Workforce Development Area 14
Athens, Meigs & Perry Counties
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Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Record of Scheduled Board Meeting - Quorum Not Present

August 20, 2026

The Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) was scheduled to meet on August 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center.

Board Chair Brennan opened the scheduled meeting at 10:15 a.m, and attendance was taken by Director DeLay.

Board Members/Designees Present: Jeff Circle, Jennifer Chapman-Kleski, Shannon Jones, David Brennan, Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Buddy Malone, and Joshua Rennison, serving as Stephen Carson's designee.

Board Members Absent: Kimberly Foreman, Jessica Stroh, Jennifer Pollard, Brent Patterson, Robin Fowler, Trevis Thompson, Melissa Sheppard, Tracy Clark, and David Hannum.

Also in Attendance: Morgan DeLay (Area 14 Director), Mendra Hupp (PCDJFS Assistant Director/Area 14 Fiscal Agent), Julie Scherfel (MCDJFS Supervisor), Shelly Adams (OhioMeansJobs – Meigs County), Rick Szabrak (Area 20 WDB Director), Bayley Fields (Area 20 WDB Deputy Director), Amy Frame (PCDJFS Director), Jordan Whitlatch (OhioMeansJobs – Athens County), Lisa Radford (ACDJFS Assistant Director), Vince Reiber (MCDJFS Deputy Director) and Tami Collins (ACDJFS Director).

Determination of Quorum

Eight of the 17 appointed members currently serving on the Board were present. Nine members were required to establish a quorum. Because a quorum was not present, the Board was unable to transact official business.

The agenda and minutes from the previous meeting were not approved. No motions were made, no votes were taken, and no official Board action occurred. All matters requiring Board action were deferred until a future meeting at which a quorum is present.

Those in attendance proceeded with the scheduled informational presentations and updates summarized below.

OhioMeansJobs Operator Reports

OhioMeansJobs – Athens County: Jordan Whitlatch shared updates from OhioMeansJobs – Athens County. Athens has had many events recently, such as Veterans Access Day, Hire

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A Vet Workshop, School Workforce Job Fair and ASPIRE graduation, where 16 participants received recognition for earning their high school equivalency diploma this year. Athens has 6 youth and 3 adults participating in Vitruvian's pre-apprenticeship. They also have a paid apprenticeship with 740 Rescue Kitchen utilizing GRIT funds where they are partnering with ACEnet to provide ServSafe training to all participants. Their Career Coach is getting ready to go back into the schools, including Tri-County Career Center.

OhioMeansJobs – Meigs County: Shelly Adams shared updates from OhioMeansJobs – Meigs County. Meigs has been focusing on employer services, assisting employers with pre-screening employees. They met with Nucor HR who informed them they were still hiring around 250 employees. Meigs has also been working with Vitruvian and Plumbers & Pipefitters on apprenticeships. Meigs has had 107 participants receive supportive services or training since February, and are preparing for Workforce Development Month in September with a job fair and other events.

OhioMeansJobs – Perry County: Mendra Hupp provided updates for OhioMeansJobs – Perry County. Perry County is currently under a State of Emergency due to flooding, which has taken much of their time and resources. They have worked on disaster clean up and donations, and had to cancel their job fair due to flooding. Perry County will be bringing their CCMEP program in-house after contracting with HAPCAP for many years. Cooper Standard continues to implement staggered layoffs, and its current number of employees is unknown.

Fiscal Update

Mendra Hupp presented the fiscal update. Fiscal documentation, including the quarterly allocation and expenditure workbook, was provided to those in attendance.

RESEA Grant Updates: The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment grants were reviewed. PY24 funding totaled $198,084 and was fully expended as of June 30, 2026. PY25 funding totals $271,288.69, of which $209,557.11 was expended, obligated, or accrued, leaving a balance of $61,731.58. Area 14 also received an initial PY26 allocation of $15,716, with no expenditures reported as of the reporting period.

FY26 Vets O.N.E. Incentive Award: OhioMeansJobs Meigs County received $6,344.70 through the award. A total of $6,300 had been expended, leaving a balance of $44.70.

State Special Projects Grant: Area 14 received $260,000 for the first year of the State Special Projects initiative, consisting of $250,000 in program funding and $10,000 in administrative funding. No expenditures were reported as of the reporting period.

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Recovery Works/Opioid DWG Grant: No new information was available. The U.S. Department of Labor plans to issue revised guidance before considering new applications, and the State continues to explore other funding opportunities.

Auditor of State Audit: The audit covering January 1 through December 31, 2025, remains in progress. Audit costs are expected to remain below $10,000.

Athens County Review: In response to financial concerns identified within Athens County operations that were unrelated to WIOA, Area 14 conducted an internal review of Athens County's WIOA program. No findings were identified. Some RMS-related concerns were noted, and corrective actions are underway.

These items were presented for informational purposes only, and no Board action was taken due to the lack of quorum.

Area 14/Area 20 Redesignation

Director DeLay provided an update regarding the proposed redesignation of Workforce Areas 14 and 20. Area 20 Director Rick Szabrak and Deputy Director Bayley Fields were in attendance and participated in the conversation.

The discussion initially began when Gallia County approached Area 20 about potentially joining its workforce area. Although Gallia County later decided not to proceed, Area 20 continued exploring its broader regional structure. Area 20 initially contacted Perry County, and discussions eventually expanded to include Athens and Meigs Counties and Area 14 as a whole.

Director DeLay explained that the proposal is being considered amid a broader emphasis on regional collaboration, administrative efficiency, larger-scale workforce planning, and closer alignment between workforce and economic development regions.

Leadership from Areas 14 and 20 is meeting weekly with ODJFS. Area 20 is also working with a consultant experienced in workforce-area mergers and redesignations to develop the application, transition timeline, governance structure, and other required documentation.

The current working goal is an October 1, 2026, redesignation, subject to all required approvals. The current concept is to transition governance first while temporarily maintaining separate fiscal operations. This would provide time to address funding, contracts, policies, procedures, administrative systems, and other operational matters.

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Director DeLay noted that Athens will remain a Comprehensive OhioMeansJobs Center. The proposed governance structure is intended to provide equal representation between the current Areas 14 and 20 and preserve opportunities for existing members to continue serving to the extent permitted by the final structure.

A brief informational discussion followed. No motion or Board action occurred. Final approval of the redesignation rests with the Chief Elected Officials and County Commissioners of the affected local areas.

WIOA, Grant, and Monitoring Updates

Due to time constraints, Director DeLay provided abbreviated updates on the following items. Supporting documentation was included in the meeting materials.

WORC Round 7: Area 14 did not submit its own application but agreed to participate as the local workforce development entity in three regional applications involving New Lexington Schools, COAD/SPARC Appalachian Ohio, and United Steelworkers Local 689 in partnership with Vitruvian. Any additional commitments resulting from an award will be brought back for review before implementation.

JobsOhio Concierge Service Provider: Area 15 is leading a regional proposal intended to help employers develop or expand technician earn-and-learn programs. Director DeLay would serve as Area 14's primary contact. Funding and implementation details have not yet been finalized.

Area 14 WIOA Monitoring: ODJFS completed its PY2025 monitoring review of Area 14's administrative operations and Adult and Dislocated Worker participant files. No significant observations were identified, and the review has been formally concluded.

Perry County CCMEP Monitoring: The review identified two documentation-related observations involving participant engagement documentation and outdated service information in ARIES. A Continuous Improvement Plan was developed, and corrective actions have been implemented.

Jobs for Veterans State Grant Monitoring: The monitoring review was successfully completed. The State provided positive feedback and identified no significant concerns.

Board Recertification: Area 14's Workforce Development Board recertification was approved on May 28, 2026, and is valid for two years.

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Vitruvian State Special Project: The Executive Committee approved the Memorandum of Understanding, and the agreement has been fully executed. Area 14 continues working with ODJFS, the Fiscal Agent, Vitruvian, and the OhioMeansJobs Centers on eligibility, enrollment, documentation, invoicing, reporting, and monitoring procedures.

The MOU was amended to permit reimbursement only for allowable online instruction and certification activities completed after WIOA eligibility was established. The amendment did not increase the project budget or cost per participant. The project is currently in the participant enrollment phase.

Performance Reports

Director DeLay reported that the PY2025 fourth-quarter reports remain preliminary and unadjusted. Measurable Skill Gains improved considerably during the fourth quarter, while earnings and Youth outcomes remained strengths. Employment retention continues to be an area requiring monitoring.

Director DeLay also reported that Area 14 met 13 of the 15 final adjusted WIOA performance measures for PY2024. The only measures not achieved were Adult and Dislocated Worker Employment in the Fourth Quarter after Exit. Overall, Area 14 continues to demonstrate strengths in earnings, credential attainment, and skill development.

Conclusion

Because a quorum was not present, no official Board business was conducted and no action was taken on any item.

The informational gathering concluded at 11:33 a.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting is November 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., subject to any changes resulting from the proposed redesignation.

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