



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021**

Attendees:

EKWIB Members

Vic Adams
Trina Allen
Jared Arnett
Sonya Bergman – Vice Chair
Howard Blackburn – Chair
Kevin Chesnut
Frank Dawahare
Paul Dole
Frances Feltner
Keith Gabbard
Meriwether Hall
Michael Lasslo
Derek Lewis
Teresa Maggard
Vince Minix
Paul Patton
Janet Slayden – Proxy Kayla Jude
Tracey Smith
Brent Sturgill

EKCEP Staff

Jeff Whitehead – Executive Director
Owen Grise
Bridget Back
Michael Cornett
Kim Albright
Trish Adams
Sharon Poff
Tonya Collins
Travis Winkler
Joyce Wilcox
Dottie Nolan
Ernestine Weems

Guests

Becky Miller
Jenni Hampton
Lucy Langdon
Judy Elam
Donna McClure

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on June 10, 2021. The meeting was conducted via video communications, "Zoom".

EKWIB's Board Chair, Howard Blackburn called the meeting to order. The roll call resulted in 19 members being in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed. Keith Gabbard made the motion to approve the minutes. Trina Allen seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Howard Blackburn welcomed new members; Meriwether Hall, Teresa Maggard & Jared Arnett to the EKCEP WIB.

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP's Executive Director began the meeting according to the agenda that was previously provided electronically to all EKWIB board members.

Approval of the Local and Regional Plan

Owen Grise, EKCEP's Senior Deputy Director for Administrative Support, Special Projects and Target Groups discussed the Local and Regional Plan. The link to the Plan was electronically sent to all board members for review. The Plan was also posted for public comments. Owen Grise told the group we needed approval from the WIB to adopt the Plan. Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve. Vince Minix made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Brent Sturgill. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Recommendations for Direct Service Providers for Youth & Adult Services

Owen Grise began the discussion by stating the law requires EKCEP to procure, through a bidding process, the direct service providers. This year EKCEP issued three request for proposals (RFP) for direct service providers.

The first RFP was for Adults and Dislocated Workers, along with the One-Stop Operator in the areas where they are located. Nine proposals were received and they were from the current contractors. Owen Grise stated we are asking for approval to award these contracts, pending negotiations of the final figures, and to also have the WIB Executive Committee sign off on the final budget approvals during an Executive Committee meeting on June 25, 2021.

The other two RFP's were for Youth Services. General Youth Services in the non-promise zone and Youth Services in the Promise Zone. The current contractors were also the only bidders.

Howard Blackburn asked Owen Grise to explain what is a Promise Zone. Owen Grise explained the promise zone is a federal designation of an area that basically give the area extra leverage

in obtaining federal funds under different departments and opportunities. Jeff Whitehead said it also comes with some federal grant money.

Kayla Jude asked if any counties have changed since the last promise zone grant? Owen Grise answered, no they have not changed.

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to accept Owen Grise's recommendations. Paul Patton made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Vince Minix. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried. Paul Dole abstained from the vote.

Project Updates:

SITE/eKART

Owen Grise discussed the SITE and eKART grants. The discussion included, where the funding comes from and the targets. A more detailed report was included in the WIB packet, which was electronically distributed to each board member.

One Up

Michael Cornett, EKCEP's Deputy Director for Employer Engagement and Program Operations provided an internship status update. Frank Dawahare asked a question concerning 13 individuals who "opted out" of the program. Michael Cornett explained several of the 13 folks who opted out decided they wanted full time employment instead of an internship or wanted to work immediately.

Healthcare Grant

Michael Cornett provided an updated on the Healthcare Pathways Partnership (H3P) grant.

Colonial Claims Project

Michael Cornett discussed an update on the project. EKCEP is working with a company called Colonial Claims to bring a remote internship opportunity to folks in our region. We are hopeful we can provide training for up to 50 people to become certified as an insurance adjuster. Howard Blackburn said this is another opportunity for our citizen to have a well-paying career.

Teleworks USA

Michael Cornett provide an update on Teleworks USA. Teleworks is all remote and we envision that to continue. Jeff Whitehead told the group that during the months of the pandemic Teleworks USA assisted 633 people with employment. Keith Gabbard stated Teleworks USA and the Hub Managers are doing a great job.

Prosper Appalachia

Jeff Whitehead updated the attendees on Prosper Appalachia. EKCEP's part is to assist in the development of a plan on how to connect to disconnect youth. Blue Meridian is a philanthropic group that will review the plans and if selected we will continue to get private investment into the Promise Zone for up to 5-7 years. Prosper Appalachia will provide "No Wrong Door" for youth (16-24) for internships and connections to employers, financial aid, etc.

Other Discussion

Jeff Whitehead discussed some recent success stories that were included in the WIB packet. He also welcomed, once again, the three new EKWIB members.

Howard Blackburn thanked Jeff Whitehead and the entire EKCEP team for all their hard work. Sonya Bergman stated she would love to see the next meeting in-person.

Sonya Bergman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be September 16, 2021.