

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Executive Meeting Minutes

8/11/2021

Board Members Present: David Brennan, Stephen Carson, Jeff Circle, Kate Perani sitting in for Mollie Fitzgerald, Jennifer Kleski, Robert Ogden, Brent Patterson, Scott Fisher sitting in for Jessica Stroh, Patti Smith

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Teresa Garey, ODJFS Area 14 Workforce Specialist; Shelly Adams, Meigs OMJ; Jean Demosky, Athens JFS; Dean Pidcock, Athens OMJ; Cheryl Boley, Perry JFS; David Hansen, Perry OMJ; Mendra Hupp, Perry JFS/Area 14 Fiscal; Lenny Eliason, Athens Commissioner; George Arnott-GMCAA; Sara Morris-GMCAA Bryn Stepp-Lt Gov Office; Tami Collins-Athens JFS; Theresa Lavender-Assistant Director Meigs JFS; Kristy Amy-Future Plans

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person on August 11th, 2021. A quorum was not present with only 9 of 19 Board members present. Nothing was voted on, but the meeting was held for informational purposes.

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

Introductions:

- Rob Ogden welcomed Sara Morris and George Arnott - final report from the OH-32 flood grant in Meigs County.
- Rob welcomed our 2nd speaker Kristy Amy -overview of the GRIT project that they hope to pilot in Athens County.

County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:

- **Athens County** – Dean Pidcock
 - Their Backpack program served 800 children. Food boxes were also distributed.
 - July 29th will be the community day of hope that was organized by Athens Hope and the Re-Entry Coordinator to help serve people in recovery and promote healthy living.
 - Summer Youth program through HAPCAP has 35 participants. They are 10-15 days out.
- **Meigs County** – Shelly Adams
 - The Meigs OhioMeansJobs Center has seen an increase in traffic both in person and virtually.
 - They helped with a job fair with the Meigs Chamber and Rio Grande. They had 21 employers and 26 job seekers. Business all had 2-3 good applicants.
 - They did their back-to-school giveaway and distributed back packs to 700-800 kids.
 - Summer employment numbers are down.
 - Adult diploma and Aspire programs are doing well.
- **Perry County** – David Hansen
 - Perry's Back to School Bash is today and is projected to serve 650 or more students. They are offering a vaccination clinic as well.
 - Summer youth numbers are down for them as well but they are offering both an in person and hybrid option.

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- The ESC of Central Ohio is looking at essential skills for jobs and wanting jobs that get national exposure. They are working also with Matt Sheridan, the superintendent at Mid East, to see what they can do to expand these options.
- They are using their dislocated worker funds to support their mobile clinic going out into communities to get people engaged and knowledgeable about the opportunities the job center has to offer.
- The workforce numbers on Ohio's LMI site are showing the same number of people participating in the workforce as there were back in February of 2020.
- Board Co-Chair Brennan commended their use of the mobile clinics and said the worker shortage is hitting all segments. He feels this is also due to the opioid crisis and the increase in opioid use since the pandemic started.

Fiscal Report – Mendra Hupp

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

OH-32:

OH 32 has ended and liquidated. With additional funds received, Area 14 and the contracted agencies were granted a total of \$2,198,762.86 all but \$154,882.64 was spent. This amount was returned to OWD. Director McKnight communicated this with OWD so this could be used for close out for any other areas as they completed their programs.

Opioid Grant:

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.

Covid Grant:

Covid-19 grant funds which end 6/2022 we are continuing to spend at a fair rate and expect to spend more once training needs increase.

BRN Funds:

Business Outreach funds have been extended to December 31, 2021. Money has continued to be spent and will be spent by the end of that time period.

RESEA Funds:

RESEA grants. Each county received \$7399.54 and all that money has been spent. Additional funds were requested by the Area and after June quarter closed, we received \$65,931.46 to cover expenses already incurred. We will continue to work with OWD on this as even though our allocation increased, and there should not be many more trainings, we will likely expend the funds we were allocated for this program year.

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Perry and Associates has started their audit for calendar year 2020. Working on initial questionnaire. Cost expected to remain under \$10k.

Our WIOA allocations for this new program year have been reduced due to an increased number of counties having high unemployment rates and this being one of the factors in allocation funding to areas.

Director McKnight:

Executive Committee Updates:

None

Regional Plan:

Regional plan has been approved by the Office of Workforce Development. The approval letter is in the folder. As a region, we will look to do a broader scope of work in the next 2-4 years so that we can better address both the business and workforce needs for our region as we recover from the pandemic.

Apprenticeship Update:

Area 14 has finally become the sponsor of record for the Auto Body and Auto Tech programs with ApprenticeOhio. The curriculum for both TCCC and Meigs Career center was also approved for their pre-apprenticeship programs. We will continue to work on expanding this and adding additional programs in the years to come. The Area applied for and did not get the Pre-Apprenticeship grant. Director McKnight approached OWD on this and has a meeting scheduled on August 16th to discuss this further. We have not been told what Areas did get the grant.

Meigs and TCCC were both approved for their pre-apprenticeship operating plans and curriculum.

Fiber Optics Update:

Some additional updates, Director McKnight has been working with TCCC and the Office of Workforce Transformation to get their fiber optics training certified. This has been a very collaborative effort and hopefully by September, the program will be up and running and it should be offered at no cost either through WIOA funds or grants funds offered through the OWT.

Center Certifications:

Both Athens and Perry OMJ's will need to be re-certified due to their moves. Director McKnight asked for a volunteer from the board to assist in the Athens OMJ certification as Melissa Shepard has already volunteered to do the Perry OMJ. Jeff Circle volunteered for Athens.

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Director McKnight hopes to have all the certifications completed and ready for presentation at the November board meeting.

Policy Changes

- The biggest policy update is the our Area board will need to come up with a written policy on how to have our Area meetings both board and CEO. OWD will be coming out either with guidance or a policy stating that Boards need to have an established policy on this.

Discussion was held on what the CEO's and the JFS directors felt would be best with the idea of presenting to the board that February, May and November meetings be a hybrid event for those who want to join virtually and then being offered an in person place. Director McKnight will look into holding the in person meeting location at the Innovation Center with the ability to use their video equipment and if not, Athens OMJ conference room. The August meeting should be held in person due to this being the beginning of a new fiscal program year and there are many updates that might need addressed. Board members agreed this would be a good option. Director McKnight will write up a policy to reflect this and make sure to include the HB language/guidance. She will send it to executive committee for a vote prior to the November meeting so that meeting might be able to be hybrid.

- OWD was granted the waiver on Incumbent Worker Training to allow up to 50% of adult and dislocated funding until June 2022. Normally this is capped at 20%. Athens is the only county that has done any IWT with employers. They are not in favor of changing this as they would rather focus more on training people who are not employed or under employed. So we will not look at doing a policy update or change unless this changes.

Unemployment Update:

Unemployment numbers continue to hold steady. Director McKnight is encouraging employers to be proactive in their recruitment by raising wages, offering signing bonuses, remote work opportunities, creating career pathways within their organization and presenting those during the interview so people know they have the ability to move up if they work hard. We will continue to work on opportunities for employers to get informed on good hiring practices to attract workers.

Attached Documents

- **Unadjusted Performance Measures for PY20 QTR 4** for both WIOA and CCMEP
 - Area is doing well per the adjusted report that came out this week.
- **OhioMeansJobs Quarterly Reports**

Two of our OMJ's doubled the amount of on-site or virtual customers. All three saw an increase. All three had an increase in the number of resumes. Participant training is holding steady, but usually this is when they drop so that is a good sign as well.

The quarterly reports have added a number of categories so the OMJ's can track the universal customer and how many of those we are helping to get jobs without putting them into training. We are

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also now tracking the hiring events being offered both in person and virtual so that at toward the end of the contract with Premier Virtual, we can see if it was a worthwhile return on investment or not.

- Job Postings for our Area the reports show that there are plenty of jobs out there. This is a job seekers market right now. Also include time are the job posting for the State of Ohio as a whole.

Other Business

- None

Motion to Adjourn at 11:45 AM

1st – Kate Perani; 2nd – Scott Fisher

Motion carried without opposition

Next meeting November 11th, Virtually

DRAFT