



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 3rd day of May 2023, in person at the OU Innovation Center or on Zoom.

- 1. Commissioner Owen opened the meeting, and a quorum was established with the attendance, Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason, Commissioner Scott Owen of Perry and Commissioner Shannon Miller of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:01am. Commissioner Owen made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8th, 2023, meeting, and Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor. Commissioner Owen 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 Partee, Meigs OMJ Supervisor Shelly Adams, Vince Reiber, Meigs 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 and spent. Funding had to be moved around and we are still waiting on the 2nd increment from DOL. Until then, spending will need to be coded under DW and then recoded once the funds are received.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. We are on track to spend everything we receive. There is a new round of BRN funds for SFP24 that the Area will be submitting to request \$245K. This is less than last year because OWD lowered the funding amount and this grant is only 12 months as opposed to the 18 months from the round.

Covid-19 NDWG-Area 14 was awarded \$577,799. Ends and liquidates June 30th, 2023, but we have been told it will liquidate in September. 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. We are on track to spend the majority of this funding now.

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 \$143,161.77. PY22 we received \$38,144. All admin was moved to program and the funds were allocated. However, funds were moved around to get to our threshold so we could request additional funding. This was based on need at the time and all counties will be made whole once the newly requested funds are received.

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 received an additional \$10K. 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. A total of \$100K was received by the Area for these upgrades.

All program monitoring has been completed and we are just awaiting the final reports from ODJFS.

ODJFS fiscal monitoring is taking place currently. HINKLE financials are due by 5/31/23. Audit notification for calendar year 2022 should be anytime.

2. Broadband Grant-Director McKnight

1.2M has already been awarded to OU Voinovich School. OWT-Eric Leach recommendation. Hocking College and TCCC will be given funding under DWG for those who qualify to receive free broadband training. OU oversees grant. WDB will award a subgrant to hire 1 FTE broadband coordinator for the SE Ohio Region.

3. Apprenticeship Update-Director McKnight:

No word on if the Pre-Apprenticeship grant will be extended. Working with schools and businesses to develop a plan on how to proceed next school year. Mtg May 15th. Meigs for sure has 4 students moving into apprenticeship which is already 1 more than last year. Athens and Perry have not said how many they will have yet.

4. Regional Plan-Director McKnight:

Our regional plan was due for a revision this year. We updated the stats in the plan along with adding in the remote work component and the virtual reality as part of our regional plan. This will be good until the end of 2024, but by 2025 we will need to do a whole new 4 year plan. Director McKnight requested the board vote to approve the regional plan to present it to OWD for approval.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to present it to the board for full approval. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor.

5. Grant Updates-Director McKnight

Perry was given an additional \$54,964.18. This was awarded out of a 3rd year grant funding request. This was an additional request on what was originally submitted back in January due to the flooding at their temp site in Hocking. OWD was waiting for amounts from the insurance and actual costs for the furniture and such that needed replaced.

Meigs and Athens purchased their mobile units under the Covid grant funds. Meigs vehicle wrap has been approved. I believe Perry is close to getting their vehicle purchased. We do bi-weekly check-ins to make sure we can get this stuff procured and completed prior to the end of the Covid grant. It will not be extended so everything needs to be procured, billed and paid by Mid-May in order to meet close out of the grant.

6. Annual Job Fair Update:

The 19th annual job fair went well. We had about 80 employers and 100 job seekers. Employers were very pleased and said it was the best attended job fair they've attended so far this year.

7. Unemployment Update:

Unemployment information is included in your packet as well. Ohio's unemployment rate decreased to 3.8% from 4.2% Nationally the rate is 3.5%. All 3 counties went up in March-Athens is at 4.9% from 4.6, Meigs at 6.4% from 6% and Perry went to 5% from 4.2%.

8. Performance Measures:

ARIES continues to have issues. OWD and Monster will be asking 5 counties to volunteer to be part of a site visit to work on seeing what's happening when case managers enter data real time in the system and access what's taking longer and why information is not being saved correctly or being lost after COB each evening during batch runs.

The 2nd quarter of PY 2022 is included in your report as well. OWA has requested again for a letter from Director Damshroder and OWD that the Areas and counties should not be held accountable for performance issues as they are related to the ARIES issues.

9. Other Business:

None

Commissioner Eliason made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:28am.