

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2023

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in-person or via zoom on April 18, 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-four (24) of the twenty-nine (29) member's present in-person or via zoom, thus constituting a quorum of the Board. Sixteen (16) 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 appointment to the following committee; Ms. Sydney Johnson- One-Stop Committee, Motion made Mr. Scott Pierce to ratify the appointment to the committee as presented, seconded by Mr. Jay Shofner. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown nominated Mr. Scott Pierce as Chairman, Ms. Vickie Wells and Mr. Larry King to the Nominating Committee. Motion made by Mr. Brad Hall to accept the nominations that were presented, seconded by Mr. Jay Shofner. Motion carried.

Copies of the February 28th Meeting Minutes were sent to all of the members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion made by Ms. Tina Cook to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Amanda Roy. 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 \$2,147,529.06, which is 75.36 % of the budget expended. The Board also received a copy of the WIOA Expenditures by Grant Number. Mr. Wendell Emerson made the motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Tina Cook. Motion carried.

Mr. John C. Gregory, PH D. Executive Director, Office of Adult Education, Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet gave an important announcement. He announced that Mr. Aaron Poynter will be the Director of Putting Kentuckians First and Reentry Branch with the Kentucky Office of Adult Education with the Education and Labor Cabinet. He will officially start on May 1st. He will continue to serve the counties of the Cumberlands and South Central areas.

Mr. Michael Carter, Regional Program Manager Career Development Office (CDO) gave an update on the CDO. Beginning July 1st, the maximum weeks that a person can draw unemployment is sixteen (16) weeks. Employers can guarantee 16 weeks lay-off if they have a definite recall date. Legislator is requiring that the Office of Unemployment Insurance add

some language to the monetary determination letter that says that it is a valid unemployment claim. They inform the claimant of some training opportunities, and has the potential of an additional five (5) weeks of unemployment benefits and if they are in approved training.

From the Career Development Office standpoint, they are starting to see the first people who were affected when Unemployment Insurance ended at twelve (12) weeks. They are running out of benefits before their recall date. It seems like with the clients having to show five (5) job searches per week has helped with the unemployment rate. They are working to try to get some additional staff for the Career Development Office in Somerset.

Mr. Aaron Poynter thanked the Board, partners and the LCADD for all their support. He thanked Ms. Myra Wilson for her leadership and mentoring. Putting Kentuckians First started out as a vision a few years ago. They were able to secure funding through Statewide Reserve dollars. They could not be doing the things they are doing if it was not for Mr. Kevin Shearer, Mr. Bobby Dunbar and the community partners.

They launched Putting Kentuckians First in Laurel County in March. He did a presentation to the Laurel County Chamber of Commerce. There were a lot of partners and employers present at the meeting. Last week they started Pre Release Classes in Wayne County. They have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Whitley County. They are starting to have some employer awareness sessions in Russell County. The Certificate Training also falls under Putting Kentuckians First. They are planning for a spring/summer class. They are also working on the funding resources for these classes.

He told a success story. He went and talked to a young lady, filmed the video and she started telling him her story. We would have been here for forty-five (45) minutes he could not stop her, there was nothing that he could leave out of the video. She has been in the juvenile justice system since she was in the seventh grade. She had two (2) children while she was incarcerated. She would get out of jail, re-offend and never had a relationship with her children. She was transferred to the Pulaski County Detention Center. She went through the welder's certificate program and graduated. She went on the work release side of things, got a job, set up her life with the help of partners. Her employer is sending her back to school. She is expecting again and she talked about how proud she was that she would get to bring the baby home with her.

Mr. Aaron Poynter is part of the Jobs on Day 1 Collaborative with the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board and some other agencies in Frankfort.

The Kentucky Transportation Pipeline was a big win. There was approval of the process and expansion to other areas. Individuals had to have their ID's to be able to go through their testing. They have gotten 40+ ID's through this program so far. They have started receiving Employer Requested Pipeline Development.

They are starting the pre-release program in Whitley County. Ms. Alana Reynolds with the Russell County Detention Center is having informational sessions to help other counties with the social security process.

They had all the partners involved in Putting Kentuckians First working on writing a Strategic Plan for Putting Kentuckians First. They wrote a Strategic Plan for expansion, Standards of Operations and Playbook for Expansion.

He was involved in the following events;

- He Spoke at the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Recovery Conference.
- They have submitted a proposal to present at the Appalachian Regional Commission Annual Conference. They will find out in a couple of weeks.
- Them as a team has requested to present technical assistance for the Center for Rural Economic Competitiveness. It started out just going to be a panel discussion now it is he and one other person offering technical assistance to set up the Ecosystem for thirteen (13) different states.
- The Welder's Certificate Program (Critical) – was awarded the 2023 Workforce Development Award- Community Colleges of Appalachia.

He thanked Ms. Jana Shell for all of her hard work and dedication to the program. He could not have done it without her.

Mr. Michael Carter said that Aaron's program comes up a lot in the meetings that he attends. The question was asked how many people that complete his program comes out with a job. He had to pull 21-22 data for some grants that they are working on in collaboration with the State. They can share the numbers that they pulled for the grants.

Ms. Becky Wilson commented, that this was one of the most vulnerable populations that they work. Those outcomes are planting fundamental changes in these peoples lives.

Ms. Karen Miller presented letters to the Board asking approval to continue with Re-Certification for four (4) access points; Burkesville Career Center, London Career Center, Mt. Vernon Career Center and Russell Springs Career Center. The recertification has been scheduled for May 6th regarding the Mt. Vernon Career Center, the Lake Cumberland Area Development District will likely not be renewing the lease. Motion made by Ms. Juwana Sampson to approve the continuation of the recertification's that were presented, seconded by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Motion carried.

The Board received two (2) review letters from the Review Team Lead, Ms. Roxanna Robinson; one from the Liberty Career Center and one from the Whitley City Career Centers. These offices changed from Access Points to Affiliate Sites since the last review. Both of these centers are located in the branch of a community college. They have WIOA and Adult Education located in them so now they are Affiliate Sites. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Reviews are also attached. Motion made by Mr. Jay Shofner to approve the certifications for the Liberty Career Center and the Whitley City Career Center, seconded by Ms. Amanda Roy. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator updated the Board on the workforce numbers in all of the offices for the month of March. They served two thousand two hundred and forty-one (2,241), one thousand and twelve (1,012) in-person, six hundred (600) by phone and six hundred and sixteen (616) by virtual. This is a good number since WIOA funding is limited right now.

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. She began work for them in November 2021. The type of service they provide is removing barriers to employment. They serve people with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)-Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), been incarcerated or recovery. They provide assistance with rent, down payment for a place to live, car repair, transportation for work, work uniform, peer support training, etc. They have served seven hundred and seventy-three (773) clients; thirteen(13) in Adair County, seven (7) in Casey County, five (5) in Clinton, four (4) in Green County, nineteen (19) in Laurel County, five (5) in McCreary County, four hundred and sixty-five (465) in Pulaski County, four (4) in Rockcastle County, one hundred and eighty-two (182) in Russell County, thirty-one (31) in Taylor, twenty-one (21) in Wayne County and seventeen (17) in Whitley County.

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

- They have had their weekly Business Service Meetings.
- They have attended Chamber Meetings, Board Meetings, Tourism Meetings, Ribbon Cuttings, Interagency Meetings, Rotary Meeting, Somerset-Pulaski Economic Development Authority(SPEDA) Meeting and assisted with the Pulaski County Work Ethic Seal Meeting.
- They have assisted with Pulaski and Southwestern High Schools Career Fairs.
- They have attended the Somerset Community College Career Fair.
- They have provided some employers with information and guidance.
- They have a new Kentucky portal, Labor Exchange. It is a new platform for posting jobs for employers that the State has provided.
- Provided an employer computing patterns for people working in and out of the county.
- Shared Labor Market Information with the West Virginia Workforce Commissioner.

- Planning meeting with Mr. Mick Sloan about a Summer Camp in June and they are coordinating with employers to do employer visits with this group of kids and some workshops that they will be participating in.
- On the Kentucky Career Center Facebook page, they have posted sixty-two (62) job openings since the last meeting. If you have a job opening please send it to herself, Ms. Sandy Birkholz, Ms. Michelle Whitis or Ms. Shirlene Taylor.
- They have posted new jobs on Indeed for the Lake Cumberland Area Development District.

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

- As of July 1, 2022 they have enrolled one hundred and sixty-nine (169) new Adults and six (6) dislocated workers.
- They still have two hundred eighty-six (286) in follow-up from the Paid Work Experience from last summer. They should be in their last quarter of follow-up. 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 have submitted their second response to the monitoring report on March 20, 2023. The State submitted a third response to one (1) issue on March 28th. They have the response ready to send back to the State. This should be the final response.
- They are waiting on the budget planning numbers for the New Year, they can then figure out what kind of enrollments they can do in each area. Ms. Myra Wilson, we usually get our planning numbers the 1st part of March. Department of Labor has not sent their numbers to the State at this time.

Ms. Myra Wilson presented two (2) changes to the Cumberland Workforce Development Area By-Laws. Due to sickness, it is sometimes hard to get the minutes out three (3) weeks prior to the next meeting. In the current By-Laws, it states, "A meeting notice will be sent to all CWDB members three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Accompanying this notice will be a copy of previous meeting minutes and request for agenda items CWDB members want considered for the next meeting." "Another meeting notice and agenda will be sent to all CWDB members one (1) week prior to the scheduled meeting. Accompanying this notice will be agenda and review materials." The suggested changes are, "A meeting notice will be sent to all CWDB members three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Accompanying this notice will be a request for agenda items CWDB members want considered for the meeting." "Another meeting notice and the agenda will be sent to all CWDB members seven

days prior to the scheduled meeting.” Motion made by Mr. Scott Pierce to make the editorial changes to the By-Laws as presented, seconded by Ms. Tina Cook. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave an Update of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Aaron Poynter and Ms. Lisa Gosser cover a lot of the Strategic Plan activities.

- Goal #1- Active participation with employers and stakeholders to increase workforce opportunities across the region, and increase new entrance into the workforce.
 - EKCEP reached out to Ms. Wilson about purchasing individual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Teleworks, which is work at home jobs. That will have to be an internal discussion, because at this time there are not funds available. Each MOU would cost six hundred dollars (\$600.00).
 - She joined a meeting that was talking about the Employer Childcare Assistance Program. The Business Service Team is trying to push this out for any employer that might be interested.
- Goal #2- Align and integrate educate P-12; adult education and post-secondary education to provide career progression to prepare them for work in the future.
 - Mr. Bill Sandell talked about Rockcastle Hospital starting an apprenticeship with the schools there.
 - Other youth committee members were talking about apprenticeship program with Mr. Sandell.
 - There are grants that will be coming out for apprenticeship programs. Everyone needs to be on the lookout for this.
- Goal #3- Increase regional workforce participation by creating opportunities, incenting workforce participation, and removing barriers to employment.
 - They have three (3) presentations that will be coming up in the near future. These are focused on Putting Kentuckians First. Other communities want to hear what is going on.
- Goal #4 – Focus resources on the most effective initiatives and improve the return on our workforce investment, utilizing data to constantly improve workforce development in Kentucky.
 - One of the grants they put in for, Re-Entry Employment Opportunity Grant, they should have an answer this week.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave the Director’s Update.

- All of the youth money except sixty-thousand dollars (\$60,000) went to Bluegrass Area Development District and rest went to TENCO.
- Representative Josh Branscum joined their last Workforce Director’s meeting. They have some action items that they owe him back. He promised to be an advocate for us and let the State realize they need to send more money down to the local level.

- Mr. Sam Brown attended a meeting with some members of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) and other Board Chairman from across the State. They came out of the meeting with successes, challenges, assistance or support requested. Mr. Brown gave Ms. Wilson some of the documentation that was given and we are doing a lot of the activities except the Virtual Reality.
- The last Interlocal Agreement will be signed tomorrow. We needed all of our new County Judge Executives to sign this so it would be up to date.
- She received a letter On March 21st from Alisher Burikhanov, KWIB Executive Director stating that, “The Office of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board is pleased to notify you that the Kentucky Career Center-Somerset was certified as a Comprehensive Center in the Cumberlands Local Workforce Development area on October 19, 2021.

Motion made by Mr. Scott Pierce to adjourn.

Sam Brown, Chairman

Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer