



## Area 14 Workforce Development Board

Board Meeting: May 1, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Chair Rob Ogden, Vice Chair David Brennan, Jeff Circle, Buddy Malone, Ron Cooley, Jennifer Kleski, Nathan Strange (proxy for Stephen Carson), Melissa Sheppard, Trevis Thompson, Caley Boyden, Brent Patterson, Brianna Edwards, Medea Loibl, Jessica Stroh, Mollie Fitzgerald, Jennifer Pollard

**Guests Present:** Joe Frazier, Area 14 WDB Director; Kara Willis, OhioSE (Guest Speaker); Tami Collins, OMJ-Athens; Shawn Stover, OMJ-Athens; Jean Demosky, Director ACDJFS; Tammy Gonica, OMJ-Perry; Mendra Hupp, Assistant Director PCDJFS; Cheryl Boley Director PCDJFS; Shelly Adams, OMJ-Meigs; Theresa Lavender, Director MCDJFS; Mike Bump, Fiscal ACDJFS; Tracy Partee, Fiscal ACDJFS; Vince Reiber, Fiscal MCDJFS

**The regularly scheduled meeting of the Area 14 Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on the 1st day of May 2024, in-person at the Innovation Center, and virtually via Zoom. A quorum was present with 16 of 19 Board Members present.**

**Chairman Ogden called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Director Frazier took attendance.**

**Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2024, were presented for approval. Dave Brennan made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jeff Circle. Motion carried without opposition.**

**Agenda for May 1, 2024, was presented for approval. Jeff Circle made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ron Cooley. Motion carried without opposition.**

Chairman Ogden turned the floor over to Director Frazier to introduce two new board members, Trevis Thompson (Athens County) and Robin Fowler (Meigs County).

Guest Speaker Kara Willis, OhioSE was present and provided information regarding OhioSoutheast services for businesses.

### **1. OhioMeansJobs Center Updates:**

Athens: Shawn Stover gave updates for Athens OMJ. Shawn advised they are doing lots of outreach to local schools with CCMEP Coordinator. Currently WIOA adult programming on hold, due to lack of funds, but are pursuing further funds. Received \$330,000 in GRIT funds for direct customer services. Hired a new WIOA Coordinator, Lee Wood, who is doing well. Employment Counselors were present at Tri County for event and did mock interviews with students. Their mobile career unit is almost complete and a new Outreach Coordinator was hired, Bethany Luzny promoted to the role from CCMEP Coordinator.

Meigs County: Shelly Adams gave updates for Meigs OMJ. Shelly advised 22 residents from Meigs attended Area 14 job fair, and advised this was the best job fair in her eight years at OMJ. Meigs will be doing in-demand jobs week activities and taking their mobile unit out for outreach. They are assisting Meigs High School with their reverse job fair and recruited employers. Currently gearing up for summer youth employment.



Perry County: Tammy Gonica gave updates for Perry OMJ. Tammy advised they have 124 students and 55 employers signed up for summer employment. Perry has had multiple job fairs and have been averaging 12 employers and 30 job seekers per event, next event is May 16<sup>th</sup>. In-Demand jobs week event will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Perry JFS. They have been doing a lot of outreach and helping employers with onsite job fairs. Also working with youth engaged in the juvenile justice system and working on skill building.

## **2. Fiscal Update**

Mendra Hupp presented the fiscal update. Fiscal documentation was provided and added to the meeting folder.

Fresh Start: No cost extension was approved through DOL, ends and liquidates March 31, 2025. Requested amount for the Area was \$600,000, new total is \$670,000. Currently have enough funding to continue programming for multiple months, projected through fall, however will not have enough funding to extend program to March 2025. Meigs County released funding and fiscal reallocated funding to Athens and Perry from the Meigs allotment.

Business Outreach Fund: Round 3 SFY24: Ends June 30, 2024, liquidates September 30, 2024. Currently 76% spent, which is within requirements, as we are to be at least 75% to this date. Each county is responsible for spending within their budget and what categories were approved by OWD. Goal of grant was to connect OMJ centers with businesses to deliver effective employer related services.

RESEA: PY23 ends and liquidates on September 30, 2024, received a total of \$38,036.85.

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Funding Request: Athens is currently 95% spent on their allocation. Perry received \$24,125 and is currently at zero percent spent. Funds end on June 30, 2024, and liquidates September 30, 2024.

QUEST Grant: Currently ends and liquidates September 30, 2024. OWD will be filing for a one-year no cost extension. Currently only invoices received have been from HAPCAP for the Broadband Coordinator position. Area received a total award of \$667,739.

OMJ Rebranding: Funding ends on June 30, 2024 and liquidates on September 30, 2024, however an extension was given by OWD through December 31, 2024. Each county received \$4,000 and the Area received \$1,000 in administrative funding, for a total of \$13,000.

ODJFS Program Monitoring: Currently in progress, reviewing PY21/22 WIOA/CCMEP – Perry County. Exit conference was scheduled for April 30, 2024, will receive final report in May 2024.

ODJFS Fiscal monitoring is currently in progress as well as Auditor of State Audit, with HINKLE Financials due on May 31, 2024.

## **3. WIOA Update**

Director Joe Frazier presented WIOA and grant updates to the CEO Committee.

**Request for Proposals for OMJ Center Operator, WIOA Adult and Dislocated and WIOA Youth:** RFP was published on 3/1, with a due date of 4/22 on the Area 14 website. A copy of the RFP was sent to the bidders list. Newspaper ads were placed in the Athens Messenger, Perry Tribune and



River Cities Tribune and Register. Three questions were received and answered by Director Frazier prior to the deadline for questions and posted on Area 14 website. One amendment to allow for in-person delivery was approved by the Executive Committee and emailed to the bidder's list.

Proposals were received from:

Athens County – Athens County DJFS

Meigs County – Meigs County DJFS

Perry County – Perry County DJFS

The scoring committee met on 4/29 to review all proposals and score the submissions. The committee was comprised of Chair Ogden, Vice Chair Brennan, Jeff Circle and Director Frazier. Chair Ogden, Mr. Circle and Director Frazier were present for the scoring committee meeting, Vice Chair Brennan was not available due to last-minute business requirements. The committee opened proposals together and scored them utilizing the evaluation tool published in the RFP, as well as open discussion. The scoring committee recommended Athens County DJFS, Meigs County DJFS and Perry County DJFS to receive funding for their respective counties, based upon their submissions.

Director Frazier presented the findings to the CEO Committee on 5/1, who approved a motion to present to the Board. Director Frazier asked for a motion to request the contracting process begin with each respective county and for Athens CDJFS, Meigs CDJFS and Perry CDJFS to receive funding.

**A motion to approve was made by Jeff Circle and seconded by Dave Brennan. Motion carried without opposition.**

Director Frazier will begin working with ACDJFS, MCDJFS, PCDJFS on the contracting process and present contracts to each county Board of Commissioners.

**RFP Monitor Contract:** Real workforce Solutions awarded contract, based on executive committee vote, after the completion of RFP process.

Area 14 Consulting RFP Summary:

\*On March 5, 2024 a list of questions were received, via email from TPMA Inc.

\*Questions were answered on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 according to the Calendar of Events. The Responses were emailed to TPMA Inc. and posted to the Area website & Perry JFS Website. Both websites had published the RFP.

\*Received one submission from Real Workforce Solutions, Sharon Parry.

\*Proposals were opened and evaluated on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 2:00

\*The evaluation committee was comprised of 3 representatives from Perry County Job & Family Services/ Area 14 Fiscal Agent Administrative staff. Accountants Kendra Wilson & Lori Hollingshead and Fiscal Officer Chad Strohl.

\*The evaluators used a consensus scoring method. Open discussion and agreement on each level for all proposals submitted. One evaluation sheet was completed and then signed by all three evaluators.

\*Recommendation was made to accept proposal and award the contract to Real Workforce Solutions.

Director Frazier called the Executive Committee vote and the committee approved to move forward with contract with RWS.

**Grant Updates:** Director Frazier presented updates on grants.

- Fresh start was given a one year, no cost extension, to continue to deliver services affected by SUD. This program has made a significant impact in Athens and Perry Counties. Received clean monitoring review of Fresh Start and COVID-19 grant program for PY 21 & 22 from ODJFS.
- Broadband and 5G – Amended budget was approved by the Executive committee and by TCCC and Hocking College for TCCC to receive funding from Hocking College’s allocation to begin Tower Tech cohort. Eleven participants have been successfully enrolled in training programs at local training providers. Three training providers are still awaiting funding from DOL for equipment and will begin training after receipt of equipment. Going through 1<sup>st</sup> monitoring cycle for QUEST program through ODJFS, currently awaiting results from monitor. Working to develop a website for the NODE and provide broadband and 5G workforce information to interested residents. Presented at HC/TCCC Business Advisory Committee for 5G and Broadband. Received six VR headsets and working to get those out to local OMJ centers and career events.
- Finishing up auditing process for US DOL Disaster Flood Grant. Awaiting findings from Office of Inspector General. This is in reference to the 2020 NDWG. Waiting for further information from OWD regarding potential for additional NDWG in response to recent flooding.
- BRN Grant – special project grant, Athens Mobile Career Unit is nearing completion. Working with OWD to provide metrics for business outreach efforts due to grant funding.
- ABA II – Apprenticeship Building America Grant Round 2. Worked collaboratively with ACDJFS on their submission to US DOL. Proposal to develop a consortium of partners to develop a Registered Apprenticeship Hub. Current proposed partners are ACDJFS, PCDJFS, MCDJFS, GCDJFS, Area 14 WDB.
- Going through monitoring process on Registered Apprenticeship programming, submitted files of five Registered Apprentices as requested for review. Awaiting further feedback from OWD regarding Area’s submission.
- Submitted proposal to OHMAS in regard to funding RFI that will assist in expanding the behavioral healthcare workforce. Awaiting results of submission, award notifications should be released soon.



- Several letters of support sent by Director Frazier to help partners with grant applications. Rural Action INSPIRE, OU Voinovich remote workspace, New Lexington High School to assist with further development of apprenticeship programming.
- Assisted Athens County OMJ with GRIT funding proposal, in which they were awarded \$330,000 in funding for direct services for customers.

### **Unemployment Information:**

*(Not Seasonally Adjusted)*

Ohio: 4.4%

Athens County: 5.1%

Meigs County: 7.5%

Perry County: 5.4%

*Ohio Seasonally Adjusted: 3.9%*

### **Performance Repots:**

Added to the meeting folder for formal review. Added results of 4/29 weekly WIOA and CCMEP numbers to the folder. Report from 4/29, shows an increase in credential attainment and measurable skill gain numbers, Director Frazier added this report to and presented the increase to the Board. Working with OMJ centers to review performance metrics and review cases to ensure thorough reporting.

### **OMJ Reports:**

Quarterly reports were added to the meeting folder and presented to the Board.

### **Help Wanted Jobs Report:**

Job posting report added to meeting folder and shared with the Board.

### **2024 Job Fair:**

79 employers and training providers registered. 70 attended the day of event. 187 job seekers attended, up 87 from last year. OMJ staff did a great job in recruiting employers, outreach and assisting the day of. We received overwhelmingly positive reviews from job seekers and employers alike.

### **Future Meeting Information:**

Director Frazier advised his goal is to increase input from Board members. Director Frazier will be sending out surveys and correspondence to help guide and steer future meetings and topics.

Next meeting will be in-person at the OU Inn on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Motion made by Chair Ogden and seconded by Jeff Circle. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.



**Workforce Development Area 14**  
**Athens, Meigs & Perry Counties**

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