Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
6/16/2026 @ 10:00 am (CT)
LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Dr, Russell Springs, KY 42642

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board's meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 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, Chair, called the meeting to order and Ms. Alesa Johnson opened with prayer.

Ms. Shannon Kelty, LCADD Administrative Assistant, called the roll. There were twenty-one (21) of the twenty-nine (29) board members present. There were twelve (12) members in-person and nine (9) 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 a copy of the minutes from the April 21, 2026 meeting. Questions and/or corrections were asked for; there being none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Mr. Larry King. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jeff VanHook presented three members for appointment & ratification; Gidgett Warren, Director of Rural Health at TJ Sampson, to the CWDB; Rena Sharpe, Chief Operating Officer at Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, to the CWDB; George Gaertner, Vocational Rehab Counselor at the Office of Vocational Rehab to the Youth Committee. A motion to accept the appointments was made by Ms. Stacey Beeler. Seconded by Ms. Tina Cook. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson, CWDB Executive Director, gave the budget report stating the total budget for PY25 is $2,195,473.00. As of May 22, 2026, $1,463,401.44 has been expended, which is 66.66% of the budget. For Putting Young Kentuckians to Work, we received an extra $200,000 from other workforce areas that weren't going to be able to spend and within 2 days our Direct Service Provider had the funding, allocations and enrollments completed. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Mr. Robert Akin. Seconded by Mr. Wendell Emerson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson also presented the planning budget for PY26, stating that our allocations are just over $2.6 million, which is up 2.1% from the last fiscal year. The planning budget also includes this year's NDWG Storm grant money for this year, as well. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Ms. Juwanna Sampson. Seconded by Ms. Alesa Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson requested the approval of the MOA for LCADD to continue serving as the Direct Service Provider. Based on the PY26 planning budget, they will be compensated up to $2,388,712.00. This is subject to change if the planning numbers change. This contract will be valid for one year with the option to renew yearly up to four years. A motion to approve the MOA for Direct Service Provider as presented was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Mr. Robert Akin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson requested the approval of the MOA for LCADD to continue providing the One-Stop Operator. They will be compensated up to $88,000. This contract will be valid for one year with the option to renew yearly up to four years. A motion to approve the MOA for One-Stop Operator as presented was made by Mr. Eric Sproles. Seconded by Ms. Alesa Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson requested the approval of the MOA with SCKY Foundation for Workforce Development (Employward) to continue as the Regional Quality Coordinator for the CWDB. The position is shared with South Central Workforce Board. They will be compensated $28,000. This contract will be valid for one year. A motion to approve the MOA for Regional QC as presented was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Ms. Stacey Beeler. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson requested the approval of changes to the Allowable Funding Policy for WIOA. She states that the major changes are listing caps for all training programs and removing a section that mentioned Campbellsville University specifically. A motion to accept the Allowable Funding Policy as presented was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Mr. Larry King. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One-Stop Operator, gave an update on WIOA programs. There are 156 participants currently in WIOA programs with 64 in follow up. There are 506 participants currently in Putting Young Kentuckians to Work. The Laurel/Rockcastle/Whitley area has a new career manager currently being trained. The Business Team is continuing internal monitoring and monthly Kee Suites training. Two detention centers have participated in the NDWG Storm Grant cohorts so far with several more coming up. Ms. Myra Wilson states that PYKW has had 251 employment outcomes.

Dr. Michael Yoder, Commissioner, gave an Education & Labor Cabinet update. He states that the contract for PYKW is being worked on now so the funding can get disbursed to the local areas sooner this fiscal year. Ms. Katie Houghlin from the Career Development Office states that there are currently 173 active cases in the Somerset office. Preliminary results from an evaluation by the University of Kentucky shows that we save an average of $200 per claimant in the RESEA area and claim duration has dropped by an average of about a week. Ms. Houghlin also says that the Somerset office is receiving regular customer praises and that team is doing a fantastic job. Dr. Yoder proceeded to say that the Somerset office is a great example for how to do things better across the state.

Dr. Yoder states that OVR has been under "order of selection" for a while now and that clients are starting to come off the waiting list for services. Also, Cora McNabb will be retiring from the OVR department in August. In the Office of Industry & Apprenticeship, there is a big emphasis from the federal government for apprenticeships. They are looking at how to align apprenticeships with state & federal funding, as well as, how to provide more access in detention centers. The Cabinet of Economic Development is looking at the partnership with all the mega-sites across the state, such as the one Jeff VanHook is working on in Rockcastle County, and how to market those sites in the workforce space.

Dr. Yoder continues his update by saying that Kentucky Adult Education contracts are being negotiated so funds can be filtered to them. The strategic Plan has been approved for the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and it focuses on things such as; engaging more employers, return on investment, increasing skills and increasing education. Discussion is also taking place about an AI taskforce through KWIB. The Department of Labor is asking questions about more things and details than they have previously regarding monitoring. DOL will also be auditing the NDWG for Kentucky soon. Workforce Pell will expand the current Pell Grant program on July 1st. In order for a program to be considered for Workforce Pell, the institution/program will need to meet several qualifications. KCTCS already has several training programs that should be eligible for Workforce Pell Grants. The state is applying for several federal grants to leverage resources in multiple workforce areas.

Lastly, Dr. Yoder gave an update on SWATT. There were 10 SWATT Roadshows across the state and through those, four primary areas of opportunity for workforce alignment have been identified. The current focus is State-Local integration in a practical, effective way. Ms. Myra Wilson & Ms. Jessie Shook, Vice President of Economic Development and Workforce Development at KCTCS, will be leading the effort moving forward. The SWATT Hub will kick off next week to integrate KCTCS, economic development and education and labor data to start sharing notes across the three systems in real time.

Ms. Cassie Bertram, Case Manager, introduced Ms. Konnie Snyder who will be the new case manager covering the Laurel/Rockcastle/Whitley area. She taught school for 27 year and coached/ coaches' basketball.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave a Director's Update stating that the Strategic goals are in everyone's packet and we are on track to complete all goals for FY25. SETA is in August and Ms. Wilson will be a panelist. Our planning numbers only showed $800,000 for Youth and we will receive over a million dollars, which is huge. She expresses appreciation for all the board members, the Direct Service Provider, the One-Stop Operator and the Fiscal Agent for their commitment and dedication to the local workforce.

Ms. Virginia Dial states that the Kentucky Legislature, Federal Legislature, community and LCADD have been instrumental in getting the Bluegrass Veterans Ranch going. They received $3 million from the state last fiscal year with another $1.6 million this fiscal year. She also says that the Federal application for an additional $2 million has passed through committee and is now going to the floor thanks to Congressman Hal Rogers.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Tina Cook. Meeting adjourned.

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Jeff VanHook, Chair