



The Chief Elected Officials of Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met for a scheduled meeting on the 12th day of August, 2020, via Google Meet due to Covid-19. A quorum was present with Commissioner Eliason, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner O’Brien present.

- 1. Commissioner Smith opened the meeting and a quorum was established with the attendance of Perry County Commissioner, Jim O’Brien and Athens County Commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Commissioner Smith of Meigs County. The meeting commenced at 9:08am. Commissioner Eliason made a motion to approve the minutes from both May 13th and June 22nd, 2020 meetings and Commissioner O’Brien seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Eliason made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. O’Brien 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, Athens County Fiscal-Tracy Helber and Tony Brooks, and Meigs OMJ Supervisor, Theresa Lavender.

2. Executive Committee Update-Director McKnight presented:

After the CEO’s voted and approved the initial admin money being moved into program for Perry County, the Executive Committee voted to approve this as well. The amendment was signed. We then received additional program money from OWD for the flood program. We received \$75,000 so each county got an additional \$25,000 and executive committee signed off on that amendment.

3. Fiscal Report-Mendra Hupp:

Mendra emailed out the fiscal update report.

WIOA allocations for the next program year were presented. There was around a 25% increase in funds which is good news for our area.

OWIP will end March 31st, 2021 and then will not be renewed. There have been a few placements in May and some payouts. No new participants can be entered after June 30th, 2020.

OH 32 will be coming to and end shortly. There was an increase to \$1,931,762.86 in total including administrative money for all 3 counties. Currently, Athens is at 77% spend, Meigs is at 82% spent, and Perry is at 78% spent. The programs will likely end toward the end of September or October with the grant period ending December 31, 2021.

The Area received an additional \$75,000 that was split equally among the 3 counties. All 3 programs have crews

operating on site.

Opioid Grant 3 expires March 2021. The area has received the requested additional funding to expand programs. Athens-\$17,775 and Perry-\$125,000. We are 14% spent of the overall allocation with the additional funding.

OhioMeansJobs centers were given money for center improvements that should enhance the customer's experience. Athens-\$25,187.02, Meigs-\$27,998.07, and Perry \$21,823.21 for a total of \$75,008.30. To be spent by September 20, 2020.

OhioMeansJobs center improvement funds need to be spent by September 30th, 2020. The counties have been spending these.

Business Outreach funds were received. Each county will receive \$60,000 and the Area will keep \$20,000 for use. These funds will be distributed to the counties as soon as the WDB director gets their budgets/plans and gets approval from Office of Workforce Development for their technology upgrades. These funds are to reduce the impact to the economy, development, and expansion of the business services team. Expanded outreach and services to area businesses to enhance their ability to match their labor needs with individuals who have been laid off because of the pandemic.

Rapid Response funds that have been provided to RXQ are pending. The first increment was not enough to cover the invoice, so Director McKnight has requested the 2nd increment. Once the 2nd is received this will be paid out and we will then request the 3rd increment. These funds must be spent by September 30th, 2020.

Hinkle system-Auditor of State financials have been entered into the system.

Initial information has been sent to Perry and Associates to begin this year's audit. The audit has been extended to the end of August 2020. This will cost just under \$10,000.

PY19 and FY 20 is on the current allocations list that is on the handout. This includes obligations or accruals as of March 31, 2020. These funds expire June 30, 2020.

4. OWA and NAWB Dues-Director McKnight:

The Ohio Workforce Association dues are due for PY2020. Area 14 paid dues last year. The amount is based on WIOA allocations. This year's dues for OWA are \$3786.

A motion was made by Mr. Eliason to pay the OWA dues and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. All in favor.

The National Association of Workforce Boards (NABW) also has yearly dues. Area 14 has never joined NAWB but this year due to less travel and conferences, Area 14 would have the administrative money to pay dues. Dues are again based on the Area's WIOA allocation, which is between \$2 to less than \$3 million, making Area 14's dues \$1250.

A motion was made by Mr. Eliason to pay the NAWB dues and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. All in favor.

5. Additional Funds-Director McKnight:

Ohio received \$8.5 million in Covid-19 dislocated worker funds. Area 14 received \$577,799 of that grant. McKnight is working with the counties on submitting the local plans. Each county will be deciding how they would like to spend the funds allocated to them and this will be submitted to OWD on Friday of this week.

Area 14 received \$200,000 in business team outreach and expansion funds. Funds are to be used to help establish a strong foundation for the local business outreach team to meet the needs of employers and job seekers. Each county will get \$60,000 with \$20,000 being set aside for the Area to spend on possibly advertising or virtual job fairs.

The WORC grant was submitted last month, and we are waiting to hear if we received this grant.

Area 14 will be sponsoring the lunch and learn that is offered monthly through a partnership with the Innovation Center, the SBDC and the EDC. Our topic will be Recovery Friendly Workplaces and will be offered online so that all three counties can invite businesses to this lunch and learn. Director McKnight has requested additional OERG grant funds to help pay for the next steps if businesses are interested in looking at their policies and how to write or change their policies to reflect best practices. This is something the OERG grant would love to see and would also be very beneficial to our employers. Funds were requested in the amount of \$23,240. The provider, Working Partners Inc, has already provided some of this training to ODJFS and other counties through their Adam H boards.

6. WIOA Updates-Director McKnight:

Area 14 WDB re-certification application, and this was approved by the Office of Workforce Development. This will be in effect for the next 2 years.

They have also revised their performance evaluation timeline and now will not be taking place for an additional 1-3 program years before a failure in the measures counts toward subsequent designation. There are many steps put into place once a failure is identified including additional trainings from State and counties developing a corrective action plan and then allowing those to take shape prior to any changes.

Ohio's unemployment map was presented. Athens, Meigs and Perry are all below the highest amount of 13%. The number of people filling out initial applications is shrinking and those filing a weekly claim is also going down. But the next few months will be trying for our businesses to please refer them to the OhioMeansJobs center if they are struggling so that we can see what we can do to help.

An unemployment graph was presented that goes back to 2010 when we were coming out of the Great Recession of 2009. Currently, our percentages are better than that time and the hope is we will continue to see a decrease in those percentages.

Performance Negotiations have started. These happen every 2 years. This year OWD gave the area our numbers based on the data of our performance over the last 3 years and the first half of the last program year. Presented to the CEO's was what OWD has proposed. Director McKnight believes that the Area will be able to meet the new proposed rates. DOL would not adjust due to COVID-19 so we will need keep track and, in a year, if we are not meeting our goals, we can request a discussion with State. The rates were presented to the directors for review as well. Also, they will be changing the categories for rankings to include only meets or fails. There will be no exceed category.

The PY 2019 unadjusted 3rd quarter report was enclosed in your folder. We have met or exceeded every category for Adult, Dislocated and Youth.

With no further business, Commissioner Eliason made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. With the motion passing, the meeting ended at 9:29am.