



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 9th day of November 2022, in person at the OU Innovation Center or on Zoom.

- 1. Commissioner Owen opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance, Perry County Commissioner, Scott Owen, Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:15am. Commissioner Owen made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10th, 2022, 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, Meigs County JFS Executive Director Theresa Lavender, Area 14 Fiscal Agent/Perry County JFS Assistant Director Mendra Hupp, Athens County Fiscal Tracy Helber, Meigs OMJ Supervisor Shelly Adams.

1. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

Mendra emailed 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. The first increment of \$200,000 has been received and distributed to the counties. Meigs was not spending as quickly as the other 2 counties, so funding was re-allocated to Athens and Perry to keep their program running until the Area reaches their 80% spend. Once we request the additional funds, Meigs will be made whole.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled about \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. Meigs received an additional \$11,265 for their purchase of a Zen Booth. This brings the total amount of funding under this grant to \$439,465. Spending needs to pick up and the Area will be looking at what funds might need to be returned. The area is working with OWD to assess allocation amounts and if we are on track to spend during quarterly meetings. We must be 75% EOA by January 30th or we may have to de-obligate funds.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023. Area is looking at ways to utilize this funding as we have \$423,631.61 remaining. Perry gave up \$75,000 of their funding to Athens as they were able to use this funding for new participant training.

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 \$123,445.77. Fiscal expects that we will spend it all and may need to request additional. PY22 funding has been received totaling \$38,144. Admin will be transferred to program and divided equally for distribution to all 3 counties.

Pre-Apprenticeship Grant funds were received for a total of about \$260K. Participant funding was \$223K. with an additional \$52K in WIOA 3rd year special projects funding for RMS costs. The RMS funds spent \$41,889.67. \$10,446.61 was returned to OWD.

ODJFS External Audit finished. No administration findings, questions of costs.

State Audit is finished. Cost was \$8200. No findings.

Local monitoring has started with Sharon Parry-Real Workforce Solutions.

2. Performance Negotiations-Director McKnight

This was the year we had to do our Area 14 performance negotiations with the State office of Workforce Development. Preliminary numbers were given by OWD and Director McKnight requested to negotiate those figures. She successfully negotiated the median earnings for all of the WIOA and CCMEP categories as OWD was requesting much higher earnings that were not in line with our local median incomes. She successfully negotiated a lower attainment rate for dislocated workers from the state's proposal and a lower rate for the measurable skills gains for 3 of the 4 categories. A sheet of the new performance rates was included in the meeting folder.

3. Workforce and Talent Workshop-Director McKnight:

Workforce and Talent Workshop was held on August 24th. It was a great opportunity to hear from local businesses. Director McKnight will be following up with the facilitator to discuss next steps by the end of the year.

4. Apprenticeship Update-Director McKnight:

Athens signed on 3 adult pre-apprentices at Hocking College so far. Meigs has around 8 students looking to become pre-apprentices and we are waiting for Porter to interview and accept them. TCCC and the case managers met with seniors and applications have been turned in and review by TCCC to make sure they meet the requirements. Athens is now scheduling those students for intake appointments and will begin placements.

Director McKnight met with the Bob Boyd dealership as a student at TCCC expressed an interest in working with them. They will be signing on as an employer of record. The Perry County dealership has also expressed interest in signing on. She's asked Perry OMJ to follow up with them.

5. Policy Updates-Director McKnight

Director McKnight presented that Area 14 has chosen to limit eligibility for ITA's to 200% of the poverty level. Area 20 has recently raised that percentage and our OMJs have asked that we look at this. Included in the folder was a second sheet that shows what the rate is for 200% annually along with what that would look like at 250% and then 300% respectively.

Discussion on what the changes would mean occurred to include looking at incomes for families qualifying.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to raise eligibility to 250% for presentation and vote to the board. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor.

6. Unemployment Update:

Unemployment numbers are back to pre-pandemic levels. State has held constant at 4% for August and September. Nationally it is 3.5%. While Athens is at 4.1%, Meigs is at 5.1% and Perry is at 3.9%.

7. Performance Measures:

First yearly adjusted performance report in folder. This is the first one since using the new ARIES system and there were a lot of issues. The Ohio Workforce Association met with and discussed this issue with OWD. As a result, they issued a hold harmless letter that is included at the end of your folder. The Reports along with the unadjusted PY 21 Quarter 4 reports are included in the board folder.

As a result of the issues, OWA and OWD have formed a task force to start addressing these issues quicker. Director McKnight and Case Manager Michelle Bueno will be sitting on that task force.

8. Other Business:

State Audit did recommend that Area 14 has an official vote on Area 14 following the public records policy of Athens County since they are the employer of record for the board director.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion was had on the OhioMeansJobs websites that OWD has stated Meigs could use some of their BRN funding to do a new site that is separate from their JFS site to allow employers to better see the services for employers and how to connect with job seekers. Shelly stated that Red Tail Designs will be working with them after winning the bid. Commissioner Eliason felt that Athens should pursue this as well.

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:51am.