

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
2/17/2026 @ 10:00 am (CT)
LCADD, 2384 Lakeway Dr, Russell Springs, KY 42642

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board's meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17, 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 (20) of the twenty-nine (29) board members present. There were ten (10) members in-person and ten (10) 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 December 9, 2025 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. Sam Brown. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jeff VanHook presented one member for appointment & ratification; Kasey Logan to the Youth Committee. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Ms. Ayla Hargis. 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 January 30, 2026, \$790,439.14 has been expended, which is 36.0% of the budget. The National Dislocated Worker Grant currently has \$69,750.00 remaining which will need to be expended by September 30, 2026. We received \$1,000,000.00 for Putting Young Kentuckians to Work and as of January 30, 2026 we've spent \$602,185.85 and will have those funds expended by May 2026. A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Ms. Tina Cook. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. VanHook presented members of the RFP Review Committee for 2026; Monica Shuffett, Wendell Emerson, Brett Traver, Ayla Hargis, Eric Sproles and Jeff VanHook. This committee will be responsible for reviewing the RFPs received for Direct Service Provider and One Stop Operator. A motion to accept the members of the RFP Review Committee was made by Mr. Willie Wilson. Seconded by Ms. Stacey Beeler. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One Stop Operator, presented the recertification and ADA findings for the Campbellsville Career Center. The center has some flooding and mold issues, as well as, quite a bit of unused space. Options are being researched for moving to a new location or adding more partners in the current space. Also noted was the need for ADA compliant computers and stations. Options for ADA compliant equipment is being worked on. A motion on the Campbellsville Recertification/ADA report was made by Mr. Sam Brown. Seconded by Ms. Ayla Hargis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Miller then reviewed the recertification and ADA findings for the Columbia Career Center. The center itself had no issues, but, again, there is a need for ADA compliant equipment. A motion on the Columbia Recertification/ADA report was made by Ms. Alesa Johnson. Seconded by Mr. Eric Sproles. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson, presented the board with a list of High Demand Industry Certifications. Highlighted certifications indicate what certifications already align with what the board is doing, while the others in the list indicate potential certifications to suggest to the KWIB Education Attainment Committee and KDE to make high demand. After some discussion, the board decided it would be best to suggest all the certifications listed as high demand. A motion was made by Mr. Sam Brown. Seconded by Mr. Wendell Emerson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Miller, gave an update on WIOA programs. There is a total of 75 participants currently in WIOA programs with 67 in follow up. There are 338 participants currently in Putting Young Kentuckians to Work. The PY25 NDWG Quarterly Monitoring is closed for the quarter and they continue to work through internal monitoring. The team will participate in KEE Suite training in March and new Career Manager training is being completed as needed.

Ms. Miller reviewed the Kentucky Career Center update. Customer Count Numbers for the 2nd Quarter (Oct.-Dec. 2025) are as follows: in-person 4,704; over the phone 2,969; virtually 3,545; total customer count 11,218.

Mr. Ben Reno-Weber, Essential Innovations CEO, spoke to the board about AmeriCorps & Serve Kentucky. Kentucky was chosen as one of four states to leverage the AmeriCorps programs as part of a larger workforce strategy. Serve Kentucky is the umbrella organization in Kentucky for all of the AmeriCorps programs with over 17,000 people having gone through the program at this point and is available in all Kentucky counties. AmeriCorps focuses on education, economic opportunity, healthy futures, environment, disaster services and capacity building. Participants ranging in age 16-86 can serve and they gain workforce experience and education credits through their service, as well as getting paid and getting insurance. The goal will be to incorporate AmeriCorps/Serve Kentucky into the SWATT initiative to strengthen Kentucky's workforce system.

Ms. Katie Houghlin, CDO Executive Director, gave a Career Development Office. She states that the recent ice storm and holidays created a decrease in services, but those are starting to increase again. They are monitoring Coursera enrollments and she encourages those who work in the CDO to re-emphasize the training. RESEA activities are being utilized to get those who may exhaust their UI benefits re-employed. They have begun a pilot program to encourage and require subsequent activity for the RESEA participants. Phase 1 was in Somerset, Owensboro, Prestonsburg and Lexington on January 5th. Phase 2 will include Bowling Green, Morehead and Elizabethtown on February 2nd. The rest of the centers will be added each month as a series and all 13 CDO offices are coordinating to roll that out. In Somerset, the CDO has 202 active workforce cases, 6 employment outcomes, 11 referrals, 92 clients walk in the door, 16 RESEA participants and 6 Coursera enrollments as of February 14th.

Ms. Roxana Miracle, OVR Program Manager, gave an OVR update. Vocational Rehab has filed some emergency regulations to help open some of the categories and beginning to get participants off the waiting list for services. There is still lots of Pre-ETS money so those students are still being served.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave a Director's Update. We are working for the funding for Putting Young Kentuckians to Work and Ms. Wilson thanks Jeff VanHook and her workforce colleagues for taking several meetings in Frankfort to push for the funding. Representative Josh Branscum put in the funding request in December and helping to advocate. Ms. Wilson and Michael Gritton filled out the funding request this week with Senator Girdler. The President did sign the Workforce Development bill that secures our funding through September 30, 2026. Ms. Wilson also states that she has been asked to join

the Workforce Pell Grant Advisory Committee that will deal with the grant for the 2026-27 school year and the focus is to fill the gaps by providing grants for training programs that last 8 to 15 weeks focusing on healthcare, IT and manufacturing.

Mr. Waylon Wright, LCADD Executive Director, gave the Direct Service Provider update. The workforce building in Somerset will be around 13,500 square feet. Textiles have been chosen, a floor plan has been proposed and the geotechnical survey has been completed. A new career manager, Amy Garner Abner, has been hired to serve Wayne, Clinton and Cumberland Counties.

Ms. Wilson presented the board with an updated Cumberlands Workforce System Operational Guidelines. Language was added to include Dislocated Workers. A motion to accept the guidelines was made by Mr. Wendell Emerson. Seconded by Mr. Willie Wilson. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Jeff VanHook, Chair