

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2023

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in-person or via zoom on February 28, 2023 at the Lake Cumberland Area Development office in Russell Springs. Chairman Mr. Sam Brown called the meeting to order. Mr. Sam Brown acknowledged that we had several Judge Executives in attendance and he appreciates the interest that they are showing in the CWDB.

Ms. Beverly Grimes called the roll. There were twenty-two (22) of the twenty-nine (29) member's present in-person or via zoom, thus constituting a quorum of the Board. Fifteen (15) members in-person or via zoom were Business and Workforce representatives which meets the 51% of members present must be a combination of Business and Workforce representatives.

Mr. Sam Brown made the appointments to the following committees; Ms. Tina Cook-One-Stop Committee, Ms. B.J. Wilkerson-Disability Committee, Ms. Sarah Roy-Youth Committee, Mr. Sherman Cook-Youth Committee and Mr. Larry King-Executive Committee. Motion made Mr. Brad Hall to ratify the appointments to the committees as presented, seconded by Mr. Larry King. Motion carried.

Copies of the December 13th Meeting Minutes were sent to all of the members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion made by Mr. Larry King to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Jay Shofner. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells gave an update for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget for WIOA Programs for PY'22 is \$2,849,536.17. The expenditures from 7/1/22 to 2/17/23 were \$1,949,356.19, which is 68.41 % of the budget expended. The Board also received a copy of the WIOA Expenditures by Grant Number. Ms. Vickie Well put the budget presentation in the form of a motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Virginia Dial, President of Connect Community Village (CCV) gave a presentation. Several years ago, she saw the need to help a group of our workforce that was not being tapped into and successful, those coming out of incarceration, recovery programs and displaced veterans. CCV is a proposed tiny house community initiative in Pulaski County, Kentucky. CCV will be a home for people recovering from the complex trauma, substance abuse, and post-incarceration and for our Veterans who seek to develop faith-based transitional skills. CCV will help in the development of life skills for our transitioning residents. We want to provide basic housing needs, education opportunities, and support; so that our residents can productively and successfully return to their families and communities with purpose, pride, and hope. Listed below are the 5 (five) phases for CCV;

- Phase 1 – Purchase a CCV property, obtain ALL required Permits and Licensing, Waste System Project, Infrastructure, Excavation, Fencing, twenty-five (25) Tiny Houses, Transportation (Buses, Vans) and Community Center.
- Phase 2 –Twenty-five (25) Tiny Houses built, Begin the Sight Plan for the Vocational Training Facility, Building of the Commercial Kitchen and until the Vocational Training Facility is built, residents will be transported to local vocation training facilities.
- Phase 3 – Fifty (50) Tiny Houses built, twenty-five (25) built for the village and twenty-five (25) for sale. The twenty-five (25) built for sale will be offered to the residents who have completed a 12-month certified program while at the village.
- Phase 4 – Aquaponics System and Organic Gardens designed, Facility built for village weddings and family reunions and Landscaping for the village.
- Phase 5 – Vocational Training Facility built, Facility contractual architects in place, Convenient Retail Store built. CCV will also work to secure: two (2) trailer vehicles, Exterior lighting for the village, two (2) Gold Carts, Classroom and Office Furniture and two (2) ATV's.

Motion made by Ms. Tina Cook for the CWDB to send a Letter of Support for the (CCV), seconded by Mr. Larry King. Motion carried.

Ms. B.J. Wilkerson, Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE) Representative from Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP), gave an update on the SITE Program as it pertains to the Cumberland Region. They have served six hundred and forty-eight (648) clients; sixteen (16) in Adair County, thirteen (13) in Casey County, four (4) in Clinton, four (4) in Green County, two (2) in Laurel County, two (2) in McCreary County, four hundred and four (404) in Pulaski County, one (1) in Rockcastle County, one hundred and fifty-two (152) in Russell County, twenty-one (21) in Taylor, twenty-three (23) in Wayne County and six (6) in Whitley County. She is hoping to be over the seven hundred (700) mark by next month.

Mr. Michael Carter, Regional Program Manager Career Development Office (CDO) gave an update on the CDO. They have had some personnel adjustments. In January, they have lost funding for some of their workers. Later in January, they had seven (7) of their local CDO Staff permanently transferred to the Office of Unemployment Insurance (UI) office. UI is going to be the primary focus in the Kentucky Career Center-Somerset. This reduces their total staff to six (6) people for the entire area. Since then, they have been authorized to hire an additional five (5) people. They have currently hired one (1) of those.

Mr. Sam Brown stated that they received notification regarding the Comprehensive Monitoring for PY'20. Anytime the State does monitoring, they are going to find something. Most of what they found was missing documentation. Mr. Brown thanked the WIOA staff for the great job they did in responding to the monitoring report.

Ms. Marsha Wells, WIOA Program Director gave an update on the WIOA Program.

