

Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board (CWDB) met in-person or via zoom on August 15, 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.

Mr. Sam Brown announced we have two new Board members and guest. Mr. Craig Dean, from Synergy Food out of Columbia and Mr. Ernie Alexander, from Gatormade out of Somerset. Mr. Alexander has with him Allan Anderson retired CEO of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation. We also have Deputy Judge Executive Nathan Nevels who is here with Judge Larry King. Visiting also was Judge Marshall Todd from Pulaski County and from here Waylon Wright, Executive Director and Jeric Devore, Assistant Director from the Lake Cumberland Area Development District. We want to welcome all.

Copies of the June 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes were sent to all of the members. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion made by Mr. Sam Brown to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Scott Pierce made the motion and Ms. Juwana Sampson second the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown made the appointment to the One- Stop Committee of Mr. Ben Fouts . Motion was made to approve by Mr. Larry King and Wendell Emerson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Vickie Wells gave the budget report stating there were two budget reports because of additional funds recaptured from Lincoln Trail. The first budget PY'22 additional funds 7/1/22 to 7/14/23 of 116,856.88. Ms. Wells ask Ms. Myra Wilson, Workforce director, if she had any additional comments. Ms. Wilson stated we were able to take it and was very grateful to receive it for our expenses. Ms. Wells said the budget was \$2,861,953.50 and our expenditures were \$2,860,935.78 and stated we had done very well on our budget by using 99.6% of it.

Ms. Wells then presented the new budget of \$1,035,681.93 with expenditures of \$17,567.64, using .86% of the funds. If no questions, then Ms. Wells requested on behalf of the committee that the budget be approved. Ms. Cook ask why there was such a reduction in the budget. Ms. Wilson responded by stating the budget is based on the unemployment rate. Mr. Scott Pierce, Chairman stated they use a formula based on the unemployment rate. If there is a county that has a higher unemployment rate they would receive more money. Mr. Sam Brown stated Ms. Wells made the motion for the committee, all in favor and all opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson presented an Amendment for the Maintenance of the Website. Ms. Wilson stated we wanted to keep the same level of service and the new things like the E-Business letter. Mr. Kirby Stephens agreed to keep the same cost as last year. The cost being \$2,062.50 per month or \$24,786 a year. Mr. Brown ask if Kirby tracked the number of hits on the web page. Ms. Wilson answered by stating the numbers are in the packet. Mr. Sam Brown ask for a motion to pass the Amendment. Mr. Wendell Emerson made the motion and Ms. Tina Cook second the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Miller, One Stop Operator, gave an update on the Career Center with all centers reporting. The first pages are for year end with us serving, in person, phone calls, and video chat is 32,566 people. The next few pages are current numbers we have served. Mr. Sam Brown ask if the 32,566 people were all unemployed. Ms. Miller stated those numbers included everything they served, so no they all were not unemployed. There was a career fair in Somerset with 255 people in attendance. This was a very successful Career Fair.

Ms. BJ Wilkerson, SITE, gave statistics with Pulaski County being the largest county served followed by Russell County, Taylor, Wayne, Adair, Laurel, Whitley, Casey, Clinton, McCreary, Rockcastle and Green. These are annual numbers for the year, 345 clients employed, and 228 referrals given, 41 trainings provided and 74 presentations given.

Ms. Lisa Gosser, Business Services Coordinator for the Cumberland Workforce Area as a Service Provider thru the Lake Cumberland Area Development District. We have been hosting our weekly business meetings, attending the Rotary Meeting, Chamber Meeting, Tourism Meeting, and Work Ethic Community Meeting with Maximus and a Community Partner Event that was held in the London Area. Attending these along with The Industrial Authority Meeting and RISE Luncheon held in Pulaski County. We are working with South Central in a Rapid Response for a plant closing in the Edmonton Area to provide them with options for jobs. We contacted two employers to an invitation we had to go with us for the 65 people who were being affected by the closure in the Burksville area and it was successful for them. We provided labor market statistics and market information and we helped Adair County employer in search of a bilingual person to fill their needs. We posted on our Web page Labor Exchange and Better Teams which is a job recruiting site. We had the opportunity to work with Green River Ministry to serve a meal which was another good opportunity to reach out to some employers. Ms. Gosser attended training on Econoview the new access site the state has provided that gives labor market information to employers. We closed out the Incumbent Worker Contract in Whitley City and it was successful. We collaborated with SCC which is one of our strong partners.

