

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
4/16/2024

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in-person and via zoom on April 16, 2024 at the Lake Cumberland Area Development office in Russell Springs. Chairman Sam Brown called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Ms. Jana Shell 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 18 Members in-person or 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 February 20th, 2024 Meeting Minutes were sent to all of the members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion made by Chairman Brown 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 for 4-5-2024 stating our total budget for the year is \$2,350,681.93. As of same date, we have expended \$1,578,229.15 which is 75.09% of the budget. Ms. Wells noted that page 2 was the broken out expenditures by grant area and that we are on target. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Wells if she was making a motion on behalf of the committee and she said yes and the motion passed.

Chairman Brown welcomed the County Judge Executives in the room and on zoom. Next on the agenda is the appointment of a nominating committee. Term limits are end of June 2024 for officers. Our existing nominating committee is Scott Pierce, Chairman, Larry King and Vickie Wells. Chairman Brown asked for a nomination to approve the existing committee. Wendell Emerson made the motion to accept the existing nominating committee and Gary Maupin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Brown moved to the appointment of new members to the one-stop committee. Those for appointments are Ms. Sandy Birkholz and Ms. Michelle Whitis both members of the Business Service Team. Wendell Emerson made a motion to approve the appointments and Scott Pierce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board are honored to have Representative Josh Branscum to provide a legislative update. We want to extend our thanks for all the work Representative Branscum did and assisting Myra.

Representative Branscum shared with the group that before session, we began the discussions regarding those 16-24 year-olds who were not in the workforce or enrolled in school.

The number equates to approximately 77,000 plus people in Kentucky. When the legislators viewed this number, and look at the workforce, that is low-hanging fruit. We are always trying to address workforce issues. A line item appropriation took a lot of work. The legislation put in \$10M for each year for a total of \$20M for the biennial budget. Representative Branscum has been appointed as Chairman of Economic Development Workforce Investment for the House Standing Committee. During the interim, there will be a focus on workforce investment. The workforce board will definitely have a seat at the table. Myra and I have discussed this many times.

Ms. Karen Miller, One Stop Operator provided an update on the customer count and activity at the 11 Career Centers. During the first quarter, they made contact with 11,223 individuals either in person, via phone or zoom. Ms. Miller requested the board to approve the recertification of the Clinton County and Wayne County Employment Office Career Center. Every two years, we are required to recertify. Wendell Emerson made the motion to complete the re-certifications and Alesia Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Lisa Gosser, Business Services Team Coordinator for the Cumberlands Workforce reported on the activities of the four Business Service Liaisons (BSL) that serve the entire area. Since the last WIB meeting they have attended a Work Ethics Seal meeting as we serve on a committee for the work ethics group. We have attended Chamber and Chamber board meetings, Rotary Meetings, and a networking event with Somerset Community College. Meetings occurred with McCreary County Schools and Adair County Schools to coordinate an employer visit and tours. We continue to promote the Kentucky Labor Exchange along with posting Job Openings on our Regional Facebook page.

Ms. Marsha Wells, WIOA Program Manager, shared they are working with 67 people currently. We have almost used the entire \$200,000 received earlier in the year. The additional \$100,000 that was received will begin to be obligated. We received the rolling four quarters report. There are five measures for each program of Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker. We are under monitoring for the next 12 months from the State. Barb Miller, WIOA quality monitor, uses the template from the State when they monitor. The case notes will improve with a story of progression. We are also monitoring to ensure our data entry is completed within the required time period. We can always improve in documenting.

Ms. Alana Reynolds with TSB Putting Kentuckians First (PKF) provided the update. PKF is now in 45 counties. Judge Executive Pat White and Bruce Carpenter, Corbin Economic Development Agency hosted an event in Corbin to connect with employers with Aaron Poynter as the guest speaker. Following the event, Aaron Poynter was the guest speaker at the Chamber meeting.

Judge Executive Pat White also shared his excitement and vision as these relationships are being built. He commended everyone coming together to work through workforce issues and trying to solve workforce needs

Ms. Myra Wilson, Director of Cumberlands Workforce Development Board, reminded everyone that Fostering Success is still looking for employers for the Foster kids. In our area, only one employer has signed up. A huge thank you to Marsha and the WIOA team for spending the Quest Grant Funding. She provided an update of the strategic plan and the goals that are being realized. SETA will be hosted as a one day session in July and then it is scheduled for Savannah this year in September.

Ms. Virginia Dial provided an update on the funding received in HB 1 for the continuation of the Bluegrass Veterans Ranch.

Mr. Jeff Vanhook provided an update on the funding received in HB1 for the tri-county project. Judge Executive Hal Holbrook shared how appreciate he was of the region working together and how collaboration will do great things.

Mr. Waylon Wright, Executive Director of the LCADD, thanked all the legislators for the approval for the funding request. The ADD will get money to build a comprehensive workforce sight. This is the result of the information reported a couple months ago related to seeking funding working with the Center for Rural Development.

Ms. Ayla Hargis wanted to thank everyone for PFK being in Taylor County. It is working based upon her own experiences.

The adjournment motion was made by Scott Pierce.

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Sam Brown, Chairman

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Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer