

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
10/15/2024

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in person and via Zoom on October 15th, 2024 at the Lake Cumberland Area Development office in Russell Springs. Chairman Jeff VanHook called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Ms. Rhonda Roy called the roll. There were twenty four (24) of the twenty-nine (29) member's present in-person or via zoom, thus constituting a quorum of the Board. There were 16 members in-person and eight via zoom were Business and Workforce representatives which met the requirement of 51% of members present being a combination of Business and Workforce representatives.

Copies of the August 20th, 2024 Meeting Minutes were sent to all members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, a motion was made by Chairman Vanhook to approve the minutes as presented. Scott Pierce made the motion to accept the minutes and Larry King seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells, Treasurer gave the budget report stating our total budget for the year is \$2,131,706.21. As of the October 4th, 2024, we have expended \$465,314.74 which is 21.8% of the budget. Motion made by Vickie Wells seconded by Kevin Shearer to accept the 2024 preliminary budget. Motion carried.

Dr. Tracy Cross, M.D, speaking about the Health Care in Kentucky. Shortage of Health care providers in Kentucky is getting to be a bigger concern that it ever has been. There is a high demand for both acute care and long-term care. With this higher than normal demand the expansion of home health is needed. Be able to take care of people in the home setting, hopefully decreasing nosocomial infections from exposures that they get from being in facilities. Be able to take care of people in the home setting, hopefully decreasing nosocomial infections from exposures that they get from being in facilities. It impacts not only patient care, but it also impacts livelihoods, especially in small communities, because in Kentucky, for instance, the Department of Labor Statistics will show you that every county, including the larger metropolitan areas, all 120 counties, have three major sources of income. It's either healthcare through hospitals, school systems, or corporate America. And so in rural areas, we have two of those. We have school systems and we have healthcare. With the increase of the cost of living health care workers are requesting more income. This means that when we have to hire outside of Kentucky that those costs are going up even more than if we were hiring people from inside the state. Health care is right now 23% our gross national product every year. With the shortage and having to hire from outside of the state there are Health Care staffs that are having to pick up those extra shifts and are not having time with their families and getting burnt out, this is bring a lot of staffs to their breaking point. U.S. Statistics, current U.S. Shortage is over a million nurses. There is nearly 4,000 RN positions vacant in Kentucky. With this shortage there might be some Health Care facilities that might have to close which would be very life threatening if there is an emergency in that area and it takes a long to get to the nearest hospital. These

concerns can be addressed with some different solutions that were discussed. A few are loan forgiveness for Health care providers, have telehealth step in where it can and many others.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator, went over the Kentucky Career Center update. In the packet given was the number of people helped at each Career Center and how many were in person and how many there on the phone or virtual for the 1st Quarter for the months of July, August, and September.

- Albany: In person-304; Phone-109; Virtual-17; Total-430
- Burkesville: In person-20; Phone- 28; Virtual-11; Total-59
- Campbellsville: In person-691; Phone-8; Virtual-0; Total-691
- Columbia: In person-155; Phone-44; Virtual-0; Total-199
- Corbin: In person-262; Phone-77; Virtual-15; Total-354
- Liberty: In person-626; Phone-38; Virtual-119; Total-783
- London: In person-21; Phone-43; Virtual-12; Total-76
- Monticello: In person-36; Phone-182; Virtual-27; Total-245
- Russell Springs: In person-79; Phone-120; Virtual-0; Total-199
- Somerset: In person-1309; Phone-2408; Virtual-3900; Total-7617
- Whitley City: In person-373; Phone-175; Virtual-50; Total-598
- Grand total: In person-3668; Phone-3232; Virtual-4118: Total-11,218

Ms. Marsha Wells, WIOA Director LCADD, gave an update on the WIOA program. Since the beginning July 1st there have been 52 new enrollments for youth. There are 29 new adult enrollments. There are 3 dislocated workers enrolled. The NDWG has 18 enrolled.

Ms. Lisa Gosser, Business Services Coordinator; gave an WIOA Business services team update. Ms. Gosser went over all the opportunities that the WIOA team has been able to do and all the businesses that they have been able to assist in the last 3 months.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Director CWDB, advised that the CWDB By-laws need to be updated to be consistent in the language throughout the document. The changes are CWIB to CWDB. There are 4 places in the By-laws that need the update. Vice-Chair Sam Brown made the motion to accept the change in By-Laws, and Larry King seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Director CWDB, gave a director's update. Michael Gritten, who is my peer from Louisville for KentuckianaWorks. He and I will be testifying November 19th for the EDWI Committee for the funding, the youth funding. The Quest Grant was approved today for the amount of \$100,000. There is an annual training in Frankfort for the Education Labor Cabinet that is in November. There will be several LCADD staff going to this training. The Strategic Plan is meeting in November, there is going to be some updates done to the plan. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for the stakeholders to input for aligned workforce development vision goals, specifically identification of collective strategies that will strengthen Kentucky's workforce development ecosystem the outcome of the advance will be a revised and updated workforce strategic plan.

Mr. Sam Brown, Vice Chairman, made motion for Ms. Myra Wilson to be moved from the title of Director of Cumberland Workforce Board to Executive Director. Mr. Wendell Emerson seconded that motion, Motion carried.

Mr. Waylon Wright, LCADD Executive Director, advised of some updates for the LCADD. The first update is LCADD received funding of \$270,000 from the Open Order Banking Commission. That is going to fund case management workforce training and wrap-around services to people through our employers program. This program is supervision of BJ Wilkerson, with a case manager Beth Bailey heading up the 10 counties with a few other counties added after the first 12 months. Second update is the State Legislature set aside 8 million dollars, that's for the center for development and the ad for workforce activities. Of the 8 million, 3 million to be transferred to the LCADD for construction of a comprehensive workforce site brand new location. The center is currently negotiating the acquisition of the 13 acre tract that is right adjacent to the community college campus in Somerset.

Mr. Waylon Wright, LCADD Executive Director, asked for a motion to move the comprehensive site to the future location. Mr. Scott Pierce made the motion and Vice-Chairman Sam Brown seconded the motion, Motion carried.

In other business the December 17th Board meeting was requested to be changed to December 10th due to the holidays. Mr. Wendell Emerson made the motion and Mr. Scott Pierce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The adjournment motion was made by Sam Brown.

Jeff Vanhook, Chairman

Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer