



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 10th day of February, 2021, via Google Meet due to Covid-19.

- 1. Director McKnight opened the meeting and a quorum was established with the attendance of Perry County Commissioner, Scott Owen and Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:04am. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4th, 2020 meeting and Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Eliason made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Miller 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, and Meigs OMJ Supervisor, Theresa Lavender.

Director McKnight opened the meeting welcoming Commissioners Owen and Miller as new CEO's to the board.

Discussion opened on appointing a new CEO chair and Co-Chair. Commissioner Owen said he would be willing to serve in this capacity. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to appoint Commissioner Owen and Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor. Commissioner Eliason offered to serve as co-chair. Commissioner Miller made the motion to appoint Commissioner Eliason and it was seconded by Commissioner Owen. All were in favor.

Director McKnight share the 2020 Annual Report with the CEOs and attendees.

1. Executive Committee Update-Director McKnight presented:

Meigs Flood Grant received additional funding twice since the last meeting. The first in November in the amount of \$60,000 and a second in December in the amount of \$141,300 which should allow them to operate until close of the grant in June of 2021. The executive committee voted and approved both.

The executive committee also voted and approved an update to the hours and weeks participants can work in our work experience policies to 8 weeks and/or 320 hours from just 4 weeks to allow our participants to get more experience on jobs and allow employers to better whom they may want to hire based on a participant's work ethic.

2. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

Mendra emailed out the fiscal update report.

OWIP will end March 31st, 2021 and then will not be renewed. There will only be incentives awarded until close of program on June 30th, 2020.

OH 32 will be closed out in Athens and Perry counties. Mendra requested that left over funds from Perry County in the amount of \$23,494.95 be given to Athens County to cover an overage of \$5179.96 in allowable expenditures and that the rest be given to Meigs to continue their program. Commissioner Eliason made the motion to allow those changes. Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed.

Meigs OH32 contract will be amended to allow for DOL's approval of the extension through June 30, 2021. The contract was also amended to allow for additional funding totaling \$201,300 granted by OWD.

Opioid Grant 3 expires March 2021. Area 14 did deobligate funding so funds could be distributed to our Area's to cover their expenditures until the next increment is received from DOL. Area 14 will be made whole once the next increment is received. We are still waiting on if DOL will be granting the extension of this grant through 3/31/2022.

Business Outreach funds were received. Each county will receive \$60,000 and the Area will keep \$20,000 for use. Each county is responsible to spend within their budget. Money is starting to be spent.

Rapid Response funds that have been provided to RXQ are completed. Funds expended and paid out through September 30, 2020 totaled \$60,716.05.

RESEA grants. Area received \$19,979.62 which was distributed to the counties equally at \$6659.87/each. There is \$2219 in administrative funds that could be divided and given to the counties resulting in an additional \$739.67/each for a total of \$7399.54 for each county to deliver these services. Commissioner Eliason made the motion to allow the admin fund disbursement. Commissioner Owen seconded. Motion passed.

Perry and Associates finished their audit for calendar year 2019. There were no findings. Cost to Perry and Associates was \$7950.

The Ohio Auditor of State completed their desk review of the audit prepared by Perry and Associates. They have accepted the reports and did not require any modifications. Cost to AOS was \$110.70.

ODJFS completed their review of the Area 14 WDB single audit for year ending 12/31/2019 based on the report from Perry and Associates. There were no administrative findings, no uncorrected previous year findings and no management letter recommendations related to programs passed through ODJFS.

Area Fiscal did receive 2 awards from the Ohio Auditor of State for Outstanding Achievement in Open and Transparent Government and the Ohio Auditor of State Award.

ODJFS audit and monitoring commenced for PY18 & PY19. Athens was selected for CCMEP, Perry for WIOA programs and fiscal. The audit has now been extended to include PY20 through 12/31/2020.

All fiscal is working hard to reallocate 1st year funds to 3rd year and 2nd year which will free up all of the 1s year funds. Perry needed \$160K. Meigs offered up some of their 3rd and 2nd year expiring funds and some administration funds that might expire will be moved to cover any additional since admin can be given to program.

3. Area Updates-Director McKnight:

McKnight's office location will be closing soon. Discussion on relocating it to the Ohio University Innovation Center. Cost is \$247 a month which includes wifi, a janitor, access to a public conference room. The first month rent and deposit would be \$494 and minus copies or possibility of needing hard wired computer, would be around \$3200/year.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to relocate the office to the Innovation Center. Commissioner Miller seconded. Motion passed.

Director McKnight feels it would be good for Area 14 to be a member of the Appalachian Ohio Manufactures' Coalition out of Marietta. They work in parts of all of our counties to connect manufacturing businesses with workforce opportunities that allow them to advance or expand their facilities. As a Government Institution the yearly fee would be \$250.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to join AOMC. Commissioner Owen seconded. Motion passed.

4. WIOA Policy Updates-Director McKnight:

There are 2 current WIOA policy memos that just came out.

1st, Director McKnight is awaiting additional clarification from our State partners on that pertains to Meaningful Assistance in the OMJ.

2nd one that allows for an increase in hours for workers under the Opioid Grant from 2040 to 4080 hours. They requested this change at the same time as requesting the extension of the DOL grant to March of 2022. We have not received word yet on the extension.

Our hopes would be to get the extension as Perry and Athens have been given the opportunity to partner with Ohio University on their HRSA grant which is an apprenticeship opportunity for both Community Health Workers and Peer Support Workers who would get free training with OU and then be placed in an Apprenticeship with our behavioral health partners. If participants are eligible for the OPIOID grant, the OMJ's would be able to pay for the wages of the first group of cohorts in this apprenticeship.

We also have the opportunity to pay for up to 26 weeks of employment for people who might qualify under the Transitional Jobs Policy that I wrote for your review today. The transitional jobs policy is somewhat like our work experience policy, however you can only use 10% of the Area's allocation, but it would allow for additional weeks along with 100% reimbursement of wages. So if a participant did not qualify under the Opioid Grant or that grant end, this would allow us to continue partnering with OU as well as partner with businesses to help our participants gain work experience where they have had little to none and the hope would be to gain experience in jobs that offer better wages. This will be presented to the board for approval at today's meeting.

5. Unemployment-Director McKnight:

Area 14, the OMJs and JobsOhio/OhioSE along with their partner HireBoom will be having our first virtual job fair in two weeks.

Director McKnight is still looking into job fair platforms and has spoken with many of her OWA colleagues and the majority have purchased their own platforms. She will do some research on this and will be working on getting 3 quotes. So far though, an American, Veteran Owned company called Premier Virtual. The other Area's have purchased this for a 1 year contract at \$13,500 which is less than Brazen and also allows you to schedule not just job fairs which would allow us to partner with training centers and colleges to offer a training fair or with businesses doing internships to do an internship fair. It would also allow each of the OMJ's to provide this service to a business who wanted it for a day event. There is no limit to how many days or hours your OMJ or the Area

uses the platform. Director McKnight has set aside funds from our business services money to cover the full \$13,500 for this allowable expense. She requested to have the CEO's permission to get the 3 quotes and proceed with contracting the best vendor.

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to allow Director McKnight to secure the appropriate vendor based on the quotes. Commissioner Owen seconded. Motion passed.

Included in the folder Governor's budget as it pertains to workforce development as well as continued small business support and Performance Measures which will be covered in the board meeting.

6. Other Business:

Commissioner Eliason-Director McKnight will be given a salary increased based on the salary schedule/study for Athens County employees along with her end of benefits to go back to the first of the year.

Mendra-Can someone send the increased amount.

Commissioner Eliason-yes

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:42am.