

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

2/9/2022

Board Members Present: In-Person: Nathan Strange in for Stephen Carson, Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Rob Ogden. Via Zoom: Jeff Circle, David Brennan, Ron Cooley, Jessica Stroh, Misty Milstead, Brent Patterson, Jennifer Kleski, Shawn Arnott, Laura Davidson, Tracy Clark, Caley Boyden.

Guests Present: In-Person: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Dean Pidcock, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS
Via Zoom: Scott Owen, Lenny Eliason, Bryn Stepp, Chris Shank-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Theresa Lavender-Assistant Director Meigs JFS, Shelly Adams, Meigs OMJ; Mendra Hupp-Perry JFS/Area 14 Fiscal, Ginger Gagne-Hocking College Aspire, Mike Bump, Athens JFS Assistant CFO, Vince Reiber- Meigs JFS CFO, Kate Lindsey, OWD; David Hansen, Perry OMJ; Brooke Haberkamp, Perry OMJ.

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

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

Meeting Minutes (November 10th, 2021) were presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Medea Loibl

Motion carried without opposition.

Agenda (February 9th, 2022) was presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Dave Brennan

Motion carried without opposition.

Introductions:

Rob Ogden welcomed new board members from Perry County, Ron Cooley with Peoples State Bank and Caley Boyden with the Perry County Board of DD.

Rob welcomed Nathan Strange who sat in for Stephen Carson with OWD and was given voting rights.

Rob welcomed guest speaker Bryn Stepp who is the SE Ohio Liaison for Lt Governor John Husted, who joined via zoom to present.

- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**

- ***Athens County*** – Dean Pidcock

- Athens OMJ has a new CCMEP position for those aging out of foster care and who will help with those volunteers.
- They are having 1 mini job fair a month. This month was manufacturing. Well attended by both businesses and job seekers. Next one is for retail and sales is tomorrow. One in March will be for healthcare.
- Open Interviews have helped to expanded outreach. USPS held open interviews on site. Seeing an increase in employer participation with the outreach efforts.
- 3 employment services specialists are now on staff to increase the outreach efforts.

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- Started summer youth discussions with HAPCAP.
- They will be attending the OWA forum in the Spring.
- **Meigs County** – Shelly Adams
 - The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center thanks the board members for coming and learning more about what the OMJ center does.
 - Traffic is up and they are very busy.
 - They completed an OJT with an Athens business for one of their long-term unemployed participants that was successful.
 - They are pre-screening for employers to help narrow down applicants. They are working right not to help the Meigs County Commissioners with their hiring.
 - Transportation is up and running in Meigs.
 - They are increasing their work in schools with Project Rise and are excited about this opportunity.
- **Perry County** – David Hansen
 - Transit is in discussion with manufacturing plants and JobsOhio with hope to get over 100 jobs and work with transit to coordinate employment with these manufactures on the 33 corridors.
 - February 25th they are having a briefing with manufactures and ApprenticeOhio and Ohio SE.
 - David is attending the One Columbus meeting on the Intel Plant to see how they can help fill their workforce needs. It will take about 3 years to get training, and such set up and completed.

Fiscal Report – Mendra Hupp

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

Opioid Grant 3 was extended to March 2022. The Area has spent most of the initial allocation and project to spend all by the end of the grant period. All counties have continued to work on their plans and programs with the new extension. Shut down will be 2/2022. DOL has received a request for another Opioid grant in the amount of 8.5 million with the Area requesting around \$600,000 to start March 2022 through February 2024. No word has been received yet.

Business Outreach funds were extended to December 31, 2021. All funds were spent but \$5306.95. Admin funds of \$3070.42 were transferred between Athens and Perry. An additional \$10,000 was requested by Perry above the original award for a total award of \$210,366.

A second round of BRN funds has been approved. This ends June 2023 for a total award of \$428,200 for the three counties and admin.

RESEA grants. Each county received \$7399.54, and all that money has been spent. Additional funds were requested by the Area and was received for a total of \$138,946.33 in award. All those funds have been spent and PY21 funds have been issued. This was divided equally among all three counties for a total of \$11,533.59. Mendra requested that the \$3,845 of fiscal/administrative funds be transferred to program and divided equally among the counties. CEOs voted to approve the transfer.

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Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of \$260K. Participant funding was \$216K. with an additional \$52K in WIOA 3rd year special projects funding for RMS costs. Subgrant agreements were signed with TCCC and Meigs Career Center. Director McKnight is working to get Mid East signed on and their subgrant agreement completed.

The Perry and Associates audit is in the final stages with a cost around \$7.950.

ODJFS External Audit has begun for PY2021 WIOA/CCMEP/TANF/Opioid 3 grants.

Director McKnight:

Annual Report (copy in meeting folder):

Area completed Phase 1 and 2 certifications of Athens and Perry OMJ centers. Area collaborated and started a fiber optics program at Tri County Career center. Director McKnight is now the Vice President of the Ohio Workforce Association and serve on the Ohio Workforce Coalition to continue to make sure our rural counties are represented.

The OMJs and Area have collaborated with Project Rise and TCCC to hold many events and make sure we are part of the continued discussions with the schools by attending all the schools business advisory committees our counties.

OMJ's assisted 249 universal customers that came through our doors looking for jobs, we helped them find jobs!

77 people got a degree or certification and 45 people completed their GED or high school diploma with our assistance.

We helped 60 people under the Opioid grant with career, supportive, training and on the job training with local employers.

20 people have been served in the same respects under the Covid-19 dislocated worker grant.

We had 15 OJT's with local employers where the OMJ paid 50% of the wages for their new employee and did 27 work experiences with local employers to try help them fill their workforce needs.

We helped 7 people get into apprenticeships and we currently have 12 pre-apprentices in auto body and auto tech.

Our Fiscal unit and the director worked to secure an additional \$451K in extra funding for our area.

Center Certifications:

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Phase 3 certification of our OMJ centers has begun. Because we just completed Phase 1 and 2 with Athens and Perry, the Office of Workforce Development will allow us to move our Phase 2 certification scores onto the Phase 3 scorecard and then complete just the form for Meigs. Director McKnight and the scoring committee were able to complete the 8044 form that was needed. Thank you to Steve Carson, Jeff Circle, Jennifer Kleski and Brent Patterson. The score card completed at 100%.

The CEO's have accepted the results and the scoring committee would like to present to the board a request to approve all centers for Phase 3 certification.

The chair asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. He then called for a vote.

1st- Dave Brennan

2nd-Jeff Circle

Motion carried without opposition.

Policy Updates:

Update to the Individual Training Account Policy as we realized that training has gone up, but our old policy links the \$10,000 year cap for training, on the job training and supportive services to that max.

If our goal is to not just get people through training, but to get them employed in their new field, using funding for on-the-job placement and wages with a local employer is a great way to help this be successful. By not making that inclusive and allowing for the \$10,000/yr to for training purposes, then allowing for the OJT policy to dictate that cap amount which is currently at \$8000 for up to 13 weeks wage reimbursement to the employer, this allows those programs to be seamless so one can get their certification or degree and then be placed with an employer and start work. Also took out of that cap, the supportive services amount to allow for a maximum of \$4000/year to help with anything outside of training such as gas cards to get to/from training or employment, work clothing and such increasing this by \$1000/yr additional.

County OMJ's want to decrease this amount, they are able to develop their own county procedure letter and lessen the amount, but Director McKnight does feel this is reasonable based on costs for our area and will help our participants succeed in their employment goals.

The chair asked if there were any questions

Mollie Fitzgerald asked if this would allow for more flexibility for both the participant and the employer.

Director McKnight affirmed this.

He then called for a vote to allow for the policy changes.

1st- Mollie Fitzgerald

2nd-Jeff Circle

Motion carried without opposition.

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Apprenticeship Update:

Our new operating plan has been approved to now include Mid East Career Center for their pre-apprenticeship as well as Hocking College to be the training provider for an adult pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship training. We have been working with all our local dealers in Athens and Meigs as well as with Ricart to get this program started regionally.

Perry OMJ, fiscal and Director McKnight will be meeting with Mid East and getting their subgrant agreement signed so we can start enrolling their Perry students into the program. The Perry OMJ staff and Director McKnight will be working with Mid East to recruit businesses in and around Perry County for the students to be placed in.

Unemployment Update:

Unemployment saw an increase due to seasonal employment.

Our OMJ's are doing mini job fairs on site and at local businesses. BRN grants will increase outreach to businesses allow for even more onsite job fairs with the mobile units. We will be holding our Annual Area 14 In person job fair at the Athens Community center on April 27th. Director McKnight requested funding in our most recent BRN grant to be used to cover the cost of the Area job fair at the community centers.

Performance Reports:

Counties continued to do well on the unadjusted PY21, 1st quarter report which was included in the meeting folder.

Other Business

- Dave Brennan expressed concern that board members might not understand the acronyms and requested a list be made to help the board understand what they mean.
- Director McKnight agreed to provide this with the meeting folder from now on.

Motion to Adjourn at 11:07 AM

1st – Dave Brennan

2nd – Jeff Circle

Motion carried without opposition