**Westerville Area Chamber office 99 Commerce Park Dr. 43082**

**Agenda Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 3:30-4:45 PM**

Attendees: Jeff Akers, Amy Balster, Bill Bishop, Polly Clavijo, Graham Guthrie, Laura Hartman, Gene Hollins, Brandon Lawson, Laura Hartman, Michael McGreevy, and Dina Shultz. Staff member: Janet Tressler-Davis

Mike Carlson, Matt Chimento, Ashley Fellers, Matthew Fisher, Bob Gibson, Paul Hammer, Andrew Hardy, Patrick Harris, Tamara Howard, Dr. John Kellogg, Charlene Kott, Linda Jakes, Jeannie Mok, Steven Marks, Adam Price.

1. Welcome – Introductions, Janet Tressler-Davis & Jeff Akers

2. Members of teams

* Healthcare – Andy H. – Membership luncheon is Tuesday, June 13, with a panel on healthcare: President of MCSA, Children’s, Dir. of Outpatient Centers for OSU and OhioHealth; moderated by a representative from the Ohio Hospital Association or Columbus Roundtable.
	+ What is the impact of telehealth on health delivery, particularly in rural communities?
	+ What changes are coming that can help to improve the delivery of mental health services?
	+ What types of investments are you making to meet the changing healthcare needs?
	+ How are staffing shortages affecting the delivery of services, particularly in rural communities?
	+ How do you think AI will impact delivery of services?
* Taxation/Worker’s Comp. – Brandon/Charlene
	+ See BWC Legislative Update below
* Workforce: WorkWISE – John Kellogg/Janet/Gene
	+ Westerville Prepared is Thursday, May 11 during Westerville Works Week
* Minimum wage $12.75 Jan. 2025 and $15 Jan. 2026 (minus $4 for Tipped Employees/$3 in 2026)

Attorney Gen. approved, Ohio Ballot Brd. 4/17/23 then collecting required 41,3487 signatures to place on Nov. ballot.

3. Recap of the Legislative Roundtable

* Full room with representation from all sides of the aisle.

4. Election Academy - June 1st, 8th, and 15th

* One registered for the event but expected to see an increase in the final 10 days.
* It’s unclear who will be running in this local election. Jen is one incumbent running for School Board
* Candidate forums are still scheduled for the fall.

5. [Delaware County Economic Development](https://economicdevelopment.co.delaware.oh.us/) Plans/Strategy w/ Monica Conners and Bill Bishop

* Slide deck will be shared with the committee.

6. Future Meeting Topics

* COTA Update and future projects – August?
* State Budget after agreed to by the State
* MORPC
* SmartColumbus and the Digital Divide
* Other Suggestions?

7. Reminders for Upcoming Events:

* Chamber Music & Arts Festival July 8th & 9th
* Chamber Golf Outing July 24th

8. Next meeting: June 6, July recess. The Business Advocacy Council meets the first Tuesday of every month

9. Adjourn: 4:50 PM

**Ohio House Passes BWC and Industrial Commission Budgets**

Recently, the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation budget – House Bill 31 – and Industrial Commission budget – House Bill 32 – advanced through the Ohio House with overwhelming bi-partisan majorities. Each budget largely mirrored the as-introduced version except the House Insurance Committee eliminated BWC’s proposed name change to the Department of Workforce Insurance and Safety.

Included in the BWC’s budget is a shift in how the agency’s administrative costs are charged to business owners. Currently, business owners pay an administrative cost assessment that is separate from their premium payment. This means the total cost of workers’ compensation coverage for business owners includes both their premium payment and administrative cost assessment. To streamline this process, House Bill 31 allows BWC to consider their administrative costs when setting employer premiums. As a result, business owners will no longer pay a separate administrative cost assessment and instead will pay a premium that includes a charge for BWC’s operating costs.

The BWC budget and Industrial Commission budget will **now progress to the Ohio Senate** where the Senate Insurance Committee starting this week.