



**EKCEP Workforce Innovation Board
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2016**

Attendees:

Members

Carla Bishnoi
Howard Blackburn
Keith Gabbard
Sonya Bergman
Frank Dawahare
Paul Dole – Proxy
Tracey Weinberg
Mike Caudill
Vince Minix
Betsy Clemons
Denise Thomas
Vic Adams
Paul Patton
Fran Feltner
Ron Hart
Cody Davidson – Proxy
Brent Sturgill

EKCEP Staff

Jeff Whitehead
Janie Hackney
Jennifer Bergman
Bridget Back
Michael Cornett
Travis Winkler
Vanessa Collier
Sharon Poff
Judie Miller
Ian Mooers
Joyce Wilcox
Trish Adams

Guests

Susan Tesone
Adult Ed Staff
Symbiosis Media Group

Minutes

The EKCEP Workforce Innovation Board held the quarterly meeting on September 15, 2016 in the boardroom at the Kentucky Career Center, Hazard, KY. Vice-Chair Howard Blackburn called the meeting to order and asked for the Roll Call. Roll Call resulted in 17 members being in attendance.

Vice-Chair Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes as received via email and mail by the members.

MOTION: By Vince Minix to approve the minutes.

SECOND: By Brent Sturgill.

VOTE: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Jeff Whitehead introduced Susan Tesone, the Federal Project Officer for National Emergency Grants, Atlanta Region, who is currently monitoring the Community Impact Grant.

Event and Activity Timeline

Mr. Whitehead brought attention to the "Third Quarter Timeline of Events" in the packet that provides an overview of EKCEP events and activities for the months of July, August and September. He went on to highlight some points on the timeline; e.g. the \$2.55 million extension on the Community Impact Grant, the opening of the Booneville Teleworks Hub resulting in 31 people obtaining employment, the Small Business Expo & the Economic Development Summit held for small business owners and entrepreneurs, ARC awarding \$2.75 million to EKCEP for TechHire Eastern Kentucky (TEKY), the kick off of the TEKY internship program, the release of the East Kentucky Workforce Study results, etc. Board member Betsy Clemons, noted that Perry County had recently hired an Economic Development Director. As he was going over the timeline, Mr. Whitehead referenced several handouts from the packet and a couple of videos.

Economic Development Administration (POWER Grant Update)

Ian Mooers reported on his work with the POWER EDA ecommerce grant. EKCEP received an additional \$134,000 on top of the \$650,000 originally received for the grant. The goal of the grant is to prepare the region for improved broadband connectivity and target businesses that have the potential to save or grow jobs through ecommerce. Mr. Mooers is currently working with a total of 14 companies, expecting to save 130 jobs. 8 companies are having websites developed and business growth consultation is being combined with web development. Mr. Mooers invited Symbiosis Media Group, 1 of 4 partners he works with, to give a small presentation on their work and how they are assisting Mr. Mooers with his grant efforts.

State Policy Concerns

Mr. Whitehead explained that EKCEP has been working with the Office of Employment and Training on policy issues, stating the policies are sometimes too restrictive. He discussed several new state policies, explaining EKCEP's arguments against them and asking for the board's endorsement on our stance.

Vice-Chair Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve EKCEP's views on the state policies discussed.

MOTION: By Vince Minix to approve EKCEP's views.

SECOND: By Ron Hart.

VOTE: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carries.

Performance Negotiations Update

Mr. Whitehead explained that every plan year, the state negotiates performance standards with the Department of Labor, and then the workforce boards negotiate with the state. EKCEP believes the new state standards are too high, as they now pertain to all clients that go to the Office of Employment and Training, vastly increasing enrollment numbers. However, EKCEP accepted the performance standards. As these new standards are being established, the state has said there will be no sanctions or repercussions for failing the standards in PY16 or PY17. Mr. Whitehead explained that EKCEP will do the best we can to meet the standards; even though, he believes they will be hard to hit.

Vice-Chair Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve EKCEP's acceptance of the PY16 performance standards.

MOTION: By Keith Gabbard to approve EKCEP's acceptance of the standards.

SECOND: By Frank Dawahare.

VOTE: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

PY15 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) Financial Summary

Judie Miller reported on EKCEP's financial expenditures from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Mrs. Miller stated that during that period, EKCEP spent nearly \$18 million and provided a breakdown of how the money was spent; e.g. career services, administration, etc.

Call for Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.