



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 11th day of August 2021, in person at the OU Inn and Conference Center.

- 1. Commissioner Owen 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 9:05am. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12th, 2021 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 Executive Director Jean Demosky, Meigs County Assistant Director Theresa Lavender, Perry County Executive Director Cheryl Boley, Area 14 Fiscal Agent/Perry County JFS Assistant Director Mendra Hupp, Athens County CFO Tracy Helber, and Meigs OMJ Supervisor, Shelly Adams.

1. Executive Committee Update-Director McKnight presented:

Executive Committee did not have any actions this past quarter.

2. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

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

OH 32 has ended and liquidated. With additional funds received, Area 14 and the contracted agencies were granted a total of \$2,198,762.86 all but \$154,882.64 was spent. This amount was returned to OWD. Director McKnight communicated this with OWD so this could be used for close out for any other areas as they completed their programs.

Opioid Grant 3 was extended to March 2022. The Area has spent most of the initial allocation and project to spend all by the end of the grant period. All counties have continued to work on their plans and programs with the new extension.

Covid-19 grant funds which end 6/2022 we are continuing to spend at a fair rate and expect to spend more once training needs increase.

Business Outreach funds have been extended to December 31, 2021. Money has continued to be spent and will be spent by the end of that time period.

RESEA grants. Each county received \$7399.54 and all that money has been spent. Additional funds were

requested by the Area and after June quarter closed, we received \$65,931.46 to cover expenses already incurred. We will continue to work with OWD on this as even though our allocation increased, and there should not be many more trainings, we will likely expend the funds we were allocated for this program year.

Perry and Associates has started their audit for calendar year 2020. Working on initial questionnaire. Cost expected to remain under \$10k.

Our WIOA allocations for this new program year have been reduced due to an increased number of counties having high unemployment rates and this being one of the factors in allocation funding to areas. There was significant discussion among the group about the Hold Harmless provision with OWD. Director McKnight was asked to check on this. Director McKnight let the group know that both Mendra and her have volunteered to be part of the OWD Fiscal Taskforce to discuss ways the fiscal and allocation funds could be better utilized. Director McKnight explained that OWD is looking to provide a letter for the directors and commissioners to let them know that spending does not need to decline currently. All CEO's agreed they would like to review this once it is out. OWD is working on providing a way that Area's could request funds for projects that they could do in their counties. Also, Area's will have the ability to work with other Area's like we did this last year to request 2nd year funds near the end of a Program Year to cover any deficits. Neither Director McKnight nor Fiscal Lead Hupp felt the cut would be harmful with all these provisions.

3. Regional Plan:

Our regional plan has been approved by the Office of Workforce Development. The approval letter is in the folder. As a region, we will look to do a broader scope of work in the next 2-4 years so that we can better address both the business and workforce needs for our region as we recover from the pandemic.

4. Apprenticeship-Director McKnight:

Area 14 has finally become the sponsor of record for the Auto Body and Auto Tech programs with ApprenticeOhio. The curriculum for both TCCC and Meigs Career center was also approved for their pre-apprenticeship programs. We will continue to work on expanding this and adding additional programs in the years to come. The Area applied for but did not get the Pre-Apprenticeship grant. Director McKnight approached OWD on this and has a meeting scheduled on August 16th to discuss this further. Fiscal Agent Hupp will be joining discussion as well. We have not been told what Areas did get the grant.

5. Additional Updates:

Some additional updates, Director McKnight has been working with TCCC and the Office of Workforce Transformation to get their fiber optics training certified. This has been a very collaborative effort and hopefully by September, the program will be up and running and it should be offered at no cost either through WIOA funds or grants funds offered through the OWT.

Both Athens and Perry OMJ's will need to be re-certified due to their moves. Director McKnight will be working with the board to get volunteers for this and hopes to bring the results for approval at the next board meeting in November.

6. Policy Updates:

The biggest policy update is the Area board will need to come up with a written policy on how to have our Area meetings both board and CEO. OWD will be coming out either with guidance or a policy stating that Boards need to have an established policy on this.

Discussion was held on what the CEO's and the JFS directors felt would be best with the idea of presenting to the board that February, May and November meetings be a hybrid event for those who want to join virtually and then being offered an in-person place. Director McKnight will look into holding the in-person meeting location at the Innovation Center with the ability to use their video equipment and if not, Athens OMJ conference room. The August meeting should be held in person due to this being the beginning of a new fiscal program year and there are many updates that might need addressed.

OWD was granted the waiver on Incumbent Worker Training to allow up to 50% of adult and dislocated funding until June 2022. Normally this is capped at 20%. Athens is the only county that has done any IWT with employers. They are not in favor of changing this as they would rather focus more on training people who are not employed or under employed. So we will not look at doing a policy update or change unless this changes.

7. Unemployment Update:

Unemployment numbers continue to hold steady. Director McKnight is encouraging employers to be proactive in their recruitment by raising wages, offering signing bonuses, remote work opportunities, creating career pathways within their organization and presenting those during the interview so people know they have the ability to move up if they work hard. We will continue to work on opportunities for employers to get informed on good hiring practices to attract workers.

8. GRIT program:

Director McKnight has been working with Future Plans and the GRIT program in Area 1 to possibly start a pilot in Athens County. Athens county was chosen because Mayor Patterson has expressed an interest in the program and there's the chance to expand some remoted work sites both in the city and out into smaller townships. Kristy Amy with Future Plans will be presenting at the board meeting. This is really more of a community initiative, but the OMJ would hopefully be using some of their WIOA and CCMEP funds on the assessment tool. The hope is, if we can get it going here, we might be able to expand it to Perry and Meigs in the future.

Discussion was held with the final outcome of wanting more validity testing.

9. Performance Measures:

We weren't meeting our rate in our performance reports on measurable skills gains still. The last report that came out for the unadjusted quarter was sent to the OMJ's. The case managers were asked to review their caseloads and make sure everyone who was eligible was marked.

Sup. Adams shared that the adjusted report shows the area passing in all measures. This report had just come out in the last few days before this meeting.

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:47am.