



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 10th day of November 2021, both in person at the OU Innovation Center and virtually via Zoom.

- 1. Commissioner Owen opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance of Perry County Commissioner, Scott Owen via Zoom and Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason in-person and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County via Zoom. The meeting commenced at 9:00am. Commissioner Owen made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11th, 2021, meeting and Commissioner Miller 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 Executive Director Jean Demosky, Meigs County JFS Executive Director Shank, Meigs County Assistant Director Theresa Lavender, Area 14 Fiscal Agent/Perry County JFS Assistant Director Mendra Hupp, Athens County Assistant CFO Mike Bump, Meigs County CFO Vince Reiber, and Meigs OMJ Supervisor, Shelly Adams.

1. Executive Committee Update-Director McKnight presented:

Meeting policy-the board voted and approved the board meeting policy to allow for virtual meetings with an in-person location for people wanting/needing to attend in-person and then making August's meeting an in-person event to go over the yearly financials and budget. Commissioner Owen, David Brennan and Kate Perani voted yes. Director Boley and Chair Ogden did not vote.

Roll call is a consensus vote with anyone opposing needing to state their name for the record. Everyone who entered from the board and stated their name, they will be counted as a yea.

Vote and approved \$1500 out of set aside under the BRN grant for advertising on the Fall 2021 Job Fair at Hocking College. Spent about \$1300 of the \$1500. Over 85 businesses and 30 public and 200 students attending.

2. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

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

FY21 Federal Funds for Adult and DW that are allocated to start 10/2021 are not included as they were not receive as of the meeting date.

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. All counties and fiscal are aware.

Business Outreach funds have been extended to December 31, 2021. Unspent Admin funds will be divided 50/50 between Athens and Perry. Meigs did not need any additional funds at this time.

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. \$24,000 in additional funding was requested for a total of \$116,000. This total will be spent by the December. We will continue to work with OWD and request additional funding as needed.

The Perry and Associates audit should have been completed; however, the auditor left the agency. This has put on final audit on a delay. Perry and Associates stated this is not a problem. Cost expected to remain under \$10k, but was unable to be invoiced for FY20.

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. We are projected to serve 40 participants in a 2-year span. Subgrants to the county career centers for \$37K are being sent out for signatures based on the original grant application.

Close out for PY20-Area has sent back 18% of it's youth funds, 5% of adult funding and 4.1% of dislocated worker funds back to the State for a total of \$280,000. Serving youth proved to be very difficult during the pandemic, but we hope to do better this year. All counties worked together to move funding around and spend as much of these funds prior to having to return.

3. OMJ Center Certification:

Perry's Phase 1 certification went well. It was on site and the committee consisted of Rob Ogden, Dean Pidcock and Director McKnight. The Perry OMJ provided a great overview of the center.

Athens Completed both their Phase 1 and Phase 2 certification as well. It was also onsite with the committee consisting of Jeff Circle, David Hansen and Director McKnight Athens OMJ provided an in depth look of their center and practices. In Phase 2, Athens scored a 73.5 out of a possible 78.

Motion made by Commissioner Eliason and seconded by Commissioner Miller to present to the board for vote and approval of Perry's Phase 1 and Athens Phase 1 and 2.

4. Apprenticeship-Director McKnight:

Area received \$260,427.50 from ApprenticeOhio and \$50,000 in additional WIOA funds for the OMJ staff to deliver the services.

We were the first Area of the 4 that were approved for this HUB grant that have received our certificate of recognition and have completed and have had approved our operating plan.

We are working on getting Mid East Career Center signed on and approved for their auto body, tech and diesel programs. We will then begin to look at businesses in Perry County needing this help.

Since we started this fall, we have added on Don Wood, Hugh White, InTown Body Shop, Kelly's Body Shop, Ray's Body Shop and Hocking Hills Collision.

We have a total of 12 students enrolled in the program. Since there are no requirements as far as income, every student who wants to participate and is doing well in school, is accepted into the program. For those students who might not have the grades or attendance needed, we have told them if they work hard this first half of the school year, we will look at them to see if they qualify in the second half.

5. WIOA Updates:

There will be a 2nd round of BRN funding that the Area has the opportunity to apply for by December 3rd. Director McKnight sent the information out to the counties and requested they look at what they would like to do with the funds this time and come up with costs proposals and a summary of their plan and submit by December 1st. Dir McKnight will combine the plans to submit to OWD.

6. Policy Updates:

The training services policy needed to be updated to reflect the ability of the OMJ's to use things such as grade cards, ACT/SAT scores and other nationally recognized test scores as part of the determination for eligibility if those are within the last 6 months. Director McKnight discussed this with OWD policy and they advise that even though it says equivalent, it would be best to define it. Highlighted on the policy are the changes. There are also some word changes as we will switching case management systems so all the policies will need to be changed to reflect this as well.

Director McKnight also would like to request from the board allowing the language change from OWCMS to the online case management system on all policies that contain this language so that we are up to date.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to approve presenting both language changes above to the board. Commissioner Miller seconded.

7. Unemployment Update:

Per Director Damshrouder, UI claims are now back down to pre-pandemic levels. Included in the folder the report from the week ending 10/23/21 showing the steady decline of claims since September.

8. Performance Measures:

The counties have done extremely well on their unadjusted performance reports for both WIOA and CCMEP. The adjusted annual report will be out around April which I believe will only improve our measures since this takes into account the amount of people that we serve with barriers. In our area, there are many barriers to employment that we have to work through so congratulations to our case managers.

The OMJ's are continuing to see increased traffic in the centers, and we expect this to continue.

With no further business, Commissioner Miller made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eliason seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:22am.