

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2023

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in-person or via zoom on June 20, 2023 at the Lake Cumberland Area Development office in Russell Springs. Chairman Mr. Sam Brown called the meeting to order.

Ms. Laretta Pierce called the roll. There were twenty-two (22) 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.

Copies of the April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes were sent to all of the members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion made by Mr. Sam Brown ask to entertain to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Scott Pierce made the motion and Tina cook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown announced the new members starting after June 30, 2023. Mr. Craig Dean representing Adair county and Mr. Ernie Alexander representing Pulaski county. Mr. Dean and Mr. Alexander have been appointed to the Executive Committee. Ms. Alesa Johnson made a motion to approve and Mr. Scott Pierce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells gave an update for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget for PY'22 was \$2,861,953.50 and the expenditures as of 6/2/2023 were 2,619,914.37 leaving a surplus of \$242,039.13 or 91.54% of the budget was spent. The Board also received a copy of the WIOA Expenditures by Grant Number. Ms. Vickie Wells made the motion to approve the current budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Brad Hall. Motion carried.

Ms. Wells also presented the proposed PY'23 Budget. The proposed budget was \$2,035,68.93. The state reserve is not showing and most of that being in the adult section. Mr. Brown pointed out we had a substantial reduction in the budget. Ms. Alesa Johnson ask if there were any plans to recoup any of the money. Ms. Myra Wilson, Workforce Director, stated that these were just planning numbers and she knows the state is looking in to grant money. Monies allocated are taken from the unemployment numbers, when the unemployment numbers are down there will be less monies allocated. Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the new budget all voted to accept.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Workforce Director presented the Contract Extension of the Direct Service Provider and the budget for the year beginning July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and the budget being \$1,953,681.93. Motion was made by Ms. Rhonda Thomas to retain the Lake Cumberland Area Development District as Direct Service Provider for all WIOA Direct Services in the amount of \$1,953,681.93, seconded by Ms. Amanda Roy. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson then presented the One Stop Operator and budget beginning July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 with the budget being \$82,000.00. Motion was made by Mr. Larry King to retain the Lake Cumberland Area Development District as the One-Stop Operator in the amount of \$82,000.00, seconded by Ms. Vicki Wells. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown brought the MOA between the CWDB and the Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency (LCCAA) for the amount of \$114,323.00 to establish a contract for Workforce Development Administrative Services Director. Mr. Brad Hall made a motion to approve the MOA as presented and Ms. Karen Talbot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Scott Pierce, Chairman of the Nominating Committee gave the Nominating Committee Report and wants to bring the CWDB in line with the guidelines of the State Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB). This will require a change of the CWDB By-Laws from a two-two year term to (three) two-year terms for officers. The KWIB officers are structured with (two) three-year terms for a total of six years. The Executive Committee was polled prior to this meeting and all agreed to this change. Mr. Larry King, Ms. Vickie Wells and Mr. Scott Pierce from the Nominating Committee agreed to the change to be in alignment with the state. On behalf of the committee, we would like to make a nomination that the officers remain the same. The current officers are Mr. Sam Brown, Chairman, Mr. Wendell Emerson, Vice Chairman, Ms. Vickie Wells, and Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One Stop Operator, gave the Career Center Update with all centers reporting 3,622 people came thru in May. The Library has been using the Career Center in Campbellsville and there was 934 people who came thru the Library and those numbers reflect but they are receiving exposure to the Career Center. There was a discussion on moving but thru negotiation, there was a savings of \$25,000.00 in Campbellsville office. The office in Campbellsville will remain in the same location. The state closed the Monticello Career Center effective June 30, 2023. Mr. Larry Hatfield will be moving his office in Monticello and the location to be announced later. Monticello will still have exposure to WIOA.

Ms. Alesa Johnson, VP of Workforce Solutions, shared that Somerset Community College had received the Workforce Development Award from the Community College of Appalachians. There are 350+ colleges in CCA association. SCC won the CCA for the CRITICAL Project: "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Inmates: Transforming individuals, Community and Livelihoods". Ms. Johnson stated the program was three fold:

- Increase the Workforce participation with skill labor
- Reduce Recidivism
- Transform Lives

The inmates are taught soft skills, resume writing class, and they participate in mock interviews. A welding class started in 2021 from selected inmates. At the end of their eight-week course,

the students earn their Welder helper Credential, 2G and 3G welding certifications and a forklift certification. There have been four classes, with a total participation of 24 with 12 who are still working. In the project the participants have a graduation, earn a Certificate, given a job while incarcerated, started a savings account, get ID's, job interviews, and help getting their Social Security cards. Ms. Alesa Johnson wanted to thank the partners that made this possible.

Mr. Eric Wooldridge, Professor and Director of the Additive Center at the Somerset Community College (SCC), which is presently renovating the old blackboard building, had a presentation via zoom on:

- Artificial Intelligence
- 3 D Printing
- Virtual Reality

The presentation will be primarily on Virtual Reality (VR). VR has been talked about for two years but nothing has transpired and not because of the equipment but because the soft wear for VR is too expensive. A proposal was put together for the National Science Foundation to put together a Low Cost Virtual Reality program. This program was to take teachers and have them create their own lesson and then share with other teachers. No subscription cost and the software is free with a continued access to lessons and materials. Saving the cost of a purchase of a car motor, train, and a welding simulation. Training is a 12-16 week remote training program. The power of this program is we can reach those companies who cannot purchase the equipment to train people. The goal is to be able to provide this to everyone. There is a desire for the semiconductor industry. The Chips Act is going to pull technicians from Kentucky who can do semiconductor fabrication. There was an 8-week trial program with people out of different fields who had no experience with software or coding, they were trained via VR, and the program was a success. Eric also said they have been in Artificial Intelligence in the engineering field for about four years now. AI comes up with the best solutions and 3D printing make those solutions possible.

Ms. Alesa Johnson announced SCC has received approval for a grant to purchase a full scale 3D construction printer. Mr. Sam Brown ask Ms. Johnson to explain more about the 3D in regards to building houses. SCC will be doing research on the homes for withstanding tornado, flooding and other natural disasters. Hopefully in two years they can be in the field building a 1200 sq. foot house in three days.

Mr. Wooldridge also said AI is also looking into printing the wiring and plumbing for these homes. This is a four year grant and SCC will be working with the Corp of Engineers. Ms. Johnson also invited everyone to come and tour.

Ms. B J Wilkerson, SITE, gave statistics with 888 people being served. Pulaski County is the largest county being served. The program continues to do great. Ms. Wilkerson stated they

are working in the Burkesville area now. Ms. Wilson thanked Judge Executive Luke King on introducing Ms. Wilkerson around and giving her more exposure to the area.

Ms. Lisa Gosser, Business Services Coordinator, updated us on the WIOA and the events they have been involved in:

- They have served on several committees, help work on the Perkins grant in education, attended Rotary Meeting and Regional Trade meeting.
- Ms. Gosser helped with hiring events and arranged speakers for Mr. Sloan. We helped Mr. Mick Sloan hold a Workforce Camp where he took 12 students to Dr. Schneider's for a tour. When the tour was finished, Dr. Schneider fed the group.
- We held mock interviews with the seniors.
- Superior Battery held a hiring event at the facility and Ms. Gosser help set up.
- Ms. Gosser was at the Regional Hiring Event held in Somerset and it was a success. There were 200 job seekers that went thru the Center for Rural Development and we had 57 employers represented. Ms. Gosser wants to thank the Center for Rural Development, ADD partnership and the Workforce Board for their unity in making this hiring event a success.

The state has issued a new program called Econovue. Ms. Gosser will have the access for the Cumberland region. This program is a tool that provides more information on employers and different labor markets information. Ms. Gosser is still training and will provide more information later.

