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

CEO Meeting: August 20, 2026

The Chief Elected Officials of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 20th day of August 2026, in-person at the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center.

Commissioner Eliason opened the meeting at 9:02am and attendance was taken by Director DeLay:

Commissioners Present: Lenny Eliason (Athens County Commissioner), Shannon Miller (Meigs County Commissioner).

Also in attendance: Morgan DeLay (Area 14 Director), Mendra Hupp (PCDJFS Assistant Director/Area 14 Fiscal Agent), Vince Reiber (MCDJFS Deputy Director), Amy Frame (PCDJFS Director) and Tami Collins (ACDJFS Director). Scott Owen (Perry County Commissioner) participated by telephone but was not counted toward quorum and did not vote.

A quorum was established following roll call by Director DeLay. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the agenda for August 20, 2026. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fiscal Update

Mendra Hupp presented the fiscal update. Fiscal documentation, including the quarterly allocation and expenditure workbook and the FY27 Budget Summary, was provided.

RESEA Grant Updates: The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) grants were reviewed:

- PY24 RESEA funding totaled $198,084 and was fully expended as of June 30, 2026.
- PY25 RESEA funding totals $271,288.69. As of the reporting period, $209,557.11 was expended, obligated, or accrued, with a remaining balance of $61,731.58. The grant ends March 31, 2027, with liquidation through June 30, 2027.

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- Area 14 received an initial PY26 RESEA allocation of $15,716. No funds had been expended as of the reporting period. The grant ends March 31, 2028, with liquidation through June 30, 2028.

FY26 Vets O.N.E. Incentive Award: OhioMeansJobs Meigs County received $6,344.70 through the FY26 Vets O.N.E. Incentive Award. As of the reporting period, $6,300 had been expended, leaving a balance of $44.70. The award supports outreach, career training, employment events, and other services for veterans and ends and liquidates September 30, 2026.

State Special Projects Grant: Area 14 was awarded $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. Area 14 may apply for funding in subsequent years based on the project's outcomes.

Recovery Works/Opioid DWG Grant Update: No new information was available regarding the Opioid National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grant. The U.S. Department of Labor plans to issue revised guidance before considering new applications. The State also intends to explore funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Auditor of State Audit: The Auditor of State audit covering January 1 through December 31, 2025, remains in progress. Audit costs are expected to remain below $10,000. The prior year's single audit cost was $7,956.

Athens County Audit: 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.

FY27 Budget

Mendra presented the proposed Area 14 FY27 Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026.

Commissioner Eliason moved to approve the FY27 Budget as presented. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Eliason moved to approve the fiscal packet as presented. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Area 14/20 Merger

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Director DeLay provided an update regarding the proposed redesignation of Workforce Areas 14 and 20. The discussion originally began when Gallia County, currently part of Area 7, approached Area 20 about potentially joining its workforce area. Although Gallia County later decided not to pursue a merger, the conversation prompted Area 20 to consider its broader regional structure. Area 20 initially contacted Perry County to gauge interest, and discussions eventually expanded to include Athens and Meigs Counties and Area 14 as a whole.

Director DeLay explained that these discussions are taking place amid a broader federal and state emphasis on regional collaboration, administrative efficiency, larger-scale workforce planning, and closer alignment between workforce and economic development regions. Area 14's intent is to participate proactively in these conversations, protect the interests of its counties, and help shape any future regional structure.

Discussions between Areas 14 and 20 have progressed considerably. Leadership from both areas is meeting weekly with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and Area 20 is working with a consultant experienced in workforce-area mergers and redesignations. The consultant is assisting with the redesignation application, transition timeline, governance structure, and other required steps. ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder has expressed support for the proposed merger.

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 allow time to address funding, existing contracts, policies and procedures, administrative systems, and other operational details.

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, to the extent permitted by the final structure, provide existing board members who are willing and able to continue serving with that opportunity. The intent is to create a combined structure in which both existing areas have meaningful representation, while preventing disruption to services for employers and job seekers.

Several details remain under development, including the final governance structure, board composition, fiscal transition, policies, contracts, and implementation timeline. Final redesignation remains subject to approval by all required Chief Elected Officials and County Commissioners.

A brief discussion followed.

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Commissioner Eliason moved to approve the proposed redesignation of Areas 14 and 20, seconded by Commissioner Miller. All were in favor.

WIOA 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

Director DeLay reported that the U.S. Department of Labor recently accepted applications for Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (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: New Lexington Schools, COAD/SPARC Appalachian Ohio, and United Steelworkers Local 689 in partnership with Vitruvian.

Area 14's anticipated role includes workforce leadership, employer engagement, labor market information, and coordination with the local workforce system. The United Steelworkers application required a Letter of Commitment, which was revised in consultation with the Fiscal Agent to clarify Area 14's role. Any additional operational responsibilities, funding arrangements, or implementation requirements will be negotiated through a future agreement and brought back to the Board if the application is funded.

JobsOhio Concierge Service Provider

Director DeLay provided a brief update on a regional proposal being developed in response to JobsOhio's Concierge Service Provider Request for Proposals. The initiative is intended to help employers create or expand technician earn-and-learn programs by coordinating existing workforce services.

Area 15 would serve as the lead organization and contract holder, with Director DeLay serving as Area 14's primary contact. No additional responsibilities are currently anticipated for the OhioMeansJobs operators. If funded, Area 14 may receive a subaward to support its responsibilities; however, funding and implementation details have not yet been finalized.

Area 14 WIOA Monitoring

ODJFS completed its PY2025 WIOA Program Monitoring Review of Area 14. The review included Area 14's administrative operations and Adult and Dislocated Worker participant

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files. No significant observations were identified, and ODJFS has formally concluded the monitoring review.

Perry County CCMEP Monitoring

ODJFS also completed its PY2025 CCMEP monitoring review of Perry County. The review identified two documentation-related observations involving the frequency of participant engagement documentation and outdated service information remaining open in ARIES.

A Continuous Improvement Plan was developed, and corrective actions have been implemented. These actions include additional staff reminders and refresher training, increased documentation of outreach efforts, enhanced supervisory case reviews, and routine review of ARIES records to ensure services are updated and closed timely.

Jobs for Veterans State Grant Monitoring

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

Board Recertification

Director DeLay reported that Area 14's Workforce Development Board recertification was approved on May 28, 2026. The certification is valid for two years.

Vitruvian State Special Project

Director DeLay provided a brief implementation update on the Vitruvian State Special Project. Since the previous meeting, the Executive Committee approved the Memorandum of Understanding, and the agreement has been fully executed.

Area 14 has worked with ODJFS, the Fiscal Agent, Vitruvian, and the OhioMeansJobs Centers to establish the project in ARIES and develop procedures for eligibility, enrollment, documentation, invoicing, reporting, and monitoring.

Following guidance from ODJFS, the MOU was amended to include an alternative billing structure for participants who completed a portion of the online instruction before WIOA eligibility was established. The amendment permits reimbursement only for allowable instruction and certification activities completed after eligibility was determined. The amendment did not increase the project budget or the cost per participant.

The project is currently in the participant enrollment phase. OhioMeansJobs staff are responsible for determining WIOA eligibility and enrolling participants, while Vitruvian is

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responsible for participant recruitment and delivery of the training. Additional updates on enrollment, outcomes, and implementation will be provided as the pilot progresses.

Performance Reports

PY2025 Preliminary Fourth-Quarter Performance

Director DeLay reported that the PY2025 fourth-quarter reports are preliminary and unadjusted. Final success determinations will not be available until the State applies the Statistical Adjustment Model and issues the final adjusted annual reports.

Measurable Skill Gains improved considerably during the fourth quarter. Earnings remained a strength and Youth performance also remained strong.

Employment retention remains an area to monitor, particularly Adult employment measures and CCMEP education, training, or employment outcomes. Performance Outcome Guidance reports were requested for each county to assist with identifying and addressing areas for improvement.

PY2024 Adjusted Annual Performance

Director DeLay reported that Area 14 met 13 of the 15 final adjusted WIOA performance measures for PY2024. The only WIOA measures not achieved were Adult and Dislocated Worker Employment in the Fourth Quarter after Exit. All other Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth measures met the adjusted success thresholds, with WIOA Youth achieving all five measures.

CCMEP's primary challenge was second-quarter education, training, or employment. Fourth-quarter outcomes, median earnings, credential attainment, and Measurable Skill Gains remained strong.

Overall, the final PY2024 results and preliminary PY2025 reports demonstrate continued strengths in earnings, credential attainment, and skill development. Employment and longer-term retention will remain areas of focus.

Motion to Adjourn

Commissioner Eliason moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition, and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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The next CEO meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at Meigs County JFS, with a virtual access option. The meeting may be canceled depending on the progress of the redesignation.

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