



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022**

Attendees:

EKWIB Members

Vic Adams – Proxy Dr. Erin Reasor
Trina Allen
Mike Lasslo
Sonya Bergman – Vice Chair
Howard Blackburn – Chair
Brent Sturgill
Betsy Clemons
Frank Dawahare
Paul Dole
Frances Feltner Proxy – Beth Bowling
Keith Gabbard Proxy – Tim Bingham
Meriwether Hall
Chuck Sexton
Derek Lewis Proxy-Mindy Miller
Diana Jarbo Proxy – Keila Miller
Vince Minix
Paul Patton
Teresa Blair
Tracey Smith

EKCEP Staff

Jeff Whitehead – Executive Director
Owen Grise
Tonya Collins
Michael Cornett
Vanessa Collier
Travis Winkler
Trish Adams
Sharon Poff

Guests

Zack Lawrence
Donna McClure
Andrea Begley

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on March 10, 2022. The meeting was conducted in-person at 100 Airport Gardens Road Hazard, Ky.

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 December 2021 joint meeting, which had previously been distributed. Paul Dole made the motion to approve the minutes. Sonya Bergman seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Welcome New EKWIB Member

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP's Executive Director told the members present, that Kim Mullins would be joining the EKWIB board. Kim Mullins will be representing Health Care.

Jeff Whitehead began the meeting according to the agenda that was previously provided electronically to all EKWIB board members.

Approval of Recertification for Career Centers

Jeff Whitehead began the discussion surrounding the recertification process, as required by law. Frank Dawahare asked if we knew when the offices would be open to the public. Jeff Whitehead stated most of the offices are open. Trina Allen stated most of the centers are open by appointment only, but we are slowly working back to the "new normal".

Brent Sturgill made the motion to approve the recertification process. Frank Dawahare seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Midterm Review of WIOA Contracted Services

Jeff Whitehead provided a midterm review of our region's WIOA services. A video was shown to the attendees which discussed the number of WIOA participants and money spent per client.

Jeff Whitehead spoke concerning the high number of employers who are struggling to find employees. What are the changes we can make to be more impactful? What can we do differently to serve individuals and employers? EKCEP BOD voted to form an ad hoc committee at the March 2022 BOD meeting. Three county judges Shane Gabbard, Chuck Caudill, and Terry Adams agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee to look at how services are being provided and how the money is being spent and what we might do differently. Jeff Whitehead asked for volunteers from the EKWIB to be part of the ad hoc committee. Sonya Bergman, Paul Dole, Trina Allen, Chuck Sexton and Brent Sturgill volunteered to be part of the ad hoc committee.

Sonya Bergman asked for a copy of the video that was shown.

Chuck Sexton commented to the EKWIB members that people don't always understand their career upward mobility and don't always understand their career pathways. Chuck Sexton commented, one of the big issues we face is also the "social issues".

Frank Dawahare stated we all say there is no reason for kids to come home because there are no jobs for them. Betsy Clemons said it's "quality of life" as well.

A discussion surrounding the role of Guidance Counselors in the school systems and connecting students with employers ensued. Jeff Whitehead said we need to find a way to have a seamless transition from high school to employment for the students who are interested.

Frank Dawahare stated that schools are to be a part of the community. Frank Dawahare said maybe we need to make more of an effort to get into our schools. Howard Blackburn stated he thought it was very timely to bring education into the workforce conversation.

Reports, Current Events, & Updates

Jeff Whitehead told the members to review the events and success stories that were included on the EKWIB agenda.

Owen Grise EKCEP's Senior Deputy Director for Administrative Support, Special Projects, and Target Groups discussed the eKART final report and the SITE report.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next EKWIB meeting will be June 9, 2022.