Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
4/15/2025 @ 10:00 am (CT)
LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Dr, Russell Springs, KY 42642

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board's meeting was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 10:00 am Central Time in-person and via Zoom at the Lake Cumberland Area Development District office in Russell Springs. Mr. Sam Brown, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Ms. Shannon Kelty, LCADD Administrative Assistant, called the roll. There were nineteen (19) of the twenty-nine (29) members present. There were thirteen (13) members in-person and six (6) via zoom. There were fifteen (15) 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 February 18, 2025 meeting. Questions/ corrections were asked for; there being none, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Scott Pierce, seconded by Mr. Larry King. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown asked for appointment and ratification of the following members to the Youth Committee; Ms. Charlotte Barnett and Ms. Kayla Marple and the following member to the Cumberlands Workforce Development Board; Willie Wilson. A motion to accept the appointments was made by Mr. Larry King, seconded by Mr. Wendell Emerson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells, Treasurer, gave the budget report stating the total budget for the year is $2,131,706.21. As of March 28, 2025, we have expended $1,362,673.27 which is 63.92% of the budget. A motion to accept the 2024 budget as presented was made by Ms. Vickie Wells. Seconded by Ms. Ayla Hargis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator, presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She explained that the document is a 3-year agreement between partner agencies and the Cumberlands. A motion to accept the MOU as written was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Ms. Vickie Wells. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Miller also reviewed the Kentucky Career Center update explaining that not all numbers were complete because of illness. Numbers for the 3rd Quarter for the month of March are as follows:

- Albany: In person-106; Phone-37; Virtual-0; Total-143
- Burkesville: In person-0; Phone-5; Virtual-0; Total-5
- Campbellsville: In person-270; Phone-0; Virtual-0; Total-270
- Columbia: In person-72; Phone-25; Virtual-0; Total-97
- Corbin: In person-55; Phone-12; Virtual-0; Total-67
- Liberty: In person-156; Phone-14; Virtual-73; Total-243
- London: In person-10; Phone-21; Virtual-1; Total-32
- Monticello: In person-0; Phone-15; Virtual-0; Total-15
- Russell Springs: In person-26; Phone-45; Virtual-0; Total-71
- Somerset: In person-757; Phone-762; Virtual-1799; Total-3,318
- Whitley City: In person-136; Phone-17; Virtual-0; Total-153
- Grand total: In person-1588; Phone-953; Virtual-1873: Total-4,414

Ms. Myra Wilson, Executive Director CWDB, presented the Local Plan for board approval stating this is the document that goes to the state with what the board's goals are at the local level. The document is currently out for public comment. The document aligns with the discussions that the board has had over the course of planning and aligns with the KWIB sectors. A motion to accept the Local Plan was made by Mr. Craig Dean. Seconded by Mr. Scott Pierce. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson then presented the Regional Plan for board approval stating this is the document that goes to the state with what the board's goals are at the regional level in partnership with South Central Workforce Development Board. The document is currently out for public comment. The document aligns with the discussions that the board has had over the course of planning and aligns with the KWIB sectors. A motion to accept the Regional Plan was made by Ms. Ayla Hargis. Seconded by Ms. Tina Cook. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson presented a Procurement Plan for the board to approve. When being audited recently, no policy could be located, therefore a new one was created. A motion to approve the policy as presented was made by Ms. Tina Cook. Seconded by Scott Pierce. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Brandy Cook spoke to the board about how the opportunity to learn welding through WIOA while in jail helped her turn her life around. She was one of the first students of the welding program. The opportunity she was given has had a positive impact on her life as well as her children and changed the course of her future.

Mr. Eric Wooldridge, Director KCTCS Additive Manufacturing Center, and Mr. Eldon Whitis, Additive Manufacturing Project Specialist KCTCS AMC, spoke to the board about Additive Manufacturing (3D printing). 3D printing impacts many facets of our lives and economy that we're unaware of. He shared how 3D printing can be done with various materials and items can be produced quicker, with less weight, less cost and with more intricate designs with 3D printing over other production methods. The first 3D printed house in Kentucky will be coming in the next few weeks in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. He also discussed the opportunity for high school students to learn 3D printing and get certified before graduation. Teachers are being trained and given 3D printers across Kentucky to teach 3D printing in the classroom and more teachers need to be sponsored to get the program into more schools.

Mr. Sam Keathley, Senior Workforce Analyst at KYSTATS, spoke to the board about KYSTATS and demonstrated how to use the platform as a valuable tool when compiling data. KYSTATS can be used in a multitude of ways, including, but not limited to, grant writing, workforce data and education data. He discussed the Labor Force Participation Rate and how that looks in the Cumberlands Area.

Ms. BJ Wilkerson, WIOA Director, gave an update on the WIOA program and Business Service Team. There are 64 participants enrolled in the WIOA program; 5 receiving supportive services, 57 in training programs, 2 in work experience and 19 in follow-up. WIOA staff is currently participating in staff training through Safal Partners. Lisa Gosser and Kristine McCollum will be retiring. Project WORK is expanding and has 69 participants and 9 in training. The Cyber Security Training program has five positions available; 3 positions have been filled and they hope to have the last two candidates by May 30th. The Business Service Team hosted a job fair in Wayne County and has another coming up at the Somerset Career Center, plus they will attend one at Somerset Community College. Putting Young Kentuckians to Work has been rolled out to all 13 counties. There are 148 signed up for the program with 117 in training and 2 employed.

Ms. Myra Wilson discussed SWATT subcommittees and stated that she is the co-chair for the Employer Engagement Subcommittee. It is a partnership between the cabinets and local and regional areas to drive economic growth. Secretary Link had a call that serves as an introduction to SWATT and the impact it will have on Kentucky. Ms. Wilson also discussed Fostering Success and the need to focus on helping those who have aged out of the foster system. Fostering Success would allow for these individuals to find employment for 10 weeks at partner businesses for $15/hour during the summer months. The hourly wage would be paid by the program, not the employer. The program would also mentor the foster youth for future workforce success. The board's recertification approval letter came in from the state. Planning numbers are in and stayed fairly consistent (slightly down in Dislocated Workers) with a difference of -$36,000. Ms. Wilson, then thanked Lisa Gosser and Kristine McCollum for their years of service.

Mr. Waylon Wright, LCADD Executive Director, says that negotiations with the Center for Rural Development continue for the new Career Center in Somerset. He wishes the retirees well and states that interviews for new business service personnel will happen in the next couple of weeks.

In other business, Mr. Sam Brown asked for a motion to move the Comprehensive Workforce site to the new location at the Center for Rural Development pending successful negotiations between the center and the ADD. A motion was made by Mr. Scott Pierce. Seconded by Mr. Wendell Emerson. 19 in favor; 1 opposed (Michael Carter). Motion carried.

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

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Samuel Brown, Vice-Chair

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Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer