



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2021**

Attendees:

EKWIB Members

Betsy Clemons
Carla Bishnoi
Frank Dawahare
Howard Blackburn - Chair
Paul Dole
Sonya Bergman – Vice Chair
Diana Jarboe
Vic Adams
Brent Sturgill
Chuck Sexton
Janet Slayden
Fran Feltner – Proxy Beth Bowling
Keith Gabbard
Vince Minix
Paul Patton
Sean Cochran
Derek Lewis – Proxy Mindy Miller
Kevin Chesnut
Trina Allen
Tracey Smith
Mike Caudill

EKCEP Staff

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

Guests

Donna McClure

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on March 11, 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 21 members being in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed to the members. Brent Sturgill made the motion to approve the minutes. Tracey Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

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

EKCEP Internship Policy Implementation and Update – Martin Ramsay

Michael Cornett, EKCEP's Deputy Director for Employer Engagement and Program Operations introduced a "pre-recorded" update on EKCEP's Internship Policy. Martin Ramsay provided the update. Martin Ramsay discussed the Employer Advisory Council for the Internship Policy. He also discussed the "Parking Lot Issues" identified by the EAC and the flowchart developed for the program.

Michael Cornett asked two of the EKWIB members who are part of the Employer Advisory Council if they would like to make any comments. Sonya Bergman said the ARH is excited and she feels young person can learn more about the industry by being a part of the internship process. Howard Blackburn stated he felt it would be very beneficially to the employers and employees in the area.

Brent Sturgill asked if the program would have a head-count cap. Michael Cornett said we have not looked at a head-count number. Jeff Whitehead said, part of our Strategic Plan was to increase work base learning and he felt if we could create a successful model, employers would begin to hire interns and pay them directly to develop their workforce.

Request for Proposals – Owen Grise

Owen Grise, EKCEP Senior Deputy Director discussed the RFP for direct service providers for the Adult Dislocated Worker Program and the Youth Program. Owen Grise told the group the Request For Proposals will be issued by the end of March 2021 and responses due the first week of May 2021.

Youth Committee Action – Sonya Bergman/ Owen Grise

Owen Grise discussed some potential changes in the Youth Program. The EKWIB Youth Committee met on February 23, 2021. A copy of the minutes was provided to each board member. The EKWIB Youth Committee voted to take two actions. The first action was to expand the services to a wider population, still emphasizing the most at-risk population. The second action was to advance a unified programmatic model in the Promise Zone counties. This model would be a multi-sector and multi-partner effort supported and aligned with some privately funded planning and pilot implementation efforts.

Jeff Whitehead said he felt this was an opportunity that could not be passed up. Working with Blue Meridian would allow us to create a better pathway for a broader group of youth.

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to endorse the recommended actions from the February 23, 2021 EKWIB Youth Committee meeting. Vic Adams made the motion to approve. Frank Dawahare seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

H-1B Grant Award – Michael Cornett

Michael Cornett discussed the U.S. Department of Labor federal grant. EKCEP was awarded the grant. This program will allow the rural healthcare industry, in our region, to assist individuals in gaining the upskills necessary to fill vacancies.

Michael Cornett discussed the potential duties of the Career Navigators and the Training Navigator. Kimberly Albright will be the H3P Grant Coordinator.

Frank Dawahare commented, it seems like the Youth Program, the Internship Program and the H3P have opportunities for similar people to fill these positions. Michael Cornett stated some elements will mix and there may be some overlap.

Jeff Whitehead said the Training Navigator will work to identify “life issues” early in their process and get an intervention in place to hopefully allow the student to complete their studies.

Sonya Bergman said, as an employer, ARH does not have a Career Navigator, but she believes it will be a great asset.

SITE/eKART Funding and Accomplishments – Melissa Quillen

Melissa Quillen, EKCEP’s Project Manager provided an update on the SITE and eKART programs. Kentucky Opioid Response Effort funded the SITE program for an additional 12 months. The Office of Drug Control Policy extended funding for an additional 12 months as well.

National Emergency Grants – Bridget

Bridget Back, EKCEP's Deputy Director for Operational Effectiveness, Grant Acquisition, Reporting and Review provided an update on the Mining and Community Impact grants. Bridget Back explained EKCEP applied for an extension of these grants, but the extension was not granted. The Mining grant served 4,818 individuals. The Community Impact grant served 2,389 individuals. The Community Impact grant will expire March 2021 and the Mining grant will expire the end of September 2021.

Jeff Whitehead said we have served over 7,000 dislocated workers over the last few years through these programs.

Closing Remarks – Howard Blackburn/Jeff Whitehead

Howard Blackburn's closing remark was, he felt we had seen what good work EKCEP is doing to help change East Kentucky and the counties we serve.

Jeff Whitehead's closing comments was to inform the board the Unemployment Offices are looking to open up to the public on April 15, 2021.

Trish Adams reminded the board that some EKWIB board members term limits are coming due in June 2021. If your term will be due in June 2021 you will receive an email and re-nomination form.

Mike Caudill stated MCHC has received FUHC federal vaccines and achieved approval from Medicaid to use their mobile vans for vaccinations. Mike Caudill provided contact information if any business or employer would be interested.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Mike Caudill made the motion to adjourn the meeting.