont County Workforce Collaborative

The ECO Center

March 17, 2026

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Minutes

8:45 - 9:00 am: Light refreshments and Starbucks beverages

**A Special Thank You to the OVAC for sponsoring Starbucks*

9:00 - 9:10 am: Welcome and Introductions Around the Room - Career Navigators

Participants introduced themselves and what business/school/organization they are representing.

9:10 - 9:20 am: Mission Statement - ECOESC Workforce Development

Building Skills, Shaping Futures - Voted on by all area BAC's

Lovel Quinn reported out on the new mission statement and how it came to be from the meetings last year.

- AOMC - (Appalachian Ohio Manufacturing Council) covers 9 counties, works with schools and industry to get students ready for careers in manufacturing. They offer a mobile unit to go out to schools. Much of their training is led by current interns. The focus was on schools and services she can provide for students in the manufacturing field.*

9:20 - 9:30 am: Sheet Metal Workers Local 33 - Steve Singleton

The trade union that works with sheet metal and HVAC work. There is a summer program June 8-12. It is a crash course for a week to learn what they do and then they can be signed up to be in the apprenticeship program. This program takes 20 students. The apprenticeship program runs January, February, March during the more difficult months due to weather. First year apprentices start at \$19.66/hr on their check but the package is \$68/hr. The application window is open all year. Covers



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Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson and Monroe Counties in Ohio and much of West Virginia.

9:30 - 10:00 am: Youngstown State University - Ross Morrone

Steubenville campus is now open to the community. The Building is in Jefferson County. 4000 Sunset Blvd, Steubenville, OH. They offer certificates all the way through doctorate degrees. They are there to serve the community. It is focused on workforce. They stated they would like to help upskill. Ross went over the programs available at the regional campus but degrees and certificates. Programs at the Steubenville campus are STEM, Health Sciences, Education & Social Sciences and Business Administration. They are looking for clinical site offerings. \$3,374 per semester (before FAFSA), \$281 per credit hour based on full-time students who take 12-18 credit hours. Website: explore.yzu.edu/steubenville

10:00 - 10:10 am: Chick-Fil-A - Joanna Gibson

Joanna presented her background and how her career journey led her to becoming a franchise owner. She went over the history of Chick-Fil-A. They also talked about how they partner with the community for various events and participate in job fairs. One of Joanna's goals is that if employers see Chick-fil-A on a resume that the employer can feel confident that they will have a good employee. Chick-Fil-A awards scholarships to team members annually. CFA wants to continue partnering with schools and the community.

10:10 - 10:20 am: Plumbers & Steamfitters Local #83 - Jason Dean

Local #83 has been in Wheeling for 105 years. They have a five year apprenticeship program in place. There is an associates degree available for the program through Washington State. First year apprentices earn 45% of the 100% salary. The full amount is up to \$78/hr. In 2016, there were over 200 applicants. Last year, there were only 20 applicants with only 5 passing the test. The local #83 is trying to increase the number of schools they are trying to get into. Students would have a leg up taking any kind of elective course in high school in the trades (electrical, welding, etc.). There is no prerequisite for the program. They teach everything that an individual needs to know through the 5 year program. There is a 100% job placement rate. The application window is open all year. Looking to have an online application process in the near future. They welcome student tours and will go into schools to speak to students about their apprenticeship



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program. They would like to work with local schools more. There is plenty of work and opportunities in the Ohio Valley..

10:20 - 10:40 am: Ohio Hills Health Center - Jeff Britton, Brittany Bobka

OHHC has three school based centers. Jeff described community health centers and how they differ from a typical doctor's office. Seven sites open (new location at the ECO Center). Community Health Centers are in 76 of the 88 Ohio counties. Brittany explained the School Based Health Centers and where they are located in Belmont county. They participate in the career fairs. She is creating a youth advisory council as well to help promote events at Bellaire. Healthier kids learn better is their motto. They offer medical assistants and dental assistant programs for students upon graduation. The OHHC can also offer job shadowing opportunities and other options for high school students for career exploration. Having a doctors office in the school is designed to reduce barriers to care for all kids in need.

10:40 - 10:50 am: CCMEP and Youth Job Leads - Mike Schlanz, ODJFS

*CCMEP stands for Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program. This program is tailored to low income youth and young adults aged 14-24, focusing on career development, education, and employment. Mike presented on CCMEP and Summer Youth updates. CAC provides youth work but they are always looking for worksites. CCMEP offers cash incentives as well for students that participate in the program. They can also assist with driver's education costs as one of the benefits. Summer employment is income based through TANF. There is additional funding through GRIT as long as the individuals take the assessment and go through a coaching session. Transportation is not provided through this program. OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) has a service that can be explored for students who need additional job coaching and possible help with transportation. Belmont County Job and Family Services is hosting a job fair on **May 7, 2026** at the Ohio Valley Mall. Employers were welcomed to join the event and schools were encouraged to share this information with students.*

10:50 - 11:00 am: ECO Center Updates - Dirk DeCoy

Dirk presented on the ECO Center. This isn't just a gym but a community center.

What you see is 4 years in the making, but more is coming. Dirk stated how it has taken many people and community members to make the



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ECO Center happen. Dirk offered to take members in attendance around to show them the building and the updates that have been made.

Dirk said, "They are open for business." Birthday parties, weddings, concerts, etc. There is not a membership or fee for using the walking track upstairs at this time. This may be something that is put in place in the future.

Around the Room: *Sheet Metal Union Local 33 has a program at the Highlands for students to come in as a second year apprentice with the sheet metal union. Students must be at least 17 years of age to participate. The Sheet Metal union would like to work with schools and other businesses like the Plumbers and Pipefitter's union to have a program that would attract area students and have high school students come to each of their facilities to check out what they do. It would be run similarly to a pre apprenticeship program.*

Melissa closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.