

## Area 14 Workforce Development Board

### Board Meeting Minutes

8/10/2022

Board Members Present: Stephen Carson, Haley Cappone in for Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Rob Ogden, David Brennan, Jeff Circle, Brianna Edwards, Jessica Stroh, Misty Milstead, Jennifer Kleski, Melissa Sheppard, Laura Davidson, Cindy Aiello in for Caley Boyden, Ron Cooley.

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Dean Pidcock, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS, Lenny Eliason, Scott Owen, Shannon Miller-CEOs, Mendra Hupp, Teresa Garey, Eric Leach-Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Theresa Lavender-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Erin Bowald-Hocking College Aspire, Kate Lindsey, OWD; Cheryl Boley-Perry JFS Executive Director; David Hansen, Perry OMJ.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person at The OU Inn and Conference Center on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A quorum was present with 12 of 19 Board members present.

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

**Meeting Minutes (May 11th, 2022) were presented for approval.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – David Brennan; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Laura Davidson**

**Motion carried without opposition.**

**Agenda (August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022) was presented for approval.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Circle; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Steven Carson**

**Motion carried without opposition.**

#### Introductions:

Rob welcomed guest speaker Eric Leach is the Director of Project Management for the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation for the State of Ohio.

- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**
- ***Athens County*** – Dean Pidcock
  - Athens OMJ purchased virtual reality headsets from Transfer VR that can show different trainings on career paths to be used in the local schools. They purchased 5 headsets.
  - Athens OMJ purchases an assessment tool called Acumax to help people identify career pathways for those that might not know what they are struggling to find a pathway.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 3<sup>rd</sup> year ASPIRE grant cycle and had their adult graduation in July.
  - OMJ ESC will be hosting career workshops for the public on resume writing, interviewing and job search strategies starting at the end of September.
  - Dean will be attending the meeting with other OMJ supervisors to collaborate on manufacturing in Newark on 8/11 and will be speaking at the Workforce and Talent Workshop on 8/24.
  - Glouster Community Day of Hope was attending by the OMJ and Shawn Stover from Re-Entry was on the committee. The OMJ had an elder abuse awareness day.
  - The Athens OMJ is assisting with car repairs for TANF eligible households up to \$1000.
  - Athens Backpack program served roughly 700 students and families.
- ***Meigs County*** – Theresa Lavender

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- The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center will be hosting a job fair on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> which is open to area employers.
  - Summer youth employment ended last week. They only had 1 participant leave early. It was a successful program again this year.
  - They served 350 students with their backpack giveaway this year.
  - The Meigs OMJ will be at the Meigs County Fair next week doing outreach.
  - They have been working through the benefit bridge pilot project with Buckeye Hills Career center and are starting adult career programs at Meigs high school that have been very beneficial. They are working on making this program self-sustaining in case this is not funded next time as this has been proved to be very helpful to participants. Through the program they are supporting a dean of expansion at Buckeye Hills-Alan Keiger who is at Meigs High School. They added welding, medical office, phlebotomy, and have talked about doing fiber optic as adult programs.
  - Entered a contract with Southern and Eastern using CCMEP funds to provide career navigators in schools to help kids explore career pathways on a general level, but navigators will refer kids to the OMJ for one-on-one assistance as needed.
  - Aspire is in their OMJ 3 days a week for GED prep. Five people graduated this year so far.
  - Their employment service counselor is going out to Middleport and more remote parts of the county to do job development, job search with people one day a week.
- **Perry County** – David Hansen
    - Perry's 13<sup>th</sup> Back to School bash is today. They hope to serve around 500 participants.
    - Their summer youth program went very well. Next year they hope to serve more young people possibly up to 250 and expand to more businesses. They would like to connect it with their transportation, so the participants have transportation to and from work.
    - They have joined the Central Ohio Manufacturers (COMP) in hopes of getting some insight into Intel and help fill the educational gaps potential employees might need to have to get hired.
    - David will be meeting with C-Tech in Newark tomorrow.
    - The Perry RV will be at the Perry County Fair all week.
    - Their new Opportunity Center has broken ground and they would love to host next years in-person August meeting.

**Fiscal Report** – Mendra Hupp had to leave unexpectedly so Director McKnight presented

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

Opioid Grant 3 was extended to March 2022. This ended and liquidated 3/31/2022. Area 14 was given two separate awards totaling \$518,202.91. The Area spent most of this funding and only returned about \$129,000 back to ODJFS.

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 county requested and received additional funding for supportive services for their student monitors.

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A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The first increment was received totaling \$282,612 and has been sent to the counties. Meigs received an additional \$11,265 for their purchase of a Zen Booth. This brings the total amount of funding under this grant to \$439,465.

RESEA grants. PY20 the Area received a total of \$138,946.33 which were 100% spent. So far for PY21, the Area initially received \$38,445.77 and has spent 100%. Area then requested and 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 expend it all and may need to request additional. Director McKnight mentioned that there are some changes at the RESEA level, and their funding methods might be changed to allow us to request enough funding to hire one person at the Area level who could oversee the program for all three counties.

Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of \$260K. Participant funding was \$216K. with an additional \$52K in WIOA 3<sup>rd</sup> year special projects funding for RMS costs. The RMS funds have closed and we spent \$29,546.37 but they are still completing close out so this might change. There does look to be some that will be returned to OWD. The schools also received funding with Tri County Career Center being the only that has used the funds so far.

The Perry and Associates audit is finished.

ODJFS External Audit has begun for PY2021 WIOA/CCMEP/TANF/Opioid 3 grants. We are nearing the final states of this audit/review.

State Audit is going on now and is expected for costs not to exceed \$8200.

Local monitoring will be taking place come the fall with Sharon Parry-Real Workforce Solutions depending on how the ARIES system advances.

Finally, WIOA allocation have been received. Other funds won't come until October. Area will be sending funds back to OWD. That amount is not clear yet as close out end September 30<sup>th</sup>. However, as an Area we did take on additional fund the prior year from our regional partners and this put us ahead. Traffic to the centers and funding is increasing, but this likely is what caused us to have to return some funds this year. We received less again this year and are working to increase capacity in our youth programs so this should not be an issue for this program year.

#### **Director McKnight:**

#### **MOU and Board Certifications:**

MOU has been signed by all parties and is good for one year. The board has been re-certified for two years through 8/2024.

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#### **Policy Updates:**

CEO's voted present to the board to up the cap on the ITA funding to \$25,000/yr and the supportive services cap to \$10,000/yr to allow for more flexibility for in providing stackable credentials, and the increase in the cost of both tuition and the cost of living. In the policy mockup provided in the folder, there was an oversight section in both the ITA and the SS policies. Commissioner Eliason suggested during the CEO meeting that this be written as its own separate policy so that if modifications need made in the future, it only needs to be done once.

Finally, the OJT policy needs to be changed to address the minimum wage increase as the current policy is below minimum wage.

Laura Davidson suggested that using the language that the policy states it will go to the nearest dollar above the current minimum wage of the calendar year that the OJT is being provided in since that is set every January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Director McKnight requested that the board allow for her to make these changes and present to the executive committee for full approval. The board agreed.

#### **Workforce and Talent Workshop:**

Area 14 holding a Workforce and Talent Workshop on August 24 from 8:30 to 3pm in partnership with the Athens Co. Economic Development, Athens Chamber of Commerce, the Innovation Center and Ohio SE. First part of the day will be offering businesses free assistance that is available throughout the county and all 3 counties along with training centers. The second half will be a facilitated discussion with businesses on their pain points in workforce to help come up with solutions and take aways that can be looked at to assist our area.

#### **Apprenticeship Update:**

The second year of the program is starting. Signed 3 apprentices. OMJs have been asked to reach back out to the schools once schools start and talk with seniors.

Ohio Workforce Association did not get their pre-apprenticeship grant they applied for through DOL so funding once this grant ends may be difficult, but the hope is the businesses see the value and will continue to support the program.

Director McKnight will be presenting the signing day on the ODJFS director's bi-weekly meeting at the end of August.

#### **Performance Reports:**

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Third quarter unadjusted performance report is enclosed. Area continues to perform well.

ARIES has presented a concern about future performance measures. OWA submitted a letter to ODJFS Director Damschroder and OWD Director Brannigan expressing their concerns over future performance due to faults in the ARIES system and the change over from OWCMS. Director McKnight continues to tell the OMJ supervisors and case managers to report issues but to focus on the participant, keep track of the errors, and case note issues. If there are discrepancies when reporting comes out, the case managers can provide the actual numbers if ARIES is still having faults so that the board can review both the state report and the local findings to get a true sense of where performance lies.

#### **Unemployment Update:**

Unemployment numbers continue to decrease/ Labor force participation is holding steady.

#### **OMJ Reports:**

Athens and Meigs helped 40 universal customers coming in to the OMJ centers this past quarter to find jobs. All 3 counties helped 109 of our enrolled customers find jobs this quarter. There were several onsite hiring events with good numbers of participants.

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

#### **Other Business**

- No other business

**Motion to Adjourn at 11:37 AM**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Circle**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Stephen Carson**

**Motion carried without opposition**