

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board  
Meeting Minutes  
4/21/2026 @ 10:00 am (CT)  
LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Dr, Russell Springs, KY 42642

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board's meeting was held on Tuesday, April 21, 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 Mr. Sam Brown 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 thirteen (13) members in-person and eight (8) via Zoom. There were fourteen (14) 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 February 17, 2026 meeting. Questions and/or corrections were asked for; there being none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Sam Brown. Seconded by Ms. Tina Cook. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jeff VanHook presented one member for appointment & ratification; Tucker Adams, Foreman at Aerial Line Construction, to the CWDB. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Mr. Willie Wilson. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Sams. 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 March 27, 2026, \$1,115,684.67 has been expended, which is 50.82% of the budget. For Putting Young Kentuckians to Work, we received an extra \$237,000 from other workforce areas that weren't going to be able to spend their money for this year. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Ms. Ayla Hargis. Seconded by Ms. Juwana Sampson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson states that the RFP Review Committee scored the RFPS for Direct Service Provider and One-Stop Operator. Lake Cumberland Area Development District submitted the only RFPs for both positions. The review committee recommends approving both RFPs. Budget planning will begin in mid-May once planning numbers are in. A motion to approve LCADD for the Direct Service Provider for PY26 was made by Mr. Sam Brown Seconded by Mr. Brett Traver. All in favor. Motion carried. A motion to approve LCADD for the One-Stop Operator for PY26 was made by Mr. Brett Traver. Seconded by Ms. Stacey Beeler. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Executive Director, gave an update on WIOA programs. There are 109 participants currently in WIOA programs with 65 in follow up. There are 427 participants currently in Putting Young Kentuckians to Work. Ms. Wilson would like to recognize Jessica Calvert from South Central Workforce Area who does our internal monitoring and the work she does with the WIOA team to help correct any findings or issues that arise. Ms. Wilson also commended everyone on a successful monitoring for PY24 with no Financial Findings and only 2 Programmatic Findings. Lastly, the Business Service Team is available for anyone who wants to host a job fair.

Ms. Wilson reviewed the Kentucky Career Center update. The total number of participants that were served for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Jan.-Mar. 2026) is 11,085 which is a 16% decrease from this quarter last year. The biggest factor being the ice storm we had early in the quarter. QR codes in the career centers

are being utilized to get customer and employer feedback which will be reviewed regularly to make improvements to service.

Representative Josh Branscum gave a Legislative update. The budget session has wrapped up setting the 2-year framework for the budget of Kentucky (HB500), which resulted in a fiscally conservative budget. It allowed for \$1.7 billion from the Budget Reserve Fund to go into HB900 which will directly benefit local communities. HB576, Kentucky Talent and Recruitment Grant Program, will offer grants for economic development, workforce/talent development and community development. HB577 will modernize the Kentucky Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub program and help attract tech companies to Kentucky. HB900, which is typically for one-time spending projects, will again be putting money directly into the workforce boards. The last budget allotted \$20,000,000 and this budget allotted \$10,000,00 resulting in a total investment in the Kentucky workforce boards of \$30,000,000 over 4 years. Clinton County will receive \$17,000,000 for their water treatment plant.

Representative Ken Upchurch, Chairman of BR Transportation, will be retiring after serving Kentucky for 26 years. He has led the transportation budget for the last 4 years and states that the latest road plan sets a tone for responsible spending in the future. Only projects of the highest priority were put into the Transportation Budget to avoid over spending. LARP, the Local Assistance Road Program, currently has a little over \$70 million in it for local road projects of highest priority. One of the projects in HB900 will allow for the construction of a natural gas pipeline into Monticello. It will affect 4 counties in the Lake Cumberland region; Cumberland, Clinton, Wayne & Pulaski. This will aid in the development of that area for future industry to locate to rural areas and will be a major boost for the local economies. Mayor Kenny Catron, Monticello, states that the major trunkline will start at the Alpine in Burkesville and run all the way to Monticello at the Don Franklin car lot. The pipeline will also allow for residential hookup.

Mr. Ben Fouts, Project Manager at Workforce Solutions, shared that they are offering a Natural Gas training for high school students that will benefit from the new pipeline in our area. Other trainings that are currently happening are Workforce Bootcamps in the local detention centers to equip incarcerated individuals for employment upon release. The bootcamps offer OSHA 10 & First Aid/CPR trainings, as well as, Financial Literacy, 10 Soft Skills You Need and Professionalism in the Field. Several of the bootcamps are scheduled for the coming months. Fiber Optics training is available in McCreary and Adair Counties for high school students. Students will receive several Fiber Optic certificates that are nationally recognized. Other available trainings include; Lineman Tech training, Heavy Equipment Operations and 3D Concrete Printing. Ms. Virginia Dial, Bluegrass Veterans Ranch, states that Connect Community Village will soon be creating a 3D printed administrative building. Mr. Fouts also says that KCTCS has Trains Funding which is a customized source of funding to help cover the cost of training employees at for-profit companies in Kentucky. Trains would cover 75% of the cost and the company would cover 25% of the cost, plus a 10% fee for whatever trainings they chose.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave a Director's Update and states that the in regards to our Strategic Goals, the SWATT initiative is close to being launched and the playbook is being created for how this will be utilized. The 10 workforce directors will convene sometime this Summer to discuss a smooth roll out of the program. There is a youth hiring event in June for healthcare.

Ms. Roxana Miracle, Office of Vocational Rehab, states that 84 people across the state will be able to come off the waiting list starting May 1, with 9 of those being in Somerset.

Ms. Wilson would like to recognize Jon Sowards from the South Central Workforce Board. South Central is our regional partner and we work closely with them. Mr. Jeff VanHook wants to thank Mr.

Sowards for the time they spent together in Frankfort lobbying for the funding we received. Ms. Wilson also says thanks for that work while she was away for a few weeks working at home and thanks to the Legislators for their work securing that funding.

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

---

Jeff VanHook, Chair