



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Reps. Amstutz and Derickson, Grossman, R. Smith, Ryan, Hambley, Sprague, Rezabek, Blessing, Romanchuk, Scherer, T. Johnson

BILL SUMMARY

Ohio Healthier Buckeye Council

- Renames the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Council (OHBC), adds additional members, and makes it an entity separate from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).
- Requires OHBC to prepare an annual report of its activities.
- Requires OHBC to (1) provide assistance establishing local healthier buckeye councils, (2) identify barriers and gaps to achieving greater financial independence, and (3) collect, analyze, and report performance measure information.

Local healthier buckeye councils

- Requires each board of county commissioners, not later than December 15, 2015, to adopt a resolution establishing a local healthier buckeye council.
- Requires local councils to convene at least once a year and to (1) promote a cooperative and effective environment in all communities to maximize opportunities for individuals and families to achieve and maintain optimal health, and (2) develop plans to promote that objective and other objectives in current law.
- Requires each local council to submit the council's plan to its board of county commissioners and to OHBC and annual performance reports to OHBC.
- Requires local councils to report certain information to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee and OHBC.

- Authorizes local councils to apply for, receive, and oversee the administration of grants.

Healthier Buckeye Grant Program

- Repeals the existing Healthier Buckeye Grant Program and reenacts it with new priority considerations for grants to be awarded to local healthier buckeye councils, other public and private entities, and individuals.
- Requires that the Program be administered by OHBC.
- Creates the Healthier Buckeye Fund in the state treasury from which grants can be awarded under the Program.

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program

- Replaces a requirement that each county department of job and family services (CDJFS) adopt a statement of policies governing the PRC Program with a requirement that each CDJFS adopt a PRC Program plan.
- Requires each CDJFS to adopt its initial PRC Program plan not later than November 15, 2015 and update its plan not later than October 1, 2017, and at least every two years thereafter.
- Requires each CDJFS to include in its PRC Program plan all required benefits and services specified in rules the ODJFS Director is required to adopt.
- Requires that the required benefits and services include short-term supportive services that address the specific crisis or episode of need and disaster assistance.
- Restricts the circumstances under which a PRC Program plan can be amended to suspend required benefits and services.
- Permits each CDJFS to include additional benefits and services in its PRC Program plan.
- Prohibits required and additional benefits and services from including work subsidies.
- Specifies that required and additional benefits and services must have the primary purposes of (1) diverting families from participating in Ohio Works First and (2) meeting an emergent need that, if not met, would threaten the safety, health, or well-being of one or more members of a family.

Administration of WIOA

- Requires the ODJFS Director and staff to administer the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program

- Requires the ODJFS Director and staff, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, to develop a proposal for the establishment of the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP).
- Requires that the CCMEP proposal be submitted for OHBC review and revised until OHBC approval has been granted.
- Requires the ODJFS Director and staff to establish, coordinate, and supervise implementation and operation of CCMEP after approved by OHBC.
- Requires that CCMEP, to the extent funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and WIOA are available, make certain employment and training services available to participants in accordance with comprehensive assessments of their employment and training needs.
- Specifies individuals that are required to participate or permitted to volunteer to participate in CCMEP.
- Requires CCMEP to serve individuals who are at least age 16 but not more than age 24 beginning December 15, 2015, and to serve other individuals as determined by OHBC.
- Requires each board of county commissioners to designate, not later than October 15, 2015, either the ODJFS or workforce development agency (WDA) as the lead agency for purposes of CCMEP.
- Assigns to the lead agency certain duties, including the duty to provide fiscal services for CCMEP.
- Requires the ODJFS Director and staff, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, to establish an evaluation system for local administration of CCMEP.

CDJFS and caseworker evaluation and rating systems

- Repeals the current law requiring ODJFS to establish a system for rating each CDJFS in terms of its success with helping public assistance recipients obtain employment that enables them to cease relying on assistance.
- Authorizes a CDJFS, rather than ODJFS, to establish a system whereby a CDJFS is permitted to implement a system for evaluating an individual caseworker's success in helping public assistance recipients obtain employment and avoid relying on assistance.

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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ohio Healthier Buckeye Council

Current law establishes the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Advisory Council within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Among other duties, the Advisory Council is tasked with developing the means by which county healthier buckeye councils may reduce the reliance of individuals on publicly funded assistance programs.



The bill renames the Advisory Council the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Council (OHBC) and creates it as an entity separate from ODJFS. The bill adds the following additional members:

- (1) One member of the Senate from the majority party;
- (2) One member of the House of Representatives from the majority party;
- (3) The ODJFS Director, or the Director's designee;
- (4) One member representing the County Commissioners Association of Ohio;
- (5) One member representing the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association.¹

The additional members must be appointed not later than 30 days after the bill's effective date. Members appointed to the Advisory Council under current law are permitted to continue serving as members of OHBC, along with the new members appointed under the bill. The bill does not otherwise continue a provision that authorizes the ODJFS Director to include members, to be appointed by the Governor, as representatives of entities or organizations the Director considers necessary but are not specified in statute.²

The bill does not continue a requirement that the ODJFS Director serve as chairperson of OHBC. It requires, however, that ODJFS provide administrative assistance to OHBC.³

The bill specifies that OHBC members serve without compensation. The members, however, are to be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing official duties.⁴

Several actions that are permissible under current law with respect to the Advisory Council are made mandatory by the bill with respect to OHBC, with certain modifications. The bill also adds several duties to OHBC. Specifically, the bill requires OHBC to do all of the following:

¹ R.C. 5101.91(B).

² R.C. 5101.91(B)(5) and Section 4.

³ R.C. 5101.91(D).

⁴ R.C. 5101.91(E).

(1) Identify and advocate for best practices by which local healthier buckeye councils may reduce the reliance of individuals and families on publicly funded assistance programs;

(2) Establish, in consultation with the ODJFS Director, eligibility criteria, application processes, and maximum grant amounts for the Healthier Buckeye Grant Program, which the bill establishes (see "**Healthier Buckeye Grant Program**," below);

(3) Submit recommendations to the ODJFS Director, not later than December 1, 2015, concerning coordination, person-centered case management, and standardization in public assistance programs;

(4) Approve or disapprove the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (see "**Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program**," below);

(5) Approve or disapprove the local administration and caseworker evaluation systems established under the bill;

(6) Provide assistance establishing local healthier buckeye councils;

(7) Identify barriers and gaps to achieving greater financial independence and provide advice on overcoming those barriers and gaps;

(8) Collect, analyze, and report performance measure information;

(9) Prepare an annual report of its activities.⁵

Local healthier buckeye councils

Under current law, it is permissive for a board of county commissioners to establish a county healthier buckeye council. The bill, instead, requires each board of county commissioners to establish a local healthier buckeye council. The local council must be established by adopting a resolution not later than December 15, 2015. The bill provides that if a county healthier buckeye council was established under current law, the board may designate the county council to serve as the local council required by the bill.⁶

The bill requires the resolution establishing the local council to specify the council's organization and to designate a member to serve as staffing agent, and if

⁵ R.C. 5101.92.

⁶ R.C. 355.02(A) and (B)(2).



necessary, a member to serve as fiscal agent. The board of county commissioners may revise the council's organization as necessary by adopting a resolution.⁷

Current law permits a board of county commissioners to invite any person or entity to become a member of the county council. The bill retains this authority relative to local councils, but adds a nonexhaustive list of individuals and entities to be considered, including those with leadership and mentoring experience, those likely to receive healthier buckeye services and participate in healthier buckeye programs, and representatives of public and private entities such as employers, local governments, health care providers, education providers, transportation providers, and housing providers.⁸

The bill authorizes the establishment of a joint local council that serves multiple counties. A joint local council is to be established through a written agreement between the boards of county commissioners of two or more counties. Each board entering into the agreement must ratify the agreement by a resolution and notify OHBC. The agreement may set forth procedures and standards necessary for the joint local council to perform its duties and operate efficiently. Costs incurred in operating a joint local council are to be paid from a joint general fund created by the council unless the agreement provides otherwise.⁹

Council powers and duties

The bill changes permissive grants of authority in current law for county healthier buckeye councils to required actions for local healthier buckeye councils, and adds several other duties. Specifically, the bill requires each local council to do the following:

(1) Promotion of health and independence – The council must promote a cooperative and effective environment in all communities to maximize opportunities for individuals and families to achieve and maintain optimal health in all aspects, thereby achieving greater productivity and reducing reliance on publicly funded assistance programs.

(2) Healthier Buckeye Plan – The council must develop a Healthier Buckeye Plan to promote health and independence objective, described above, and other objectives

⁷ R.C. 355.02(A).

⁸ R.C. 355.02(B)(1).

⁹ R.C. 355.02(C).



specified in current law. The Plan must be submitted to the board of county commissioners that created the plan and to OHBC.¹⁰

(3) Meetings and organization – The council must convene at least once each year and organize in accordance with applicable laws.

(4) Data collection and analysis – The council must collect and analyze data regarding recipients of services and participants in programs provided by council members.

(5) Annual report – Beginning one year after the bill's effective date, the council must submit an annual performance report to OHBC.¹¹

In addition to the required actions described above, the bill authorizes local councils to apply for, receive, and oversee the administration of grants.¹²

Information submission to JMOC and OHBC

The bill extends to local councils a provision in current law that requires county councils to report certain information to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. The bill also requires that the information be submitted to OHBC. The information includes:

(1) Notification that the local council has been formed and information regarding the council's organization plan and activities;

(2) Information regarding enrollment in programs operated by council members or the entities they represent or outcome data collected by the council;

(3) Recommendations regarding best practices for administration and delivery of publicly funded assistance programs and services or programs provided by council members;

(4) Recommendations regarding best practices in care coordination.¹³

¹⁰ R.C. 355.03(A) and (B).

¹¹ R.C. 355.03(C) to (F).

¹² R.C. 355.03(G).

¹³ R.C. 355.04.



Healthier Buckeye Grant Program

The bill repeals the existing Healthier Buckeye Grant Program established in an uncodified provision of H.B. 483 of the 130th General Assembly (the general midbiennium budget review),¹⁴ and reenacts it in the Revised Code with modifications. Under the bill, the Program is to be administered by OHBC, with assistance from the ODJFS, if requested. The Program is to award grants to local healthier buckeye councils, other public and private entities, and individuals.¹⁵

Funds for the grants are to come from the Healthier Buckeye Fund, which the bill creates in the state treasury. The Fund is to consist of moneys appropriated to it and any grants or donations received. Interest earned on money in the Fund is to be credited to the Fund.¹⁶

The bill specifies that eligibility criteria established for the Healthier Buckeye Grant Program must give priority to proposals that include the following factors:

- (1) Prior effectiveness providing services that achieve lasting self-sufficiency for low-income individuals;
- (2) Alignment and coordination of public and private resources to assist low-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency;
- (3) Maintenance of continuous mentoring support for participants;
- (4) Use of local matching funds;
- (5) Use of volunteers and peer supports;
- (6) Evidence of previous experience managing or providing similar services with public funds;
- (7) Evidence of capability to effectively report relevant participant data;
- (8) Creation through local assessment and planning processes;

¹⁴ Section 3.

¹⁵ R.C. 5101.93(A).

¹⁶ R.C. 5101.93(C).



(9) Collaboration between entities that participate in assessment and planning processes.¹⁷

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program

The Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program is one of the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. The purpose of TANF, as stated in the federal law creating it, is to increase the flexibility of states in operating a program designed to (1) provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, (2) end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage, (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies, and (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.¹⁸ The PRC program is administered by ODJFS on the state level. On the county level, it is administered by county departments of job and family services (CDJFSs).

County plan

Current law requires each CDJFS to adopt a written statement of policies governing the PRC Program for the county. A CDJFS's statement of policies must establish or specify (1) the benefits and services to be provided under the county's PRC Program, (2) restrictions on the amount, duration, and frequency of the benefits and services, (3) eligibility requirements, and (4) certain other matters.

The bill replaces the requirement for each CDJFS to adopt a written statement of policies with a requirement for each CDJFS to adopt a written PRC Program plan. The initial plan must be adopted not later than November 15, 2015. The plan must be updated not later than October 1, 2017, and at least every two years thereafter.¹⁹

A CDJFS is permitted to amend its plan; however, the bill provides that a CDJFS cannot suspend required benefits and services unless funds allocated for the PRC Program by the ODJFS Director have been exhausted and the CDJFS submits an

¹⁷ R.C. 5101.93(B).

¹⁸ 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) 601(a).

¹⁹ R.C. 5108.04.



amended plan.²⁰ Each CDJFS is required to comply with that requirement and rules that the bill requires the Director to adopt when adopting, updating, or amending its plan.²¹

Required benefits and additional benefits

A CDJFS's PRC Program plan is required to include all benefits and services that must be included according to the ODJFS Director's rules.²² The bill requires that all of the following be specified in the rules as required benefits and services: short-term supportive services that address the specific crisis or episode of need, disaster assistance, and any other benefits and services the Director specifies.²³

A CDJFS's plan may include additional benefits and services.²⁴ If a CDJFS includes additional benefits and services in its PRC Program plan, it must establish eligibility requirements for the benefits and services that do not exceed the maximum eligibility requirements specified in the Director's rules.²⁵

Current law requires that the benefits and services included in a CDJFS's statement of policies for its PRC Program be allowable uses of federal TANF funds, except that they may not be "assistance" as defined in a federal regulation but rather benefits and services that the regulation excludes from that definition. Assistance includes cash, payments, vouchers, and other forms of benefits designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs (i.e., for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items, and general incidental expenses).²⁶ The following are excluded from assistance: (1) nonrecurrent, short-term benefits that are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need, are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs, and will not extend beyond four months, (2) work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training), (3) supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed, (4) refundable earned income tax credits, (5) contributions to, and distributions from, Individual Development Accounts, (6) services such as counseling, case management, peer support, child care

²⁰ R.C. 5108.022.

²¹ R.C. 5108.04.

²² R.C. 5108.01(F), 5108.03(A)(1), and 5108.041.

²³ R.C. 5108.03(B).

²⁴ R.C. 5108.01(A) and 5108.041.

²⁵ R.C. 5108.041.

²⁶ 45 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 260.31(a).

information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support, and (7) transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance.²⁷

The bill includes a similar requirement. All benefits and services provided under the PRC Program, regardless of whether they are required or additional, must be allowable uses of federal TANF funds and must not be assistance but rather benefits and services excluded from the federal definition of "assistance." However, the bill establishes one exception. Despite being excluded from assistance, work subsidies are not to be included in any required or additional benefit or service available under the PRC Program.²⁸ The bill also specifies that required and additional benefits and services must have the primary purposes of (1) diverting families from participating in Ohio Works First (OWF) and (2) meeting an emergent need that, if not met, would threaten the safety, health, or well-being of one or more members of a family.²⁹

Rules

In addition to other rules discussed above, the ODJFS Director is required by the bill to adopt rules specifying and establishing all of the following for the PRC Program:

(1) Income and other eligibility requirements for required benefits and services and maximum eligibility requirements for additional benefits and services;

(2) The maximum amount of required benefits and services and additional benefits and services an eligible individual may receive in a year;

(3) Other requirements for county PRC Program plans, including requirements for adopting, updating, and amending the plans.³⁰

All PRC Program rules must be adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (R.C. Chapter 119.).

