

## **Area 14 Workforce Development Board**

**Board Meeting: August 06, 2025**

**Members of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025, in-person at the Athens County OhioMeansJobs Center.**

**Vice Chair Brennan opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance, taken by Director DeLay:**

**Board Members Present: Jeff Cirlce, Shelly Lackey (proxy for Caley Boyden), Jessica Stroh, Medea Loibl, Riki Sammaneh (proxy for Mollie Fitzgerald), Stephen Carson, Jennifer Pollard, Chris Quolke (proxy for Brent Patterson), David Brennan, Jennifer Chapman-Kleski, Robin Fowler and Shannon Jones.**

**The meeting commenced at 10:19AM. Jeff Circle made a motion to approve the agenda for August 6, 2025, Medea Loibl seconded the motion. All were in favor. Jeff Circle made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2025, meeting and Jessica Stroh seconded. All were in favor.**

**Also in attendance: Morgan DeLay (Area 14 Director), Vince Reiber (MCDJFS Deputy Director), Theresa Lavendar (MCDJFS Director), Lisa Radford (ACDJFS Assistant Director) and Jean Demosky (ACDJFS Director).**

### **Board Chair Election**

Board Chair Robert Ogden resigned from the board on June 30, 2025. Nominations for a new Chair were requested. Jeff Circle asked for clarification on whether this has to be a business member. It was determined the chair must be a business representative. Jeff Circle nominated David Brennan, current Vice Chair, as new Board Chair. No other nominations were received, and David accepted this nomination. Stephen Carson called to close the nominations. A vote was held, and David Brennan was elected Board Chair with no opposition. Since David Brennan was the Vice Chair, nominations were taken for a new Vice Chair. Jennifer Kleski-Chapman was nominated by Jeff Circle, and Jennifer accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. Nominations were closed. A vote was held, and Jennifer Kleski-Chapman was elected Board Vice Chair with no opposition.

## **New Board Member Introduction**

Director DeLay introduced new board member Shannon Jones, Administrator/Director of Operations at Mount Aloysius. Shannon joins as a business representative from Perry County.

## **OhioMeansJobs – Athens County Mobile Unit**

Board members were offered the opportunity to go to the parking lot and tour the OhioMeansJobs – Athens County mobile unit. Sarah Phillips, who works on the unit, gave a brief presentation on what they can do with the mobile units. Each county in Area 14 has their own mobile units to use for outreach events.

## **OhioMeansJobs Center Updates**

Meigs: Theresa Lavendar presented updates for OMJ-Meigs. Theresa shared that Meigs County will be holding a job fair on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – 2PM at the Meigs County Fair Grounds. From 9AM – 11AM they will do career exploration with local schools, and 11AM – 2PM the fair will be open to the public. Meigs will also be holding a Veterans Appreciation Event on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to help veterans transition back into civilian workforce. OMJ-Meigs County is also partnering with Buckeye Hills Career Center on Rise Up and Meigs County ASPIRE, assisting high school dropouts in earning their high school diplomas. They are also working with Mark Porter and Area 14 WDB on updating their Pre and Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Athens: Lisa Radford presented updates for OMJ-Athens. Athens currently has 20 enrolled in their OHMAS grant program with Athens Photographic Project, where they are working on training new staff and upskilling existing staff. 44 participants are enrolled through GRIT. Athens applied for 4.0 GRIT funds and hopes to be able to put Career Navigators in four of the county's schools: Federal Hocking, Athens, Alexander and Trimble. They are currently working with Hocking Hills Garment Center on their apprenticeship program and hope to work with local companies Vitruvian and 740 Rescue Kitchen on future apprenticeship programs. Athens had their Back to School Bash on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, assisting over 1200 students (200 non-registered students) with school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and food while community partners lined the square in Nelsonville offering information on their services. They have been utilizing their mobile units to go to places with layoffs, such as Trimble schools, to help with job search. This quarter Athens has had 68 events in their event space, such as digital literacy and record expungement events. They are hoping to partner with more community partners such as the BMV for future events. In June 20 participants graduated from their ASPIRE program. Director Jean Demosky mentioned that their OMJ center will soon have an in-house café through SAOP (Survivor Advocacy Outreach

Program) who will employ survivors of abuse. They have also partnered with 740 Kitchen Rescue, who provided a freezer and keeps it stocked with frozen individual meals and family meals for people in the community with no restrictions.

Perry: No members of Perry County OhioMeansJobs were available at the board meeting due to their Back to School Bash being held the same day. Director DeLay was provided with a brief overview for the last quarter and delivered it to the board. For WIOA programs in the last quarter, Perry County had 4 WIOA Adult Participants, 3 Dislocated Worker participants, 6 in-school youth and 2 out-of-school youth participants. Their OHMAS program has 40 participants enrolled over the total duration of the grant. They have had 17 total RESEA appointments, and had three career fairs, totaling 17 participants and 26 employers. For their Back to School Bash, they had 953 students registered from 505 different families.

### **Fiscal Update**

Vince Reiber presented the fiscal update. Fiscal documentation was provided and added to the meeting folder.

OHMAS: Grant was originally set to end June 30, 2025, however the area was approved for an extension through September 30, 2025. The Area requested and was awarded \$649,390 which was then divided between Athens and Perry Counties, and the revision was approved within the original budget award amount. The current remaining balance is \$216,527.68, however with the extension the Area intends to expend the remaining balance. The counties agree if one has leftover funds they will share with the other.

RESEA: The Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment program is a federal grant program designed to allow states to provide intensive re-employment assistance to individuals who are receiving unemployment benefits and are determined likely to exhaust their benefits before becoming re-employed. PY23 (23A Redistribution and 23B Outcome) ends and liquidates September 30, 2025. Received \$176,577.31 which is 100% expended. RESEA for PY2024 ends and liquidates September 30, 2026. Received a total of \$123,084, with a remaining balance of \$19,261.87.

FY25 Vets O.N.E. Incentive Award: Ended and liquidated June 30, 2025. This grant is awarded to OhioMeansJobs Centers that provide extraordinary and commendable service to veterans and improves service delivery to veterans. Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) annually set aside funds for this award. 3 Ohio recipients are chosen and OhioMeansJobs – Meigs County was one of them. OhioMeansJobs – Meigs County received \$6369.30 and spent 99.96% (\$6366.45) of funds.

OMJ Branding: Ended and liquidated June 30, 2025. Counties received \$4000 each and admin received \$1000. Funds were to be used for the CDJFS's OMJ on outreach



opportunities including things like business cards, brochures, posters, printed materials, forms, etc. Athens and Meigs each spent 100% of their funds, Perry spent 99.95% and admin spent 96.7%, leaving an overall remaining balance of \$34.69.

QUEST: Ended June 30, 2025, and liquidates September 30, 2025. The total award for Area 14 was \$667,739. DOL approved OWD's request for a no-cost extension through June 2025. Due to issues with securing training providers, it took some time to get this grant up and moving. There is a current balance of \$414,744.17, however after expenses for Electrical Training Academy are billed there will be a more accurate reflection of balance. Area 14 intends to partner with Ohio University on BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program). This program, if approved, will bring service to remaining unserved locations throughout Ohio. Currently this funding is on hold.

ODJFS Fiscal Monitoring: WIOA/CCMEP Local Monitoring for Meigs County started April 8, 2025, for PY24. A meeting with the state was held April 30, 2025.

Auditor of State (AOS) Audit: In progress. HINKLE financials were submitted by the deadline of May 30, 2025, for January-December 2024. Audit Cost is estimated to stay under \$10,000 for the single audit.

Stephen Carson made a motion to approve the fiscal report, seconded by Chris Quolke. Motion carried without opposition.

### **WIOA Updates**

Director Morgan DeLay presented the following WIOA and grant updates to the board.

### **Grant Updates**

OHMAS: Original end date of June 30, 2025, however the area was granted 3-month extension through September 30, 2025. Currently 56 participants are enrolled between Athens and Perry Counties. 34 career assessments have been administered, and 17 participants have been provided with tuition or education assistance. Highlights and success stories were shared for each county. Perry County reports that 73% of their 36 program participants are currently enrolled in the behavioral health field. Their success story reads, "The OHMAS grant has had a significant impact on my education by providing essential financial support. With the help of the grant, I was able to receive a new laptop, which has greatly improved my ability to complete assignments and stay organized. Additionally, the funds sent directly to my school helped cover educational costs, easing my financial burden and allowing me to stay focused on my studies." Athens County partnered with the Athens Photographic Project to provide arts-integrated behavioral health training. Between May and June 13 participants were enrolled – 9 Athens Co residents with disabilities and 4 APP employees. Their success story reads, "I have more of a sense of belonging and responsibility at Athens Photographic Project now. Coming here, training to be a PRS is teaching me about life...In my addiction, there was no responsibility.

No one holding me accountable. Here there are humans holding me accountable and teaching me discipline, which has translated to my home life. My parents trust me again. They now trust me to take their car to work, which they wouldn't have before...Doing all this put me on the right track to get my GED and gave me motivation to get my CDCA. It's nice to know I can help others on their path. I spent years with no guidance and support before finding my recovery.”

RESEA: Weekly reports are received for RESEA. As of the report received August 4, 2025, 126 selections were made from 129 total participants. In RESEA, there are initial and subsequent appointments. The Area is 76% of the way to goal for initial appointments completed, and 95% of the way to goal for subsequent appointments completed. The Area is at a 24% Failure to Report rate. The state goal is 20%, however the state average is 22.49%. Area 14 has scheduled a Technical Assistance discussion with the state which will take place August 13th.

QUEST: The QUEST grant ended and liquidated on June 30, 2025. 52 participants were enrolled in training through the QUEST grant. The original plan was to proceed with BEAD funding but that has been put on hold. BEAD is divided into two sections – deployment and non-deployment. A new Policy Notice from NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) restricts BEAD funds to exclusively be used for infrastructure deployment. The funding for non-deployment purposes, including workforce development, is under review. As of the date of this Policy Notice (June 11, 2025), all previously approved non-deployment uses—such as workforce development, digital literacy efforts, or outreach—are no longer reimbursable under the program. NTIA has rescinded approval for all such activities and will not cover costs incurred after the Policy Notice date. WIA is working to fight this decision, and more information will be shared once it is available. Additionally, the VR Transfr headsets were returned. Director DeLay made a note that the VR Transfr headsets were a big hit at outreach events, and the Area was upset that they had to be returned.

### **Monitoring**

Meigs County is currently in Program Monitoring. An entrance meeting was held April 8, 2025, and in person review was conducted April 16-17, 2025, and a follow up meeting was held 04/30. Meigs received a list of questions from the reviewer and answered them promptly. An exit conference is scheduled for August 18, 2025.

### **Unemployment Information**

Athens: 6.7%

Meigs: 7.2%

Perry: 5.5%

Employed Persons in Area: 46,700

Labor Force in Area: 49,900

Unemployment in Area: 3,200 6.9%

## **Performance Reports**

PY2023 Annual Adjusted Reports were received. PY2023 runs from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The WIOA PY2023 Annual Adjusted Report showed Area 14 passed all metrics for Adult and CCMEP WIOA Youth. The Area failed all but the Credential Attainment metric for Dislocated Workers. There are fewer numbers for Dislocated Workers, meaning just one or two non-responses can have a critical effect. We are seeing improvement but there is still area for adjustment. The Area 14 OhioMeansJobs supervisor staff met and discussed best practices as an area, and talked about being more selective with Dislocated Workers, making sure they are truly “unlikely to return” and that they understand their expectations. Area 14 has also requested WIOA Training with the state, specifically to focus on Dislocated Worker performance measures.

The CCMEP PY2023 Annual Adjusted Report showed Area 14 having a higher rate than the statewide rates in all metrics except Education, Training or Employment 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter After Exit, and as an area were less than 2% behind the state average in this metric. The state provided CCMEP Technical Assistance training on July 17, 2025.

The area also received PY2024 Quarter 3 Unadjusted Reports for WIOA and CCMEP. For WIOA, it is known the area could improve their Dislocated Worker numbers, and assistance from the state has been requested. OMJ Supervisors are working with staff directly to identify areas that need attention. They have worked on updating outreach methods, making sure not only multiple attempts are made to reach participants but also trying multiple different methods. For CCMEP, the area exceeded all performance measures except Education, Training or Employment 2nd Quarter after Exit, including MSG's which is notably difficult to do. Each center is working hard to bring up performance measures where needed and requested POG reports to see where attention needs to be paid and action taken to improve metrics.

## **OMJ Reports**

For the months of April – June 2025:

2730 customers used on-site or virtual services  
146 staff assisted resumes were completed  
88 universal customers reported finding jobs. Of those:  
    WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker: 28  
    WIOA/CCMEP Youth: 52

47 mobile events were held with 512 participants attending

### **Help Wanted Jobs Report**

Regularly seeing a decrease of around 200 job postings each month since the same time last year. Customer Service remains the top skill employers are seeking, along with operations, scheduling, math and supervision. Ohio University leads the area with the most job advertisements. The top certification employers are seeking include CDL and Driver's Licenses.

### **Policy Updates and Revisions**

Two new WIOA Policy Letters were received this quarter and reviewed during the meeting.

WIOAPL 17-07.1 – Mandate Use of OhioMeansJobs.com for Labor Exchange Activities  
This policy mandates that all individuals receiving workforce services under WIOA must register on OhioMeansJobs.com and utilize the platform for labor exchange activities such as job search, résumé posting, and skill matching. Local workforce areas must ensure compliance and incorporate the system into their service delivery strategies. The policy aims to standardize job seeker engagement and improve employment outcomes statewide.

WIOAPL 16-10.1 – Certification of the Workforce Delivery System  
This policy outlines the requirements for certifying Ohio's workforce delivery system, including OhioMeansJobs centers. Local Workforce Development Boards must evaluate one-stop centers at least once every three years to ensure they meet established quality and effectiveness standards. The certification process emphasizes customer satisfaction, service coordination, physical and programmatic accessibility, and continuous improvement aligned with WIOA goals.

TEGL (Training and Employment Guidance Letter) 10-23 Change 2 was received and required immediate implementation of new rules regarding Work Authorization Verification in Grant Programs Administered by the Employment and Training Administration. All programs identified in this TEGL must ensure participants are legally authorized to work in the United States. Work authorization must be verified before delivering participant-level services. Acceptable documentation must contain a unique identifier or "verifiable enumerator." Page 2 of the attached Form I-9 outlines acceptable documents. For non-citizens, status can be verified through SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements). Temporary work authorizations must be reverified at least every 3 months. If authorization has expired, participants must be exited. Documentation of work authorization must be maintained in participant case files.

Area 14 Policies for Adult/Dislocated Worker (14.15-02) and Youth Eligibility (14.15-03.1) require amendments due to this TEGL. Current area policies state that individuals must be

legally authorized to work in the United States. The proposed changes provide more detailed information regarding acceptable documentation for work authorization, proper storage of these documents, and procedures for individuals with temporary work authorization. Amendment recommendations were sent to OMJ supervisors and JFS directors for review. Additionally, policy revisions drafts were sent to the state and verbiage was deemed appropriate. A discussion was held about how these changes might make receiving services for individuals more difficult and might discourage some from utilizing OhioMeansJobs center. It was noted that some states filed a lawsuit against this TEG Change, and those states were issued a stay, but Ohio was not one of those states and therefore this policy change had to start immediately. It was noted that if anything changes policy can be amended again. Director DeLay asked for a motion to approve the policy amendments. Jeff Circle moved and Stephen Carson seconded. All in favor.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Job Fair**

120 job seekers and 66 employers attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Area 14 Job Fair on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Typically, the job fair is in April, but the Director position was vacant until mid-March requiring the job fair be pushed back. Employers were asked to report if they hired anyone from the job fair. Of the responses received, 4 reported employment and 1 reported enrolling someone in training. Good feedback was received, and suggestions included more variety in employers, more employers total and information on how to approach employers. This will be implemented at next year's job fair, which will return to its original April date.

### **Regional/Local Plan**

A draft of the Regional and Local Plan, due September 30, 2025, was posted for comment in Areas 14 (Athens, Meigs and Perry), 15 (Nobel, Monroe, Washington and Morgan) and 16 (Harrison, Jefferson, Belmont and Carrol) counties for 30 days, and no comments were received. Director DeLay asked for a motion to present the plan to the board for approval. Stephen Carson moved and Jeff Circle seconded. All parties were in favor, with no discussion.

### **One Big, Beautiful Bill Updates**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law on July 4, 2025, which will have some impact on workforce. Short term Pell grants will begin July 2026, eligible only to Title IV institutions (e.g. community colleges), and must meet specific program length and employment outcome requirements. Medicaid will have work requirements that will be implemented by the state in the next 2-4 years. A Stronger Workforce for America returned as the main legislative vehicle for WIOA Reauthorization in Congress. Make America Skilled Again was originally in the bill but was removed before signing. ASWA focuses on accountability, industry alignment, and streamlining services. It could advance later in



2025 or be repackaged into a larger appropriations or legislative package, but for now remains pending in the Senate.

### **Next Years Meeting**

An additional subject was brought up requesting a change to next year's August meeting date due to Perry County's Back to School Bash being the first Wednesday of August each year. It was decided that Director DeLay will send out a poll to see what day works best for everyone and it will be presented at the November meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Stephen Carson and seconded by Jeff Circle. Motion carried without opposition. Motion to adjourn was approved at 11:49AM.

DRAFT