Ms. Marsha Wells, WIOA Program Director, updated us on the WIOA work program members for year ending 2022. There were 169 members which 22-adults and six dislocated workers and 53 youth in occupational training. In the youth group in Occupational training, there will be about 40% go over to the New Year. Mr. Larry Hatfield and Mr. Aaron Poynter had discussed with us the need to focus on health care. Burkesville had four to enter the nursing program and all four have graduated and obtained full time jobs. One of those students in Burkesville had graduated the nursing program at the top of her class. Starting the 2023 year we will start preapproving people for the program.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Workforce Director, informed everyone that a new policy has come from the Directors meeting on Thursday, June 16 and was received in the office on Friday, June 17. There was technical amendment made June 16, 2023 that the time frame to enter case notes change from three days to ten business days. Ms. Tina Cook made a motion to approve the Case Note Policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Alesa Johnson. Motion carried.

Mr. Aaron Poynter, Director of Putting Kentuckians First (PKF), Reentry Branch, Kentucky Office of Adult Education with Education and Labor Cabinet, discussed Strategic Planning goals:

- Active participation with employers. Continue with the detention program.
- Align and integrate education P-12, adult education and post-secondary education to prepare them to work in the future. Launch PKF to other counties.

- Increase regional workforce participation by creating opportunities, incenting workforce participation and removing barriers to employment.
- Focus resources on the most effective initiatives and improve the return on our workforce investment, utilizing data to constantly improve workforce development in Kentucky.

Mr. Poynter stated he wants to launch the Detention Certificate classes along with continuing support to Pulaski County. Mr. Poynter will be graduating from Appalachian Leadership Institute next month and that will open up some multi projects and funding. Mr. Poynter begins Leader Ship Kentucky and has taken on Jobs on Day One Workforce Collaborative and Employment First Council. Ms. Wilson mention Dr. Gregory was happy to fund the program as along as the strategy for the best place to use the funding continues. Ms. Wilson also met with Deputy Secretary Brinly and Secretary Link and nine other workforce directors and cabinet staff to discuss what the topics would be for the 2024 Legislative Session. The Legislators meet next month to discuss Senate Topics and Senate Bill 90. The Deputy Secretary wants to know how Jobs on Day One and Economic Development Project can be combined into one and help more Kentuckians. Ms. Wilson revisited the meeting with Deputy Secretary Brinly stating she had challenged everyone to work together and come up with new ideas so they can go to the legislator and make changes for the 2024 session. We need to decide where the most funding needs to be. She also wanted us to focus on the Economic Development Project, the Outreach Program. The next meeting will be July 10, 2023 and the finalization will be on July 27. The packet for Interlocal Agreement is together with the new judges signatures. Also, please keep in mind that the finalized package is being done with KWIB. Mr. Alisher Burikhanov and Ms. Debbie Dennison will be visiting all areas. Our date for the visit with Alisher and Debbie will be September 20, 2023. They will be asking what our needs are when we see these people, what the employers needs are, the education needs and business and industry.

Ms. Myra Wilson announced Ms. Beverly Grimes is retiring July 30, 2023 and Ms. Laretta Pierce will be taking her position.

Ms. Wilson wants to remind the new unemployment rules take effect July 1, 2023. The unemployment is 16 weeks with the max being 24 weeks if you are enrolled in a training course. If you are drawing unemployment now, you will not draw the extended benefit.

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Shawn Cruz and Ms. Angela Cowan for their service on the board.

Mr. Sam Brown ask if there is any more business and Ms. Johnson introduced Mr. Ben Fouts Project Manager replacing Eric Harris.

Mr. Waylon Wright expressed appreciation for the extension approvals.

Ms. Virginia Dial announced to the Board they have found the land needed for the Veteran Project and purchased 20 acres.

Mr. Sam Brown adjourned the meeting.

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Sam Brown, Chairman

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Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer