



**The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 9th day of August 2023, in person at the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center.**

- 1. Commissioner Owen opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance, Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason, Commissioner Scott Owen of Perry and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:05am. Commissioner Owen made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 3rd, 2023, meeting, and Commissioner Eliason seconded. All were in favor. Commissioner Owen made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All were in favor.**

Also, in attendance were Athens County JFS Director Jean Demosky, Perry County JFS Executive Director Cheryl Boley, Area 14 Fiscal Agent/Perry County JFS Assistant Director Mendra Hupp, Athens County Fiscal Tracy Partee, Meigs OMJ Supervisor Shelly Adams.

### **1. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> increment was received. There is \$130K remaining with the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

There were discussions around the pre-apprenticeship funding and how that was allocated. Second discussion on WIOA budgets and continued cuts to WIOA funding.

## **2. 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 8<sup>th</sup> member of the Area for this group as she is new to the workforce world.

**Commissioner Eliason made a motion to add Terri Ingles as the 8th. Commissioner Owen seconded. All were in favor.**

## **3. Board Name-Director McKnight:**

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.

**Commissioner Miller made a motion to present it to the board for full approval. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All were in favor.**

In addition to this, the Department of Development has decided to change the OMJ logo. Nothing has been presented yet and we have not been included in the discussion on changes as of yet. Cost will be a lot. Discussion will revolve around if funding will be provided and if not, if we will be mandated to change. Board logo and branding is not involved in this as the board is separate from the OMJs so anything we decide to change/design does not have to be within their guidelines.

## **4. Broadband/5G Grant-Director McKnight:**

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.

**5. Apprenticeship Update-Director McKnight**

We officially have our first completer of the full apprenticeship. He will be receiving his journeyman certification and has been employed with Mark Porter since graduating high school last year. He is making \$22/hr.

**6. Policy Update-Director McKnight**

No new policies out right now. Lots are being developed.

**7. Grants Update-Director McKnight**

Covid grant has ended. All mobile units were purchased. Meigs had their ribbon cutting of their unit on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**8. Unemployment- Director McKnight**

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%.

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.

**9. Performance Reports-Director McKnight**

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.

**10. Other Business:**

Subgrant agreement between Area 14 and ODJFS for this year funding was presented to the CEO’s for review and signature. A resolution was made by Commissioner Owen to accept and agree to approve the subgrant and the CCMEP/WIOA co-funding. This was seconded by Commissioner Eliason. All were in favor.

**Commissioner Miller made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Elaison seconded. All were in favor.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:52am.**