- Ms. Amy Dennis official last day is today, she worked at the Lake Cumberland Area Development District (LCADD) for twenty-seven (27) years. She served, Adult, Dislocated Workers and Trade participant and was very knowledgeable of WIOA.
- Ms. Jennifer Burton, WIOA Career Manager will be going to Adair County on Mondays and Tuesdays, then back in the Russell County Office Wednesday-Friday.
- In our region, the shortage for healthcare and transportation workers has increased. One-hundred and sixty-nine (169) new Adults were enrolled, since July 1, 2022. Forty-six (46) have begun Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training, fifty (50) in the Healthcare Sector and twenty-one (21) in On-the Job Training (OJT). Six (6) new Dislocated Workers since July 1, 2022. Five (5) in CDL Training and one (1) in Healthcare Sector.
- They still have two hundred eighty-six (286) in follow-up from the Paid Work Experience from last summer. Fifty-three (53) are in Individual Training Accounts (ITA). Fourteen (14) of those are still active in training, fortunately they were able to co-enroll with WIOA Adult program so they could pay for their training with Adult monies.
- They received an email Friday regarding an opportunity to potentially receive an additional \$425,000 in youth money that was recaptured by the State. Ms. Marsha Wells, Ms. Myra Wilson, Ms. Barb Miller and Mr. Brentley Bault are putting together a plan of action that will be submitted to the State by Friday. The additional monies has to be spent by June 30, 2023.
- Performance reporting for all measures of Adults were improved from quarter ending September 30<sup>th</sup> to the one ending December 31<sup>st</sup> included: Entered Employment 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Entered Employment 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Median Earnings, Credential Rate and Measurable Skills. For Dislocated Workers all of the same measures improved aside from 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Entered Employment and it was down 4%, For Youth all measures were improved aside from: Median earnings down about \$300 and Credential was down about 3 %.
- The Direct Service Provider (LCADD) submitted their responses on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Department of Workforce Investment to the Comprehensive Monitoring for PY'20. To date they have not received their responses back.
- Mr. Larry Hatfield, WIOA Career Manager for Wayne County for four (4) days and week and (1) one day a week in Cumberland County. In the Youth Committee Meeting, he gave the Youth Spotlight for Cumberland County. Cumberland County is one of their smaller counties. They average between (17) seventeen and (20) twenty participants in the PWE program. They had a young man that went to Tennessee Area Technology Center in Livingston, TN. He was top in the State; he got his picture taken with the Governor in Nashville. Mr. Hatfield stated that everyone that completes a program and gets a job is a

success story. He talked about how all the WIOA Staff worked so hard and did such a good job.

Mr. Brad Hall said that he was in Washington DC on Capitol Hill for higher education and one of the Congressional Office staff mentioned WIOA Reauthorization. Do we tell our Congressional Staff from the State of Kentucky how important this program is? He spoke up and told them what a great program that it was and that he served on the CWDB. Mr. Jeric Devore said that he and Mr. Waylon Wright have a great working relationship with State and Federal Legislators. Ms. Myra Wilson stated that at their Workforce Director's meeting in March, that State Representative Josh Branscum will attend and this will be a topic of discussion.

Ms. Lisa Gosser, WIOA Business Service Coordinator gave the WIOA Business Services Update.

- She presented a Newsletter that had been created. They are trying to promote the services that the Career Centers have to offer. This went out as an email blast to the employers in Pulaski and Russell counties. They will be do this in other counties but they want to work out the kirks, to see what they need to do better. There is a picture in the newsletter of the appropriate Business Service Liaison so they will become familiar with that person.
- They have continued to do Recruiter-LinkedIn training. This is how the team is marketing for Job Search. There is a new program called Labor Exchange that the State is providing for the employers to stay in compliance with their postings. They have only had one (1) short training. Mr. Michael Carter said that it was set up at the last minute. They joined a Consortium with a couple of other states to let employers meet their legal obligations with the State. Not all employers are required to post jobs with the State. If they are trying to get Federal Grants, they are required to post job openings. It is still a work in progress.
- They have hosted their weekly Business Service Team meetings.
- They have attended Chamber, Rotary, Tourism Board Meetings, ribbon cuttings, Healthcare Consortium Meeting & Regional Trade Meeting.
- They coordinated with a couple of employers and the Russell County High School to make a match for a couple of students, because of the good working relationship they have with all the schools.
- They provide Labor Market Information (LMI) for a couple of different county governments that wanted to know the commuting patterns for their counties.
- They held their Unified Business Service Team meeting that they host each quarter.
- They have had Hiring Events, posted jobs, assisted with interviews.
- They have an employer that will be doing interviews in the KCC-Russell this coming week.

- The whole Business Service Team was able to attend the Workforce Summit that was held in Lexington. Mr. Bill Sandell and Ms. Myra Wilson attended the Workforce Summit as well. They make several new connections at this event.
- They have a new Incumbent Worker Contract with the City of Russell Springs.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator updated the Board on the workforce numbers in all of the offices for the month of January. We have twelve (12) Career Centers in our area. For the month of January, they served two thousand nine hundred and forty-eight (2,948) in all the centers combined. Eleven hundred and twenty-four were in-person (1,124). More people are coming into the offices due to the changes in the UI requirements. More people are looking for jobs, so that is a good thing. The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) classes are always full on Tuesdays.

Ms. Karen Miller presented letters to the Board asking approval to continue with Re-Certification of the Whitey City Career Center and the Casey Co. Career Center. Motion made by Mr. Brad Hall to approve the continuation of the recertification's that were presented, seconded by Larry King. Motion carried.

Mr. Aaron Poynter, Director of Re-Entry Programming gave an update on the Re-Entry Division.

- Putting Kentuckians First has served one hundred and seventy-eight (178) individuals in eleven (11) months. They have expanded to multiple counties.
- You cannot do anything without an ID. They work closely with the Adult Education and the individuals that are trying to get their GED's. to have an ID. They met with the Kentucky Department of Transportation Commissioner and he is going to approve an identification process for inmates that does not require all of the traditional requirements.
- He was invited to be on the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Justice Collaborative. He gave a presentation to this group and from that came a Jobs On Day 1 Work Group. This is one of the initiatives from the Governor collaborating with the Kentucky Chamber pushing incarcerated individuals when they exit they have jobs. Having an ID is a crucial part of this. He will be traveling and working alongside the Justice Public Safety Cabinet, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Corrections and the Education Workforce and Labor Cabinet.
- They have expanded their Pre-Release Classes to Whitley County. He has met with Judge Executive Pat White, Jr. and Jailer Jason Wilson. They are currently working with twenty (20) individuals that are working to get their GED through Adult Education get ID's.
- They are working on getting Putting Kentuckians First and the Pre-Classes launched in Adair and Laurel counties.
- Pre-release Classes are starting in Wayne County on March 30<sup>th</sup>, tentatively.
- He is a speaker at the Kentucky Workforce Recovery Conference at the end on the month.

Mr. Aaron Poynter due to Ms. Myra Wilson having COVID gave an update on the Strategic Plan.

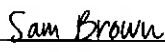
- Everyone had a copy in their packets that was emailed to them. The activities that have been completed or will be completed are listed in the 3Q Activities (January-March 2023). They want to be progressive and move the arrows.
- In March they hosted the Healthcare Consortium, it was a great success.
- He didn't go through ever goal but told the Board that if there was something that reached out to them to let them know and they would take care of it.
- The key to making this a success is everyone working together.


Mr. Aaron Poynter due to Ms. Myra Wilson having COVID gave the Workforce Director's Report.

- Mr. Aaron Poynter reiterate on what Ms. Marsha Wells spoke about early regarding the \$425,000 recaptured by the State.
- The set of policies that have been in review from the State since mid-summer of 2022 and they are scheduled to be approved by the KWIB in March of 2023. They have been in review and the final submissions were made to the legal team this month. When the policies are approved, we will have a couple adjustments we will need to make to be in compliance. Those will be presented at the April Board meeting.
- The KWIB Executive Committee approved Annual Meetings with each area Executive Committee to have more input at the local level.
- The KWIB Executive Committee approved Annual Meetings with each area Executive Committee to have more conversations from the local areas. More information will be shared as it is received.
- We are in the process of getting all the Interlocal Agreements signed by the counties that have new County Judge Executives by the end of March.
- Last week, Ms. Myra Wilson attended the 2023 Workforce Summit in Lexington. She appreciate everyone being flexible on changing the board meeting so she could attend the summit. The focus from the speakers was on Key Strategies to Attract and Retain Employees during the Talent Shortage we are facing.
- DOL has put forward an opportunity for state workforce boards, state workforce agencies, or local workforce boards to apply for a training cohort focused on "Quality Jobs" that hit on principles of: equitable recruitment, DEI, organizational culture, skills development, employee empowerment, benefits, and pay. The intention is for selected teams to be trained on how to use the principles of quality jobs that can be incorporated in policies, programming, and promotion of recruitment and retention for our businesses. KWIB Executive Committee has recognized the statewide potential with this opportunity and the partnerships we can take to lead the charge. This is a competitive process and only 16 teams will be selected across the nation. KWIB has decided to make manufacturing our industry of focus and the team, all of the ten workforce areas will be working with the KWIB in the submission of the training cohort "Quality Jobs". I can share the link to the announcement if anyone would like it: <https://www.jff.org/job-quality-academy/>

- Ms. Myra Wilson is a member of the KWIB sub-committee working on redoing the Workforce Ready Communities.
- Tomorrow the LCADD is hosting the Broadband Listening Tour from 1:00 p.m. CT to 3:00 p.m. C.T., everyone invited to attend.

Motion made by Mr. Larry King to adjourn.

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Sam Brown, Chairman

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Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer