

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

11/9/2022

Board Members Present: Stephen Carson, Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Rob Ogden, David Brennan, Jeff Circle, Brianna Edwards, Jessica Stroh, Misty Milstead, Jennifer Kleski, Melissa Sheppard, Laura Davidson, Caley Boyden, Tracy Clark, and Brent Patterson.

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Shawn Stover, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS, Mendra Hupp, Teresa Garey, Theresa Lavender-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Mike Bump-Athens JFS Fiscal, Brook Haberkamp-Perry OMJ; Cheryl Boley-Perry JFS Executive Director; David Hansen, Perry OMJ, Bryn Stepp, Aaron Adams-ASPIRE Hocking.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person at the Innovation Center and online via Zoom on November 9th, 2022. A quorum was present with 15 of 19 Board members present.

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

Meeting Minutes (August 10th, 2022) were presented for approval.

1st – Stephen Carson; 2nd – Mollie Fitzgerald

Motion carried without opposition.

Agenda (August 10th, 2022) was presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Medea Loibl

Motion carried without opposition.

Introductions:

There were no speakers at this meeting, instead there was a discussion on eligibility. Director McKnight presented that Area 14 has chosen to limit eligibility for ITA's to 200% of the poverty level. Area 20 has recently raised that percentage and our OMJs have asked that we look at this. Included in the folder was a second sheet that shows what the rate is for 200% annually along with what that would look like at 250% and then 300% respectively. The CEO's recommendation is to go to 250%.

Discussion on what the changes would mean occurred to include looking at incomes for families qualifying. Also included was the current amount of funding that a person could receive under an ITA as well as how much funding has been returned to OWD. Area 14 fiscal said only \$5000 and that we've not returned funding prior, and this was after taking on a large amount the year prior from another area. David Brennan and David Hansen feel that by raising it to 300% it would allow for those who are the working poor to better themselves with training. Stephen Carson proposed bumping it to 250% and seeing how many people took advantage of the increase and if funding became an issue sometime in the next 6-12 months. There was agreement that this was a good resolution.

1st- Stephen Carson made a motion to raise it to 250%

2nd-Melissa Sheppard

Motion carried without opposition.

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- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**

- ***Athens County*** – Shawn Stover

- Shawn Stover introduced himself as the new Workforce Advancement Manager for the Athens OMJ. Prior experience as the Reentry Coordinator. Also serves as chair of the Athens HOPE. His passion is the reentry and recovery community and hopes to move forward with this priority.

- ***Meigs County*** – Shelly Adams

- The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center has a job fair on Sept 30th 30 employers and 52 job seekers with 30 people hired.
- They have been having several open houses for employers and assisting with pre-screening applications for employers.
- They just did their first Incumbent Worker Training and looking at a 2nd one.
- 3 of their summer participants gained full-time employment.
- There are 60 CCMEP participants that the case managers are very involved with, and they are very involved with the schools and the career navigator that is in the schools.
- Fresh Start grant is funding 2 student monitors, one at Eastern and one at Southern. They have been key to getting support for families.
- Benefit Bridge is going well. Many of the participants have gained jobs and gotten certifications for CDL, phlebotomy, welding. They provide financial literacy workshops and technical training.
- They have 5 students in the pre-apprenticeship with 3 new applications pending.

- ***Perry County*** – David Hansen

- Working on a drive to get the workforce Intel will need. They will be using BRN funds to help with this.
- Active in the schools and are looking to expand the horizon for students beyond just Perry employers to those in surrounding counties. They are working in 2 of the 4 districts and have placed a person in the schools. Working to organize tours of employers in the county for Miller and New Lex in January and April. Hope is to have 4 field trips around healthcare, advance manufacturing with a possible site visit to Intel, agriculture.
- Their new Opportunity Center has broken ground and work is coming along on the site.

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. Meigs was not spending as quickly as the other 2 counties, so funding was re-allocated to Athens and Perry to keep their program running until the Area reaches their 80% spend. Once we request the additional funds, Meigs will be made whole.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled about \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. Meigs received an additional \$11,265 for their purchase of a Zen Booth. This

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brings the total amount of funding under this grant to \$439,465. Spending needs to pick up and the Area will be looking at what funds might need to be returned. The area is working with OWD to assess allocation amounts and if we are on track to spend during quarterly meetings. We must be 75% EOA by January 30th or we may have to de-obligate funds.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023. Area is looking at ways to utilize this funding as we have \$423,631.61 remaining. Perry gave up \$75,000 of their funding to Athens as they were able to use this funding for new participant training.

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. Fiscal expects that we will spend it all and may need to request additional. PY22 funding has been received totaling \$38,144. Admin will be transferred to program and divided equally for distribution to all 3 counties.

Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of about \$260K. Participant funding was \$223K. with an additional \$52K in WIOA 3rd year special projects funding for RMS costs. The RMS funds spent \$41,889.67. \$10,446.61 was returned to OWD.

ODJFS External Audit finished. No administration findings, questions of costs.

State Audit is finished. Cost was \$8200. No findings.

Local monitoring has started with Sharon Parry-Real Workforce Solutions.

Director McKnight:

Performance Negotiations:

This was the year we had to do our Area 14 performance negotiations with the State office of Workforce Development. Preliminary numbers were given by OWD and Director McKnight requested to negotiate those figures. She successfully negotiated the median earnings for all of the WIOA and CCMEP categories as OWD was requesting much higher earnings that were not in line with our local median incomes.

She successfully negotiated a lower attainment rate for dislocated workers from the state's proposal and a lower rate for the measurable skills gains for 3 of the 4 categories.

A sheet of the new performance rates was included in the meeting folder.

Workforce and Talent Workshop:

Workforce and Talent Workshop was held on August 24th. It was a great opportunity to hear from local businesses. Director McKnight will be following up with the facilitator to discuss next steps by the end of the year.

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Apprenticeship Update:

Athens signed on 3 adult pre-apprentices at Hocking College so far. Meigs has around 8 students looking to become pre-apprentices and we are waiting for Porter to interview and accept them. TCCC and the case managers met with seniors and applications have been turned in and review by TCCC to make sure they meet the requirements. Athens is now scheduling those students for intake appointments and will begin placements.

Director McKnight met with the Bob Boyd dealership as a student at TCCC expressed an interest in working with them. They will be signing on as an employer of record. The Perry County dealership has also expressed interest in signing on. She's asked Perry OMJ to follow up with them.

Performance Reports:

First yearly adjusted performance report in folder. This is the first one since using the new ARIES system and there were a lot of issues. The Ohio Workforce Association met with and discussed this issue with OWD. As a result, they issued a hold harmless letter that is included at the end of your folder. The Reports along with the unadjusted PY 21 Quarter 4 reports are included in the board folder.

As a result of the issues, OWA and OWD have formed a task force to start addressing these issues quicker. Director McKnight and Case Manager Michelle Bueno will be sitting on that task force.

Unemployment Update:

Unemployment numbers are back to pre-pandemic levels. State has held constant at 4% for August and September. Nationally it is 3.5%. While Athens is at 4.1%, Meigs is at 5.1% and Perry is at 3.9%.

OMJ Reports:

Athens and Meigs helped 91 universal customers coming in to the OMJ centers this past quarter to find jobs. All 3 counties helped 52 of our enrolled customers find jobs this quarter. There were 15 onsite hiring events with 114 participants.

Director McKnight commended the OMJ staff for their hard work and dedication.

Other Business

- No other business

Motion to Adjourn at 11:04 AM

1st – David Brennan

2nd – Stephen Carson

Motion carried without opposition