Ms. Marsha Wells, WIOA Program Director, so far there has been 39 preapproved youth enrollments. Applicants must come into the office to be preapproved so we can make sure to stay within the budget guidelines. There are 39 new youth workers, three dislocated workers and 47 active adults in training. There was some turn over internally. Jennifer Burton resigned. Those helping us is Lisa Gosser, Barb Miller and Marsha Wells who are here in Russell County and with the help of the people in Campbellsville we will be covering all the area for now. We will set up appointment and we can travel there to make sure everyone is taken care of. They have started

PY 21 last week and it took them about a year to do PY 20 so hopefully it will not take as long to do PY 21. In other business there is a person in Laurel County who has been helped with 4 semesters of college with tuition and cost of books and this year being his last year is needing \$200.00 dollars to have enough for the cost of his books. He only likes two classes to graduate and financial aid will not pay for two classes. Mr. Sam Brown ask for a motion Mr. Brad Hall made the motion and Mr. Scott Pierce second the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Sam Brown ask Ms. Wells to give the new members a list programs we help with, Lineman School, Truck Driving CDL License, Construction, Education, IT, nurses, Welding, Electrical, HVAC, Radiography in Campbellsville and many more. The programs are usually a 2 year training program.

Mr. Aaron Poynter, Director of Putting Kentuckians First and Reentry Branch Office of Adult Education, Education and Labor Cabinet introduced Ms. Alana Reynolds, to Putting Kentuckians First Navigator for Cumberlands. She has 13 Years of Jail/Corrections Experience and been Partnered with CWDB and PKF since inception. Ms. Jana Shell, is Lead Putting Kentuckians First Navigator. Mr. Poynter highlighted the strategic goals for 2024:

1. 20 Live Counties
2. 10 Referrals Per County Per Month
3. 50% Employment/Retention
4. 3 Inmate Cohorts in Detention
5. Progress 8/2023
6. 7 Launched-8 on Standby
7. 60.79% Employment /Retention
8. 1 Cohort Graduation

Mr. Poynter said they were really looking into the expungement process, judicial involvement, and work groups. Mr. Poynter says there will be future updates.

Mr. Sam Brown seen Judge Hobart from Rockcastle County and Judge King from Cumberland County on the screen and welcomed them to the meeting. Mr. Sam Brown ask Mr. Scott Pierce if he had anything to announce about KWIB and Mr. Pierce said their meeting was this Thursday. He had nothing at this time.

Ms. Myra Wilson, Director gave a update on the Strategic Plan stating there were 4 pages that could be read through but just hitting the high level things. Mr. Mick Sloan was not able to be here today he is involved with Wilderness Education Project in Russell County. There are two students from Russell County in this project working in a teacher apprenticeship at Lindsey Wilson College and the other is in an IT apprenticeship working at the Russell County Board of Education. They were the second school in the state to get the Wilderness Project up going and they were very proud of that. They have launched a pilot related to Foster youth ages 18-23 working with the Cabinet of Health and Family Services with the partners through the Independent Living Specialist. The objective is to refer them to Putting Kentuckians First Program to remove the barriers. The judicial can make sure that they work with the local people to understand what is available to them before they totally sign out of the Foster Program. This is a Program that is through the state that was created to help them get into work or credentialing or whatever it may be to obtain employment. Ms. Wilson talked with the staff at Somerset

Community College and what they shared is they start but they do not complete because it takes too long. So if we could do something shorter like welding the chances may increase in them staying. Ms. Wilson shared Grants are being submitted and Deputy Secretary Brinly is working heavily on getting the Workforce more money. This great Representative Josh Branscum is working with the 10 Workforce Directors to do a presentation to the Economic Development Workforce Investment Committee on September 28th in Frankfort. They are in the interim session and we will be presenting on four areas that the committee will want to see.

Mr. Sam Brown stated he had attended the local Workforce Board Chair meeting chaired by Kim Menke KWIB Chair who works for Toyota. We lead the charge on some of the issues such as being short staffed which we do not have that problem here. There is another meeting on August 17, 2023. Mr. Brown asked if there has been any more progress on getting another facility for the Comprehensive Center in Somerset. The building has numerous issues and is not easily accessible by the handicapped. No room for growth, nor room for Job Fairs. Mr. Brown asked if they needed about 15,000 sq. feet. There was various discussion on how to obtain a new building and in an area that is very visible. Mr. Waylon Wright ask if a place was found what the next steps are because property goes quickly, so we will need to act quickly. Mr. Brown spoke up and said a special called meeting even if it was zoom would be the best. Mr. Brown then ask if there were any more questions. Mr. Scott Pierce made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sam Brown stated meeting was adjourned.

Sam Brown, Chairman

Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer