



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 10th day of August 2022, in person at the OU Inn.

- 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 May 11th, 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 Assistant Director Tami Collins, 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 Mike Bump.

1. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

Mendra emailed out the fiscal update report, and it was added to the folder.

Opioid Grant 3 was extended to March 2022. This ended and liquidated 3/31/2022. Area 14 was given two separate awards totaling \$518,202.91. The Area spent most of this funding and only returned about \$129,000 back to ODJFS.

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 county requested and received additional funding for supportive services for their student monitors.

Discussion as Mike asked about funding since Athens was 80% spent. Mendra explained that Area must be 90% spent as a whole before we can request additional funds from the state. The state must be 70% as a whole before they can request the 2nd increment from DOL. Area will work within the area by moving funds from one county to another until we reach 90%. The county that had money moved out will then be made whole once the 2nd increment is received from the state or once the state moves money around to back fill our funding and they reach 90%.

A second round of Business Outreach funds were approved and totaled about \$428,000. This ends and liquidates on June 30th, 2023. The first increment was received totaling \$282,612 and has been sent to the counties. 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.

RESEA grants. PY20 the Area received a total of \$138,946.33 which were 100% spent. So far for PY21, the Area

initially received \$38,445.77 and has spent 100%. Area then requested and 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 expend it all and may need to request additional. Director McKnight mentioned that there are some changes at the RESEA level, and their funding methods might be changed to allow us to request enough funding to hire one person at the Area level who could oversee the program for all three 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 have closed and we spent \$29,546.37 but they are still completing close out so this might change. There does look to be some that will be returned to OWD. The schools also received funding with Tri County Career Center being the only that has used the funds so far.

The Perry and Associates audit is finished. No findings or observations.

ODJFS External Audit has begun for PY2021 WIOA/CCMEP/TANF/Opioid 3 grants. We are nearing the final states of this audit/review.

State Audit is going on now and is expected for costs not to exceed \$8200.

Local monitoring will be taking place come the fall with Sharon Parry-Real Workforce Solutions depending on how the ARIES system advances.

Finally, WIOA allocation have been received. Other funds won't come until October. Area will be sending funds back to OWD. That amount is not clear yet as close out end September 30th. However, as an Area we did take on additional fund the prior year from our regional partners and this put us ahead. Traffic to the centers and funding is increasing, but this likely is what caused us to have to return some funds this year. We received less again this year and are working to increase capacity in our youth programs so this should not be an issue for this program year.

2. MOU and Board Certification-Director McKnight

MOU has been signed by all parties and is good for one year. The board has been re-certified for two years through 8/2024.

There was discussion about looking into getting an online document signing program. Two suggestions came up one is One Span and the other is Docusign which is already approved through ODJFS. Dir. McKnight will look into this.

3. Workforce and Talent Workshop-Director McKnight:

Area 14 holding a Workforce and Talent Workshop on August 24 from 8:30 to 3pm in partnership with the Athens Co. Economic Development, Athens Chamber of Commerce, the Innovation Center and Ohio SE. First part of the day will be offering businesses free assistance that is available throughout the county and all 3 counties along with training centers. The second half will be a facilitated discussion with businesses on their pain points in workforce to help come up with solutions and take aways that can be looked at to assist our area.

4. Apprenticeship Update-Director McKnight:

The second year of the program is starting. Signed 3 apprentices. OMJs have been asked to reach back out to the schools once schools start and talk with seniors.

Ohio Workforce Association did not get their pre-apprenticeship grant they applied for through DOL so funding once this grant ends may be difficult, but the hope is the businesses see the value and will continue to support the program.

Director McKnight will be presenting the signing day on the ODJFS director's bi-weekly meeting at the end of August.

5. Policy Updates-Director McKnight

ITA policy and Supportive services policy caps received requests to expand them due to funding issues. Upon review of the policy with OWD, there must be an override to allow for exceptions and how the board will handle this.

Commissioner Eliason suggested raising the cap. Director Boley said the increase would allow for the case managers to have more control over the program as well as for customers to use funding for stackable credentials that would lead to better employment. Director Lavender said it would allow for more seamless work by the case managers. Commissioner Eliason suggested raising the cap for an ITA to \$25,000/yr and the cap for supportive services to \$10,000 year due to inflation. He also suggested that the policy for exceptions be made into its own separate policy so that each individual policy did not need to be changed and to allow for exceptions to all policies to fall under one.

Commissioner Eliason made a motion to raise the ITA cap to \$25,000/yr and the supportive services policy to \$10,000/yr and to create a separate exception clause/policy for presentation and vote to the board. Commissioner Miller seconded. All were in favor.

6. Unemployment Update:

Unemployment numbers continue to decrease/ Labor force participation is holding steady.

7. Performance Measures:

Third quarter unadjusted performance report is enclosed. Area continues to perform well.

ARIES has presented a concern about future performance measures. OWA submitted a letter to ODJFS Director Damschroder and OWD Director Brannigan expressing their concerns over future performance due to faults in the ARIES system and the change over from OWCMS. Director McKnight continues to tell the OMJ supervisors and case managers to report issues but to focus on the participant, keep track of the errors, and case note issues. If there are discrepancies when reporting comes out, the case managers can provide the actual numbers if ARIES is still having faults so that the board can review both the state report and the local findings to get a true sense of where performance lies.

The OMJ quarterly reports are enclosed in the folder.

8. Other Business:

Director McKnight requested that if she feels there is a training that OMJ admin staff or Area staff should attend, to be able to use Area administrative funds for those trainings. Discussion was held with the final decision being that this could be presented by the Area 14 Director to the CEO chair for discussion and approval by both.

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

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:58am.

DRAFT