



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 8th day of February 2023, in person at the OU Innovation Center or on Zoom.

- 1. Commissioner Miller opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance, Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:07am. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9th, 2022, meeting, and Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Miller 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 Helber, Meigs OMJ Supervisor Shelly Adams, Kendra Wilson, Perry Fiscal.

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. The Area is on track to get additional funding.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled about \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. Everything must be spent and invoiced by the end of May. We are currently 68% EOA.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023. Area has requested and been granted to use funding toward the purchase of mobile units in all 3 counties. Budget in the folder now reflects this split. All funding must be invoiced and spent by the end of May.

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. Area received an additional \$19,716 which is not reflected in that total. Mendra is working with the county fiscal departments to see if there is any additional need and if so will request this out of PY21 funds prior to starting to use PY22 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. We have requested, but not been approved yet for Hocking College to receive a subgrant award.

3rd year funding ends and liquidates in June as well so funding needs to be invoiced and paid by the end of May. Perry will get an additional \$10K that is not in CFIS yet. 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.

2. Annual Report-Director McKnight

Director McKnight presented the 2022 Annual Report. Copy is in the meeting folder.

3. Budget Discussion-Director McKnight:

Director McKnight has completed her MPA. She has reviewed the budget and there is administrative funding that has not been utilized. She has discussed this with Commissioner Eliason in hopes of receiving an additional 6% on top of the 4% the county gave at the beginning of the year.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to increase the salary an additional 6% for combined increase in 2023 of 10%. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor.

4. May Meeting Date Change-Director McKnight:

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals is having their spring conference on May 8-12th. Our CEO and Board meeting is scheduled for 5/10. Director McKnight requested that we move the May meeting to 5/3.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to change the date of the CEO meeting to 5/3 at 9am. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All were in favor.

5. Grant Updates-Director McKnight

The Area received \$90,000 for resource room upgrades. Perry was given an additional \$10,000 which we are still waiting for. This is to upgrade the computers and desks, chairs in the resource room which is where participants come in and do job search, print applications and apply for jobs on OhioMeansJobs.com. This was awarded out of a 3rd year grant funding request.

We have unspent Covid funding that will be utilized as approved by OWD for the purchase of Mobile Units in all 3 counties specifically for OhioMeansJobs outreach such as on-site hiring events when an employer is having mass hirings, to resume assistance and job search in our more rural communities that are not typically accessible to transportation. These will all be wrapped in OMJ branding to also serve as a billboard of sorts so people start recognizing the OMJ name. Counties are to be submitting the wraps to me for approval and purchase so make sure we comply with the branding rules set forth by the state.

6. Annual Job Fair Update:

The 19th annual job fair is scheduled for April 12th. The budget has already been set aside under our requested BRN funds that end in June. It will take place at the Athens Community Center from 10-2pm with veterans having early entrance at 9:45am. This is free for area employers and does include lunch.

7. Unemployment Update:

Unemployment information is included in your packet as well. Ohio is at 4.2% Nationally the rate is 3/5%. Athens is at 4.6, Meigs at 6% and Perry at 4.2%.

8. Performance Measures:

Included in the meeting folder is the unadjusted annual performance report. We fell within the unadjusted success level for all measures and this is prior to any adjustment. Except for the measurable skills gains for Adults, however this is prior to adjustment and the state has also said we would be held harmless due to the ARIES issues that contribute to issues with reporting measures.

The 1st quarter of PY 2022 is included. Due to continued issues with ARIES the state is now sending these weekly to the Area so counties can follow it more closely and report issues to OWD timelier. We hope this might help, but still recognize that this is an ARIES issue and will continue to push back with OWD to make sure they figure out and correct the issues that are needed.

9. Other Business:

None

Commissioner Miller made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eliason seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:39am.