

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

5/3/2023

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, Buddy Malone, Ron Cooley, Misty Milstead, and Caley Boyden.

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Shawn Stover, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS, Mendra Hupp-Area Fiscal, Joe Frazier-Athens OMJ, Vince Reiber-Meigs Fiscal, Theresa Lavender-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Shelly Adams-Meigs OMJ, Terri Ingles-Meigs OMJ, Jean Demosky-Athens JFS Executive Director, Mike Bump-Athens JFS Fiscal, Brook Haberkamp-Perry OMJ; Cheryl Boley-Perry JFS Executive Director; David Hansen, Perry OMJ, Commissioners Owen and Eliason.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person at the Innovation Center and online via Zoom on May 3rd, 2023. A quorum was present with 15 of 19 Board members present.

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

Meeting Minutes (Feb 8th, 2022) were presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Stephen Carson

Motion carried without opposition.

Agenda (May 3rd, 2023) was presented for approval with the change of Fiscal presenting before the OMJ Updates.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Mollie Fitzgerald

Motion carried without opposition.

Introductions:

New Board Member Denzil (Buddy) Malone the business rep for Athens with the SE Ohio Branch of the AFL-CIO was welcomed.

Director McKnight and Shelly Adams presented the Meigs OMJ YouTube videos on OMJ Services.

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 and spent. Funding had to be moved around and we are still waiting on the 2nd increment from DOL. Until then, spending will need to be coded under DW and then recoded once the funds are received.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. We are on track to spend everything we receive. There is a new round of BRN funds for SFP24 that the Area will be submitting to request \$245K. This is less than last year because OWD lowered the funding amount and this grant is only 12 months as opposed to the 18 months from the round.

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Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023, but we have been told it will liquidate in September. 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. We are on track to spend the majority of this funding now.

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 \$143,161.77. PY22 we received \$38,144. All admin was moved to program and the funds were allocated. However, funds were moved around to get to our threshold so we could request additional funding. This was based on need at the time and all counties will be made whole once the newly requested funds are received.

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 received an additional \$10K. 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. A total of \$100K was received by the Area for these upgrades.

All program monitoring has been completed and we are just awaiting the final reports from ODJFS.

ODJFS fiscal monitoring is taking place currently. HINKLE financials are due by 5/31/23. Audit notification for calendar year 2022 should be anytime.

- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**

- ***Athens County*** – Shawn Stover

- Athens OMJ has had 4 new staff in the last 3-4 months. They are getting staff on and will be upgrading their workshops for job readiness classes. There will be a pilot month for this in house and then the hope is to offer this both in person and online so it can be offered eventually to the public at large.
- OMJ mobile unit is large and will need upgrades and renovations prior to going out. It will be going out to communities to help them with employment and training.
- Resource room/computer lab has been updated with a zen booth and 8 computers and looks great.
- Joe, the employment coordinator, is having in-demand jobs week events every during the week with manufacturing, apprenticeship, OJTs information. Today they will be having an open house.
- They are working with TCCC for their employment extravaganza.
- Friday is a special healthcare hiring event. But they will have hiring events every Wednesday.
- Athens Chamber Coffee and Convo-Shawn talked on the panel for workforce advancement opportunities.

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- There will be a resource fair at the Athens Mall this month.
- The Athens OMJ will be having their first staff retreat since 2019 at the Lodge at Hocking with many motivational speakers.

- **Meigs County** – Shelly Adams
 - The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center will have in demand jobs featured all week with Manufacturing Monday Job Fair, Tuesday they will be at the library, Wednesday will be public safety and health job fair, Thursday will be a reverse job fair at Meigs HS for the career tech classes.
 - Renovations to the resource room are done and look nice and welcoming.
 - Mobile Unit is getting wrapped this week. Their 1st event will be on the 13th at Racine Library.
 - May 10th is signing day for the pre-apprentices. There will be 4 signing letters of intent to roll into apprenticeship. They provided the students with tools, 1 student needed a driver's license, and other support throughout the year.
 - New CCMEP worker starts on Monday. Currently their case managers have 46 cases and there are 43 in follow-up so it will be nice to get another new work to help.
 - Benefit Bridge is still going strong, and it looks like it will continue through the next program year.
 - Reentry is going well.

- **Perry County** – Brooke Haberkamp
 - Social Media has all their in-demand jobs week information that will be focusing working with Central State on ag jobs.
 - Their opportunity center is set to open in July.
 - They have 39 employers signed on for summer youth sites and 71 youth approved.
 - They are working hard on the Intel need for construction and working very hard to get people into training for upcoming job opportunities once Intel is ready to open.

Director McKnight:

Regional Plan:

Our regional plan was due for a revision this year. We updated the stats in the plan along with adding in the remote work component and the virtual reality as part of our regional plan. This will be good until the end of 2024, but by 2025 we will need to do a whole new 4 year plan. Director McKnight requested the board vote to approve the regional plan to present it to OWD for approval.

1st – David Brennan

2nd – Jeff Circle

Broadband/5G Grant

1.2M has already been awarded to OU Voinovich School. OWT-Eric Leach recommendation. Hocking College and TCCC will be given funding under DWG for those who qualify to receive free broadband training. OU oversees grant. WDB will award a subgrant to hire 1 FTE broadband coordinator for the SE Ohio Region.

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Apprenticeship Update

No word on if the Pre-Apprenticeship grant will be extended. Working with schools and businesses to develop a plan on how to proceed next school year. Mtg May 15th. Meigs for sure has 4 students moving into apprenticeships, which is already 1 more than last year. Athens and Perry have not said how many they will have yet.

Grant Updates

Perry was given an additional \$54,964.18. This was awarded out of a 3rd year grant funding request. This was an additional request on what was originally submitted back in January due to the flooding at their temp site in Hocking. OWD was waiting for amounts from the insurance and actual costs for the furniture and such that needed replaced.

Meigs and Athens purchased their mobile units under the Covid grant funds. Meigs vehicle wrap has been approved. I believe Perry is close to getting their vehicle purchased. We do bi-weekly check-ins to make sure we can get this stuff procured and completed prior to the end of the Covid grant. It will not be extended so everything needs to be procured, billed and paid by Mid-May in order to meet close out of the grant.

Annual Job Fair

The 19th annual job fair went well. We had about 80 employers and 100 job seekers. Employers were very pleased and said it was the best attended job fair they've attended so far this year.

Unemployment Information:

Unemployment information is included in your packet as well. Ohio's unemployment rate decreased to 3.8% from 4.2% Nationally the rate is 3.5%. All 3 counties went up in March-Athens is at 4.9% from 4.6, Meigs at 6.4% from 6% and Perry went to 5% from 4.2%.

Performance Report:

ARIES continues to have issues. OWD and Monster will be asking 5 counties to volunteer to be part of a site visit to work on seeing what's happening when case managers enter data real time in the system and access what's taking longer and why information is not being saved correctly or being lost after COB each evening during batch runs.

The 2nd quarter of PY 2022 is included in your report as well. OWA has requested again for a letter from Director Damshroder and OWD that the Areas and counties should not be held accountable for performance issues as they are related to the ARIES issues.

OMJ Reports:

OMJ reports are included in the board folder for this quarter. All centers are reporting increased activity in the centers.

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Also included in your folder are the state and the area top job postings for January and February.

Other Business

- Reminder that the August 9th meeting is in-person only per policy. It will be held at the OU Inn.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:52 AM

1st – Jeff Circle

2nd – Stephen Carson

Motion carried without opposition.