



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 10th day of November, 2020, via Google Meet due to Covid-19.

- 1. Commissioner Smith opened the meeting and a quorum was established with the attendance of Perry County Commissioner, Jim O'Brien and Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Commissioner Smith of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:02am. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from August 12th, 2020 meetings and Commissioner O'Brien seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Eliason made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. O'Brien seconded. All were in favor.**

Also, in attendance via video or phone were Athens County JFS Executive Director Jean Demosky, Meigs County Executive Director Chris Shank, Perry County Executive Director Cheryl Boley, Area 14 Fiscal Agent/Perry County JFS Assistant Director Mendra Hupp, Meigs County CFO Vince Reiber, Athens County Fiscal-Tracy Helber, and Meigs OMJ Supervisor, Theresa Lavender.

Director McKnight opened the meeting by thanking Commissioners Smith and O'Brien for their services as CEO's to the board. This will be their last meeting.

2. Executive Committee Update-Director McKnight presented:

Meigs Flood Grant received additional funding in the amount of \$50,000 that would allow them to operate until close to the end of November. The executive committee voted and approved this. This grant has received a verbal extension to be able to operate until June 30th, 2021. We have been offered the possibility of additional funds once another Area releases their unspent funds. Current amount is not known. Athens and Perry have already begun close down procedures and did not have the capacity to extend their program. Meigs has indicated their willingness and need to accept the funding and continue the program.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approved Director McKnight extending the contract and receiving the additional funds on behalf of the board. Com. O'Brien seconded and the motion carried.

DOL did a virtual monitor event of the Meigs Flood Grant program along with Gallia County's Area 7. There were no findings or areas of concern. The letter was included in the CEO folder.

3. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

Mendra emailed out the fiscal update report.

OWIP will end March 31st, 2021 and then will not be renewed. There have been a few placements in May and some payouts. No new participants can be entered after June 30th, 2020. Athens had 5 additional placements prior

to the deadline.

OH 32 will be closing out in Athens and Perry counties. Final numbers will be reported out. There was an increase to \$1,931,762.86 in total including administrative money for all 3 counties. There will be a redistribution of funds, but there is no guarantee. DOL just approved the extension to June 30th, 2021. In October, Area 14 did receive additional funds of \$50,000 for GMCA. Contract will be amended to extend the timeline for Meigs. Athens and Perry are in the closing phases of the program.

Opioid Grant 3 expires March 2021. Area 14 is working hard to get the money spent. 24% spent of the overall allocation with the additional funding. We did deobligate some funds back to OWD until the next increment is received from DOL. Once received, Area 14 will be made whole.

OhioMeansJobs centers were given money for center improvements. All the money has been spent by the deadline.

Business Outreach funds were received. Each county will receive \$60,000 and the Area will keep \$20,000 for use. No money has been spent yet. Athens will be looking to spend some in the October/November timeframe.

Rapid Response funds that have been provided to RXQ are pending. September 30th was the end. We are in close out and RXQ will need to submit final invoices. Director McKnight has been working with them to get this completed by the deadline and so we can receive our next increment.

Initial information has been sent to Perry and Associates to begin this year's audit. Area 14 has chosen to waive the exit conference. CEO's and Board should get the final report at the February meetings.

PY2020 fiscal audit with ODJFS is occurring now.

4. Additional Funds-Director McKnight:

Area 14 did not get the WORC grant that was applied for.

In addition to that, OWD has asked if the Area would be willing to take on RESEA services. RESEA is Re-employment Services that was being delivered by an OWD worker out of the Athens OMJ office. The funding level through 9/2021 is \$22,198 and for the following program year 9/2022 is \$31,731. The services are required to be delivered on a more comprehensive level to a small percentage of the people on your unemployment roles. It consists of an initial appointment that would take up to 1 ½ hours and then a follow up appointment that would be anywhere between 15-30 minutes.

Discussion:

Mendra-The counties could split the funding amounting to about \$7400 per county to be spent by 9/2021 and \$10,577 for each county for the next program year.

Chery-Total amount is not enough for one full time worker in any county.

Mendra-The county JFS' have the option to absorb some of the costs.

Com. Eliason-asked what Dir. McKnight would recommend.

Dir. McKnight-It would be nice to have this service in all three counties so that participants received the more hands on approach to re-employment although it is already being done, just not recorded in the State system.

Mendra-It can be operated like this for one year, and we would have the ability to look at it again next if it was not working for one or more of the counties.

Com. Eliason made a motion to approved the division of funds evenly between the three counties for the counties to deliver RESEA services. Com. O'Brien seconded. All were in favor.

The current law allowing virtual CEO and Board meetings is set to expire with the State of Emergency in December. Director McKnight does look for this to possibly be extended, but in preparation for it not to be, she has reach out to the OU Inn to get our contracts set up for the dates for 2021. It appears they have changed their contracts so that now any cancellation from the date of signing the contract to 90 days before may result in a 60% charge of the total bill. 90-10 days prior would result in 90% and anything 10 days or less would be 95% charged. There is a force majeure clause that allows for government regulations that she believes would allow us to cancel if the state of emergency and virtual meetings were to be extended, but the OU Inn has not gotten back to her yet. Director McKnight requests that she be allowed to hold off on signing the February contract until the question is answered and the approved signing the contract for the amounts listed for February if everything is in order.

Com. Eliason made a motion to allow Director McKnight to execute the contract once all the information on the virtual meetings and the contracts are received. Com. O'Brien seconded. All were in favor.

5. WIOA Policy Updates-Director McKnight:

Included in CEO folder was a revision on Use of ITA funds. The highlighted parts are what OWD has changed and is allowing for the areas to update and change. Part A is a change to providers. This will allow the Area to disallow a training center who is performing poorly even if they are approved through the State's WIET list.

The second highlight in section A is the addition of critical jobs. Critical jobs are jobs that are needed in order to support our workforce and are considered critical to health and well being of the Ohioians. An example would be childcare, social services, elementary and special ed teachers, firefighters. Childcare providers were taken off the in demand jobs list last time around and this then did not allow for us to pay for early childhood education degrees. So the addition of critical jobs to this would be highly recommended by Director McKnight.

Section D relates to the duration of an ITA. This section allows for the funding of up to 48 months that results in a bachelor's degree in a critical job field.

In section 2, Director McKnight allowed for the counties to develop a CPL that would address if they want to pay for 48 months or not. It would allow them to be as restrictive as actually identifying fields that they would pay for or how many degrees a year they would allow. She feels that by the Area developing this policy to be the least restrictive OWD will allow, this allows the counties to be flexible and adjust their CPL to reflect their own county needs based on funding and job availability.

The next section highlighted is allowing for the increased funding for the additional 2 years for the bachelor's degree. Currently the programs allow for \$10,000 per year up to \$20,000 max. This would increase it to allow for \$10,000/yr up to \$40,000 to complete your bachelors degree. It also allows for up to 4 years of registered apprenticeship as well. Some Apprenticeship programs are 1 year some go up to 4 years before your apprentice will actually make journeyman wages. Most will pay for training, but there are some private apprenticeships that do not. This will allow the OMJ's to pay for trainings for all 4 years and/or provide supportive services while apprentices are making less in wages with the hopes that they will be supported financially to continue until they become a journey person.

The next highlight is that cost must be reasonable and necessary and present a sound investment of public funds.

Section E lays out more of the definition of Critical and In demand jobs per the state's description as well as the 85% rule being each program year. So 15% of your ITA funds can be spent on non in-demand or critical jobs such as cosmetology.

Section 4 and 6 was just an update to the language that was needed due to the updated WIOA Appl and rule

number changes.

No discussion was held.

Com. Eliason voted to approve Director McKnight presenting the changes to the board. Com. O'Brien seconded. Motion carried.

6. WIOA Updates-Director McKnight:

Folder included the most up to date map of unemployment per county.

Virtual Job Fairs- Director McKnight put in Area 14's application with JobsOhio to hold our Virtual Job Fair on February 24th. The thought behind this was that this would be close to the end of unemployment for those who first applied back in March with all the additional extensions. Director McKnight expects to hear if this is approved or denied soon. She did set aside \$20,000 of our Business Outreach funds for the purchase of additional job fairs through this platform that would allow for us to offer job fairs in each county or job fairs as an Area to focus on all industries/employers who are hiring. She received word that the cost per employer booth will be \$105 and the cost per job seeker attending would be \$1.88. There would be an additional cost to hire a company like Hire Boom to set up the employers and booths, or we might be able to do this in house if we are trained in how to do this. She will be in contact with all our surrounding WDB Area's so that when they are getting ready to hold their virtual job fairs, our OMJ's can let job seekers know if our counties as well as they will be able to attend the surrounding county job fairs.

Director McKnight requested that \$3000 of that money be used for advertising for the job fair in February.

Com. Eliason made the motion to approved the \$3000 for advertising. Com. O'Brien seconded. The motion carried.

Area 14 in conjunction with Project Rise, the OMJ's and TCCC are putting on a virtual apprenticeship week during the week of November 16th-20th. We have been working on gathering videos, producing and editing videos that will be uploaded into a file and then given to the area schools in all 3 counties to watch. Lt Governor Husted has agreed to do a video for our Area and the ApprenticeOhio has also done a powerpoint video to help explain apprenticeship as well. We will then host a zoom panel on Thursday November 19th to allow for students and adults wanting to learn more about apprenticeship or who have follow up questions to attend and speak with Apprenticeship Council Heads.

Area 14's new performance standards for PY 2020 and 2021 were included in the folders.

The PY 2019 unadjusted annual performance report was enclosed in your folder. Area 14 has met or exceeded every category for Adult, Dislocated and Youth for WIOA and CCMEP. The adjusted report should be available prior to the next meeting.

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:44am.