Procedures extended to county plans

The bill applies requirements to a CDJFS's PRC Program plan that current law applies to its statements of policies. For example, as is required for a statement of

²⁷ 45 C.F.R. 260.31(b).

²⁸ R.C. 5108.021(A) to (C).

²⁹ R.C. 5108.021(D).

³⁰ R.C. 5108.03(A)(2) to (4).

policies, a PRC Program plan must be consistent with (1) the plan of cooperation that current law requires boards of county commissioners to develop to enhance the administration of the PRC Program and other programs, (2) the review and analysis of the CDJFS's implementation of the PRC Program and OWF that the county family services committee is required by current law to conduct, (3) federal and state laws and the state's TANF plan. The bill requires that a PRC Program plan also be consistent with the rules that the Director is required to adopt.³¹ Each PRC Program plan and any amendment must include a certification from the board of county commissioners that the CDJFS complied with the statutes governing the PRC Program and the rules adopted by ODJFS.³²

Under the bill, a CDJFS must do either of the following before the CDJFS director signs and dates the initial or updated statement of policies for the PRC program: provide the public and local government entities at least 30 days to submit comments on the statement or have the county family services planning committee review the statement.³³ Under a comparable provision of current law, amendments to the statement of policies are exempt from this requirement.³⁴

Administration of the federal Work Innovation and Opportunity Act

The bill requires the ODJFS Director and ODJFS staff to administer the federal Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).³⁵ WIOA was enacted in 2014 for the following purposes:

(1) To increase access to and opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services that individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment, need to succeed in the labor market;

(2) To support the alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality workforce development system in the U.S.;

(3) To improve the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts to provide America's workers with the

³¹ R.C. 5108.041(B).

³² R.C. 5108.07.

³³ R.C. 5108.041(C) and Section 2.

³⁴ R.C. 5108.051, not in the bill.

³⁵ R.C. 5101.90(B).



skills and credentials necessary to secure and advance in employment with family-sustaining wages and to provide America's employers with the skilled workers the employers need to succeed in a global economy;

(4) To promote improvement in the structure and delivery of services through the U.S. workforce development system to better address the employment and skill needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers;

(5) To increase workers' and employers' prosperity, the economic growth of communities, regions, and states, and the United States' global competitiveness;

(6) To provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce development systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the U.S.³⁶

Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program

Proposal, approval, and establishment

The bill requires the ODJFS Director and ODJFS staff to develop a proposal for establishment of a Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP).³⁷ The proposal must be developed in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Job and Family Services Director's Association.

The proposal must be submitted to OHBC for its review. If disapproved, a revised proposal must be submitted. This process must continue until OHBC approval has been granted. On approval of the proposal, CCMEP must be established and the ODJFS Director and ODJFS staff must coordinate and supervise its implementation and operation.

To the extent funds under the TANF block grant and WIOA are available, CCMEP must make certain employment and training services available to its participants in accordance with comprehensive assessments of the participants' employment and training needs.

³⁶ 29 U.S.C. 3101.

³⁷ R.C. 5101.90(C).



Participants

Subject to a phase-in period and rules that the bill permits the ODJFS Director to adopt, the following individuals are required or permitted to participate in CCMEP:

(1) Individuals who are considered to be work eligible for the purpose of OWF are required to participate in CCMEP as a condition of participating in OWF. A work-eligible individual is subject to work and other requirements under current law governing OWF.

(2) An OWF participant who is not considered to be work eligible may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(3) An individual receiving benefits and services under the TANF block grant who is not considered to be work eligible may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(4) An individual who is a child support obligor and who meets eligibility requirements for the TANF block grant or WIOA may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(5) An individual receiving services in a foster home who meets eligibility requirements for the TANF block grant or WIOA may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(6) An individual who has aged out of foster care (by being more than 18 but less than 24) who meets eligibility requirements for the TANF block grant or WIOA may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(7) An individual who receives services through OhioMeansJobs who meets eligibility requirements for the TANF block grant or WIOA may volunteer to participate in CCMEP.

(8) A low-income adult, in-school youth, or out-of-school youth who is considered to have a barrier to employment under WIOA is required to participate in CCMEP as a condition of participating in workforce development activities funded by the TANF block grant or WIOA.³⁸

For purposes of the participants described in (8), above, the bill specifies the following:

³⁸ R.C. 5101.901(A).

--**Low-income individual** – an individual (1) who, or whose family member, is enrolled, or during the past six months was enrolled, in SNAP (food stamps), a TANF program, Supplemental Security Income, or a state or local income-based public assistance program, (2) in a family with total family income not exceeding the higher of the federal poverty line or 70% of the lower living standard income level established by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, (3) who is homeless, (4) who receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, (5) who is a foster child on behalf of whom state or local government payments are made, or (6) with a disability whose own income does not exceed the higher of the federal poverty line or 70% of the lower living standard income level but whose family income exceeds that limit.³⁹

--**In-school youth** – an individual who (1) is attending school, (2) is not younger than 16 and, unless the individual has a disability, not older than age 21 years of age, and (3) is one or more of the following: (a) basic skills deficient, (b) an English language learner, (c) an offender, (d) homeless, (e) a runaway, (f) in foster care, (g) aged out of the foster care system, (h) eligible for assistance under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, (i) in an out-of-home placement, (j) pregnant or parenting, (k) disabled, or (l) in need of additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.⁴⁰

--**Out-of-school youth** – an individual who (1) is not attending any school, (2) is not younger than 16 or older than 24 years of age, and (3) is one or more of the following: (a) a school dropout, (b) within the age of compulsory school attendance but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter, (c) a recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent but basic skills deficient or an English language learner, (d) subject to the juvenile or adult justice system, (e) homeless, (f) a runaway, (g) in foster care, (h) aged out of the foster care system, (i) eligible for assistance under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, (j) in an out-of-home placement, (k) pregnant or parenting, (l) disabled, or (m) in need of additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.⁴¹

³⁹ R.C. 5101.90(A)(4) and 29 U.S.C. 3102(36).

⁴⁰ R.C. 5101.90(A)(3) and 29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(C). The minimum age to be an in-school youth is set by the bill rather than federal law.

⁴¹ R.C. 5101.90(A)(7) and 29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B).

Phase-in schedule

The requirement or option for an individual to participate in CCMEP is to be phased in pursuant to the following schedule:

- (1) Beginning December 15, 2015, for individuals who are at least 16 but not more than 24 years of age;
- (2) As determined by OHBC for other individuals.⁴²

Individual needs assessment and employment plan

The bill requires an individual participating in CCMEP to undergo a comprehensive assessment of the individual's employment and training needs. As part of the assessment, an individualized employment plan must be created for the individual. The plan is to be reviewed, revised, and terminated in accordance with the assessment procedures. The plan must specify which of the following services, if any, the individual needs:

- (1) Support for the individual to obtain a high school diploma or the equivalent of a high school diploma;
- (2) Job placement;
- (3) Job retention support;
- (4) Other services that aid the individual in achieving the plan's goals.⁴³

The bill provides that the services an individual receives in accordance with the individualized employment plan are inalienable by way of assignment, charge, or otherwise and exempt from execution, attachment, garnishment, and other similar processes.⁴⁴

Lead local agency

Each board of county commissioners is required by the bill to designate, not later than October 15, 2015, either the CDJFS or the county's workforce development agency

⁴² R.C. 5101.901(A)(2).

⁴³ R.C. 5101.901(B)(1).

⁴⁴ R.C. 5101.901(B)(2).



(WDA) as the lead agency for purposes of CCMEP. The boards must inform ODJFS of their designations.⁴⁵ The lead agency is required to do all of the following:

(1) Submit to ODJFS and the local healthier buckeye council a plan that establishes standard processes for determining and maintaining individuals' eligibility to participate in CCMEP;

(2) Manage organizational and executive functions for CCMEP and provide fiscal services;

(3) In partnership with the other agency not designated as the lead agency and any subcontractors, actively coordinate their activities regarding and use their expertise in administering CCMEP.⁴⁶ The bill defines "subcontractor" as an entity with which a CDJFS or WDA contracts to perform, on behalf of the CDJFS or WDA, one or more of the CDJFS's or WDA's duties regarding CCMEP.⁴⁷

The bill provides that the lead agency is responsible for all funds that ODJFS, the Auditor of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, or any other government entity determines have been expended or claimed for CCMEP, by or on behalf of the county, in a manner that federal or state law or policy does not permit.⁴⁸

Evaluation system

The ODJFS Director and ODJFS staff must design, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, an evaluation system for CDJFSs' and WDAs' administration of CCMEP. In conjunction, the bill eliminates a current law provision that requires ODJFS to establish an evaluation system that rates each CDJFS in terms of its success with helping public assistance recipients obtain employment that enables the recipients to cease relying on public assistance.⁴⁹

The CCMEP evaluation system must incorporate all of the following, as applicable to CCMEP:

⁴⁵ R.C. 5101.902(A).

⁴⁶ R.C. 5101.902(B).

⁴⁷ R.C. 5101.90(A)(11).

⁴⁸ R.C. 5101.902(C).

⁴⁹ R.C. 5101.90.

(1) Criteria for evaluating the performance of workforce programs that the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation is required to establish under current law;

(2) Performance and other administrative standards that current law permits ODJFS to establish for the administration and outcomes of programs administered by CDJFSs, child support enforcement agencies, and public children services agencies;

(3) Performance accountability indicators in the state plan for workforce development activities.⁵⁰

The proposed evaluation system must be submitted to OHBC for review, and must be approved by OHBC before it can be implemented. On approval, the ODJFS Director and ODJFS staff must evaluate CDJFSs' and WDAs' administration of CCMEP in accordance with the approved system.⁵¹

The bill specifies that the evaluation system must be designed in a manner that encourages CDJFSs and WDAs to increase their success in moving recipients off of public assistance. The system must provide for its ratings of CDJFSs and WDAs to be updated at least annually.⁵²

Rules

The bill requires the ODJFS Director to adopt rules as necessary to implement CCMEP.⁵³ The rules must be adopted in consultation with OHBC and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Caseworker evaluation system

The bill modifies current law concerning a system for evaluating caseworkers by CDJFSs. The bill eliminates the role of ODJFS in establishing the evaluation system that may be implemented by a CDJFS. Instead, the bill permits a CDJFS to both establish and implement a system to evaluate an individual caseworker's success in helping public assistance recipients obtain and maintain employment that enables the recipient to

⁵⁰ R.C. 5101.90(D)(1).

⁵¹ R.C. 5101.90(D)(2) and 5101.92(E).

⁵² R.C. 5101.90(F).

⁵³ R.C. 5101.90(G).

avoid relying on public assistance.⁵⁴ OHBC is required to either approve or disapprove the evaluation system.

Any CDJFS evaluation system must be designed in a manner that encourages caseworkers to increase their success in moving recipients off of public assistance. The system must provide for its ratings of caseworkers to be updated at least annually. OHBC is required by the bill to either approve or disapprove a CDJFS's caseworker evaluation system.⁵⁵

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-11-15

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⁵⁴ R.C. 5101.90(E).

⁵⁵ R.C. 5101.90(F) and 5101.92(E).

