

Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting Minutes

8/9/2023

Board Members Present: Stephen Carson, Mollie Fitzgerald, Medea Loibl, Rob Ogden, Jeff Circle, Jessica Stroh, Jennifer Kleski, Laura Davidson, Dave Hannum, Buddy Malone, Ron Cooley, Brent Patterson, and Caley Boyden.

Guests Present: Laurie Gribble-McKnight, Area 14 Director; Shawn Stover, Athens OMJ; Tami Collins-Athens JFS, Mendra Hupp-Area Fiscal, Joe Frazier-Athens OMJ, Theresa Lavender-Meigs JFS Executive Director, Shelly Adams-Meigs OMJ, Jean Demosky-Athens JFS Executive Director, Mike Bump-Athens JFS Fiscal, Cheryl Boley-Perry JFS Executive Director; David Hansen, Perry OMJ, Scott France-OWD, Sam Davidson-OWD, and Commissioners Owen.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board met in person at the OU Inn in Athens, Ohio on August 9th, 2023. A quorum was present with 13 of 19 Board members present.

Chairman Robert Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM. Laurie McKnight took attendance.

Meeting Minutes (May 3rd, 2022) were presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Stephen Carson

Motion carried without opposition.

Agenda (August 9th, 2023) was presented for approval.

1st – Jeff Circle; 2nd – Carson

Motion carried without opposition.

Speaker: Scott France with Office Of Workforce Development/State of Ohio

- **County OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**
- ***Athens County*** – Shawn Stover
 - Aspire Program had 16 graduates this year. Their largest ever.
 - New employment counselor has been hired and a new WIOA coordinator starts next week.
 - Shawn shared a few success stories about the Fresh Start and Serenity Grove.
 - Joe Frazier spoke about their 6 hiring events that had 62 participants. Employers are happy. They have assisted 6 local employers with upskilling staff and had 5 OJTs.
 - Tami Collins shared that they have weekly hiring events every Wednesday at the Athens OMJ
- ***Meigs County*** – Shelly Adams
 - The Meigs OhioMeansJobs mobile unit ribbon cutting ceremony was last week.
 - They hold Workforce Wednesday events with the mobile unit and that will be out on the road today. They will be at Integrated Services today.
 - Mobile Unit will be attending all 3 school district open houses.
 - Her and Nancy will be presenting at the OWA conference on the mobile unit and what it will mean for their county.
 - Their new kiosk is up and running. Their new website should be up and running soon.
 - Their first apprentice is now a journey person and is making a base wage of \$22/hr. Porter is now reporting that their employment needs are being met.

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- **Perry County** – David Hansen
 - Working hard on engaging the public and educating them on the services available through the JFS and OMJ.
 - Their opportunity center is set to open in September.
 - Road to Intel campaign is going well.
 - Summer youth program participants are doing a work plus concept where they are busing the kids to local employers to show jobs that are available.

Fiscal Report – Mendra Hupp

Mendra handed 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. Area received an adjustment of \$70,000 to cover expenditures until the 2nd increment was received. There is \$130K remaining with the 3rd round. Meigs is predicting they will not spend all of there's so money will be moved around within the Area as Perry has spent most of theirs and is in need of more.

Second round of Business Outreach funds were extended to liquidate until Sept 20, 2023 for any funding spent by June 30th, 2023. Area deobligated \$16,385. \$423,080 was spent. There is a new round of BRN funds for SFP24 that the Area requested \$245K and was awarded \$167,450. Athens has already begun spending.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023. Area spent so far 73.9% of those funds totaling \$427,196.40. Remaining balance of \$150,602.60.

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 \$143,161.77. PY22 we received \$38,144. All admin will be moved to program and then we will be 100% spent. RESEA for PY23 was awarded a total of \$38,036.85 and is nearly spent as well. Once admin is moved to program, Area will request additional RESEA funding.

Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of about \$260K. Participant funding was \$223K. Stipends for students were increased to \$11/hr since minimum wage increased. We did this to maximize the funding we have, but overall it is still budgeted within the original amount. Area was told this has been extended, but it is not showing in CFIS so this will need to be asked to OWD on status.

3rd year funding ends in June and liquidates by Sept. Perry received an additional \$10K. These funds are to be used to upgrade the resource room of the OMJs which is where participants go to get online for job search and applying for jobs. The Area also received Float funds of \$25,000 which gave us a total of \$154,964.18K was received by the Area for these upgrades. An additional \$137,176 was received to offset the loss of PY24 funding. These have been sent out to the counties and moved around and are nearly all spent. Should be 100% by September closing. Area will request that the \$25K float funds be kept and not returned to OWD.

All program monitoring has been completed and we are just awaiting the final reports from ODJFS.

ODJFS fiscal monitoring is taking place currently. HINKLE financials were due by 5/31/23. Audit notification for calendar year 2022 is in progress now as well.

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Director McKnight:

Executive Committee Update:

CEO's voted to approve the use of funds to pay for the Area Director, Fiscal lead each JFS director and one staff member to be part of the NAWDP. Athens OMJ is already a member so Director McKnight requested that Terri Ingles with Meigs OMJ be designated the 8th member of the Area for this group as she is new to the workforce world and the CEOs approved this at their meeting.

Broadband/5G Grant

1.2M officially award. We will be receiving the funding once the subgrant agreement is officially re-signed. Area and Fiscal will develop and RFP to get someone hired to be the broadband coordinator for our area. This person will be responsible for organizing the process with Areas and OMJs in our region along with overseeing billing with Hocking and TCCC, eligibility of participants, working with broadband businesses to do hiring events, advertising of trainings and hiring events and more.

Board Name

During our monthly meeting with the JFS directors and Director McKnight it was suggested that we change the name of the Area 14 WDB so that the counties are more recognizable in the name. Suggested name is AMP Workforce Board with AMP standing for Athens, Meigs and Perry. Director McKnight will email out the logo designs to get board input and there will be a vote at the meeting in November.

Grant Updates

Covid grant has ended. All mobile units were purchased. Meigs had their ribbon cutting of their unit on August 2nd and it is on the road.

Fresh Start grant continues. We will look to see how we can continue to support people with funding as it will end and liquidate in March of 2024 so we will need to begin close out in February.

Athens received an additional \$100K being split between renovating their mobile unit and then \$50K for a vehicle for their OMJ to transport OMJ participants for employment related things like interviews, hiring events, getting to the OMJ or back home, etc. State has requested that we keep track of the uses of the mobile units, number of participants, resumes, etc as well as for Athens to track the uses of their vehicle to see the ROI.

Unemployment Information:

Unemployment information is included in your packet as well. Ohio's unemployment rate decreased to 3.4% from 3.8% Nationally the rate is 3.6%. Unemployment went up in June for Athens to 5.2%, Meigs went down to 5.3% and Perry went down to 3.8%.

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Director McKnight asked the OMJs to keep an eye out for any reports of layoffs at any company big or small so that we can make sure our State Worker John Bateman gets that information and enters it into the state system as this does affect our funding amounts if we cannot show that we don't have any layoffs. Since April of 2023 only one has been reported for Athens and that is Rite Aide on the Plains thanks to one of our OMJ employees letting John know. For Meigs and Perry, there has been nothing entered into the system since May of 2020. Unfortunately, these small layoffs or small business closures don't get reported automatically. It's word of mouth from our local people. This isn't just for future funding though it can also help us with outreach and advertising to make sure we are helping those that might need training or job search assistance. I'd just ask that anyone on the board let me know or the OMJs know if they hear of anything as well.

Performance Report:

Our performance reports are included in your packets. The OMJs continue to do a great job and are working super hard to get things into the new ARIES system and work through the bugs. Their caseloads are rising as we are seeing more and more people coming into the centers for trainings.

OMJ Reports:

OMJ reports are included in the board folder for this quarter. All centers are reporting increased activity in the centers.

Also included in the folder are the state and the area top job postings for March, April, May and June.

Other Business

- Reminder that board members need to complete the survey sent out by the Auditor of State.
- Board Member Patterson said Advance Manufacturing and post-secondary providers have or are working to have engineering and technical programs. Rio Grande has stackable certifications. The College of Engineering at OU has the ASCENT grant through Intel-Chris Quolke has been hired and he would be available to speak at the next meeting. Director McKnight will invite him to come to the November meeting.
- Board Member Loibl shared that their Aspire program is looking at certifications in manufacturing as well. They have been over their measurements for enrollment and skills gains. They had 230 students in a variety of their programs. They are doing well with their CDA and working hard to help employers with upskilling they need.

Motion to Adjourn at 11:53 AM

1st – Stephen Carson

2nd – Jeff Circle

Motion carried without opposition.