

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
2/18/2025 @ 10:00 am (CT)  
LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Dr, Russell Springs, KY 42642

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board's meeting was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 10:00 am Central Time in-person and via Zoom at the Lake Cumberland Area Development District office in Russell Springs. Mr. Jeff VanHook, chairman, called the meeting to order. Judge Executive Howel Holbrook opened with prayer.

Ms. Shannon Kelty, LCADD Administrative Assistant, called the roll. There were twenty-three (23) of the twenty-nine (29) members present. There were seventeen (17) members in-person and six via zoom. There were sixteen (16) Business and Workforce representatives in attendance meeting the minimum requirement of 51% of those members being present, thus constituting a quorum.

All members received copies of the minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting. Questions/ corrections were asked for; there being none, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Sam Brown, seconded by Mr. Robert Akin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jeff VanHook asked for appointment and ratification of the following member to the Youth Committee; Mr. Will Griffin and the following member to the Cumberlands Workforce Board; Dr. Angela Travis. A motion to accept the appointments was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson, seconded by Amanda Roy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells, Treasurer, gave the budget report stating our total budget for the year is \$2,131,706.21. As of January 17, 2025, we have expended \$1,033,889.12 which is 48.5% of the budget. A motion to accept the 2024 budget as presented was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Mr. Robert Akin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Executive Director CWDB, stated that Mr. Ernie Alexander has retired and she is trying to get Mr. Alan Anderson to replace him on the board. She then discussed the Local and Regional Plan that is being developed for the next 4 years that the CWDB and South Central Workforce Board collaborate on. The workforce sectors that the KWIB has designated as priority in the state plan are as follows; Healthcare, Manufacturing and Logistics, Construction, Education and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services. Ms. Wilson recommends that the board aligns their goals with the KWIB's sectors and then the board can add other sectors at a later time if the need arises. A motion to align the board's sectors with the KWIB was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Ms. Amanda Roy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator, stated that four of the career centers that are currently labeled as Access points are actually Affiliate Sites and requested that the board approve updating the status of those centers. The four sites in question are: Monticello, Burkesville, Russell Springs and London. A motion to update those centers to Affiliate Sites was made by Ms. Tina Cook. Seconded by Alesa Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator, went over the Kentucky Career Center update. In the board packet was a document with the number of people helped at each Career Center, how many were in person, on the phone or virtual for the 3rd Quarter for the month of January:

- Albany: In person-No Info due to illness
- Burkesville: No Info due to illness

- Campbellsville: In person-301; Phone-14; Virtual-0; Total-315
- Columbia: In person-42; Phone-17; Virtual-0; Total-59
- Corbin: In person-37; Phone-35; Virtual-0; Total-81
- Liberty: In person-155; Phone-29; Virtual-53; Total-237
- London: In person-17; Phone-41; Virtual-0; Total-58
- Monticello: No Info due to illness
- Russell Springs: In person-61; Phone-80; Virtual-0; Total-141
- Somerset: In person-579; Phone-1457; Virtual-1199; Total-3235
- Whitley City: In person-121; Phone-27; Virtual-0; Total-148
- Grand total: In person-1313; Phone-1700; Virtual-1252: Total-4,265

Ms. Myra Wilson presented information on the National Dislocated Workers Grant for Disaster Recovery. The board may be awarded funding under this grant to assist in 11 counties that were affected by wind and storm damage in 2024. With the board's approval, they will be able to assist 100 people with up to \$5,000 each. This policy document is within your packet to increase the amount of funding per participant. Due to rising cost, we need to make this adjustment. This will be for NDWG grants in 2025. We will also be applying for the NDW grant to assist in our 13 counties that were impacted by the recent flooding. A motion to accept the grant terms as presented was made by Ms. Stacey Beeler. Seconded by Robert Akin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Alesa Johnson, Vice President of Workforce Solutions at Somerset Community College, presented information on a new facility, Valley Oak Center, and the short-term programs it offers. The center offers alternatives to 2 or 4-year college degrees, such as, plumbing, electrical, welding, heavy equipment, 3D printing, Quickbooks, Lineman, CDL and Fiber Optics. Many businesses call the center with interest in hiring graduates from these programs. Coursework and training programs are designed with help from industry leaders.

Judge Executive Luke King, Cumberland County, discussed the Civics Club that has created in Cumberland County. The club is an effort to retain the young citizens and give them a voice in local community. Members of the Civics Club are required to attend local and regional meetings and then they are given the opportunity to travel to New York or Washington DC to get in depth government service experience. They will also have the opportunity to earn a spot in an internship as fiscal court employees. Part of the success of Civics Club depends on convincing the local officials that their short-term investment will lead to long-term dividends.

Dr. Michael Yoder, Commissioner of the Education and Labor Department, gave an update from Frankfort. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has seen a steady increase in participants. OVR is also working on getting the programs Everybody Counts and Pre-ETS in the schools to help high schoolers move into the workforce. There is an effort in place to drive people to the Kentucky Career Centers and to provide more services at those locations. There is a mobile GED testing unit that will be launching soon to assist people in getting their GED who can't get to the centers. The Office of Employee Apprenticeship Services has a new Executive Director and she is working on expanding apprenticeships across the state. The state is working on implementing the SWATT initiative at the state and local level.

Ms. BJ Wilkerson, WIOA Assistant Director, gave an update on the WIOA program. There are 70 enrolled in the WIOA program; 6 receiving supportive services, 62 in training programs and 2 in work experience. The majority of those customers are in the healthcare sector. The Cumberland area is participating in a pilot program for the Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWATT).

Ms. Myra Wilson presented the proposed goals for the board's Local Plan. Goal 1: Active participation with employers and stakeholders to increase workforce opportunities across the region and increase new entrance into the workforce. Goal 2: Workforce system alignment. Goal 3: Educate and prepare job seekers. Goal 4: Remove barriers to increase workforce participation. Goal 5: Organizational performance and accountability. Our focus population will be foster youth. April 1<sup>st</sup> in the deadline for our Local and Regional Plan. Ms. Wilson also stated that she will send grant guidelines to the board as those come available.

In other business, Mr. Waylon Wright, LCADD Executive Director, stated that House Bill One has been implemented in 9 counties and the other counties are scheduled. There are 21 participants in the Opioid Grant and may be adding 10 more over the next couple of weeks. He states approval for the Pre-ETS service is pending, but that the IPS service and the Supported Employment Service is approved. Interviews will be taking place to replace Charlotte Smith. LCADD is seeking funding for a full-time In School Career Manager. The LCADD board is currently negotiating on a location for the new workforce building next to Somerset Community College.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sam Brown. Meeting adjourned.

---

Jeff VanHook, Chairman

---

Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer