

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

2/8/2023

Board Members Present: Stephen Carson, Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Rob Ogden, David Brennan, Jeff Circle, Jessica Stroh, Jennifer Kleski, Melissa Sheppard, Laura Davidson, Dave Hannum, Ted Linscott, and Brent Patterson.

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Shawn Stover, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS, Mendra Hupp-Area Fiscal, Kendra Wilson-Perry Fiscal, Joe Frazier-Athens OMJ, Teresa Garey-OWD, Theresa Lavender-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Shelly Adams-Meigs OMJ, Mike Bump-Athens JFS Fiscal, Brook Haberkamp-Perry OMJ; Cheryl Boley-Perry JFS Executive Director; David Hansen, Perry OMJ, Bryn Stepp-Lt Gov Office Rep. and Julie Lasher-OD.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person at the Innovation Center and online via Zoom on February 8th, 2023. A quorum was present with 13 of 19 Board members present.

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

Meeting Minutes (November 9th, 2022) were presented for approval.

1st – Stephen Carson; 2nd – Brent Patterson

Motion carried without opposition.

Agenda (February 8th, 2023) was presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Mollie Fitzgerald

Motion carried without opposition.

Introductions:

New Board Member David Hannum with New Era Broadband in Meigs was welcomed.

**Speakers: Medea Loibl-OU Stevens Literacy Center
Julie Lasher-Business Relations Specialist with OOD**

- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**

- ***Athens County*** – Shawn Stover

- Shawn Stover introduced Joe Frazier as the new Workforce Advancement Coordinator for the Athens OMJ. Joe will be visiting and outreaching with employers.
- Hocking College is now having Athens OMJ staff onsite and providing an office so they can connect with students once again.
- Deanna Bragg and Shawn connected with the BB2C on their endeavors. They now have 3 new employment counselors since January.
- Abby Russell is the new digital navigator who works with youth at the OMJ office.
- Randy Miller and Shawn spoke at the Lodge at Hocking with dealerships and students on apprenticeship opportunities. Students got connected with employers directly.
- Tami, Shawn and Jordan did strategic planning for 2023 to develop plans for the new year.
- They now have a part-time intern for marketing.

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- The Restaurant Ready Program will work them on future plans.
- Working on starting a resource center for Glouster Community.
- Mancan had an onsite recruiting event and they ran out of applications.
- Shawn is participating in a collaborated event with the author of MAID on 2/22 at 3pm. Copies of the book are available at the Stevens Literacy Center.

- **Meigs County** – Shelly Adams
 - The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center hosted open interviews and prescreening for multiple employers this quarter.
 - Resource Fair went well.
 - Apprenticeship Day is today from 12-5pm at the community center where all 3 schools will be attending as well as the general public.
 - Videographer is capturing what the OMJ does and can do for employers and job seekers.
 - They will be creating an OMJ website that will spotlight employers and be direct access to employers and job seekers.
 - 2nd IWT had 5 employees and has been very successful.
 - CCMEP has 60 participants. There are career coaches in all 3 schools who identify students with barriers and this has been very successful so far. 4 out of 5 high school students finished their GED.
 - They have 5 students in the pre-apprenticeship with 3 new applications pending.

- **Perry County** – David Hansen
 - K-12 schools getting involved in the career and workforce programs. Crooksville and Southern now have a career person in their schools 1 day a week to discuss workforce and career pathways. They have a lot of field trips planned to Star Engineer, SE Shafting and more.
 - In April they will have a road to Intel discussion.
 - C-Tech is hoping to become Intel approved to do a 1 year Intel Certificate. If approved, this will be shared with other career centers so it can be duplicated.
 - He is meeting with the JobsOhio people on 2/16 on the road to Intel campaign. Developing ideas to reduce barriers such as childcare and transportation.
 - Perry County Opportunity Center to be filled with students and learners offering certifications and maybe associates degrees. It will house the JFS, OMJ and 1/3 will be for public use. They will have an open house on March 31st. Summer will be a ribbon cutting.

Fiscal Report – Mendra Hupp

Mendra emailed out the fiscal update report, and it was added to the folder.

Fresh Start Grant was approved by DOL. This grant period is from March 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024. It ends and liquidates March 31, 2024. The Area was awarded \$600,000. The first increment of \$200,000 has been received and distributed to the counties. The Area is on track to get additional funding.

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A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled about \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. Everything must be spent and invoiced by the end of May. We are currently 68% EOA.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023. Area has requested and been granted to use funding toward the purchase of mobile units in all 3 counties. Budget in the folder now reflects this split. All funding must be invoiced and spent by the end of May.

RESEA grants for PY21, the Area initially received \$38,445.77 and has spent 100%. Area then received from OWD an additional \$85,000 in funds. The total so far received on this grant is \$123,445.77. Area received an additional \$19,716 which is not reflected in that total. Mendra is working with the county fiscal departments to see if there is any additional need and if so will request this out of PY21 funds prior to starting to use PY22 funding.

Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of about \$260K. Participant funding was \$223K. Stipends for students were increased to \$11/hr since minimum wage increased. We did this to maximize the funding we have, but overall it is still budgeted within the original amount. We have requested, but not been approved yet for Hocking College to receive a subgrant award.

3rd year funding ends and liquidates in June as well so funding needs to be invoiced and paid by the end of May. Perry will get an additional \$10K that is not in CFIS yet. These funds are to be used to upgrade the resource room of the OMJs which is where participants go to get online for job search and applying for jobs.

Director McKnight:

Annual Report:

Director McKnight presented the 2022 Annual Report. Copy is in the meeting folder.

May Meeting Date Change:

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals is having their spring conference on May 8-12th. Our CEO and Board meeting is scheduled for 5/10. Director McKnight requested that we move the May meeting to 5/3. CEO's voted to move the date of their meeting. Board agreed.

Grant Update:

The Area received \$90,000 for resource room upgrades. Perry was given an additional \$10,000 which we are still waiting for. This is to upgrade the computers and desks, chairs in the resource room which is where participants come in and do job search, print applications and apply for jobs on OhioMeansJobs.com. This was awarded out of a 3rd year grant funding request.

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We have unspent Covid funding that will be utilized as approved by OWD for the purchase of Mobile Units in all 3 counties specifically for OhioMeansJobs outreach such as on-site hiring events when an employer is having mass hirings, to resume assistance and job search in our more rural communities that are not typically accessible to transportation. These will all be wrapped in OMJ branding to also serve as a billboard of sorts so people start recognizing the OMJ name. Counties are to be submitting the wraps to me for approval and purchase so make sure we comply with the branding rules set forth by the state.

Annual Job Fair Update:

The 19th annual job fair is scheduled for April 12th. The budget has already been set aside under our requested BRN funds that end in June. It will take place at the Athens Community Center from 10-2pm with veterans having early entrance at 9:45am. This is free for area employers and does include lunch.

Performance Reports:

Included in the meeting folder is the unadjusted annual performance report. We fell within the unadjusted success level for all measures and this is prior to any adjustment. Except for the measurable skills gains for Adults, however this is prior to adjustment and the state has also said we would be held harmless due to the ARIES issues that contribute to issues with reporting measures.

The 1st quarter of PY 2022 is included. Due to continued issues with ARIES the state is now sending these weekly to the Area so counties can follow it more closely and report issues to OWD timelier. We hope this might help, but still recognize that this is an ARIES issue and will continue to push back with OWD to make sure they figure out and correct the issues that are needed.

Unemployment Update:

Unemployment information is included in your packet as well. Ohio is at 4.2% Nationally the rate is 3/5%. Athens is at 4.6, Meigs at 6% and Perry at 4.2%.

OMJ Reports:

OMJ reports are included in the board folder for this quarter. Those were added into the annual report for total review of last year.

Also included in the folder are the state and the area top job postings for July, August and September.

Other Business

- Stephen Carson shared that Teresa will be moving on at OWD as well as Nathan Strange. Replacement for Nathan's position will start soon. Teresa's will be posted.

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- Medea was asked about the trainings they are offering through OU's ASPIRE program and she said online trainings can serve all of Ohio. In-Person are for Area's 14 and 20 but they accept all students.

Motion to Adjourn at 11:41 AM

1st – David Brennan

2nd – Stephen Carson

Motion carried without opposition