



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2018**

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**Attendees:**

**EKWIB Members**

Derek Lewis - Proxy Timothy Baker  
Frank Dawahare  
Howard Blackburn  
Janet Slayden  
Paul Dole  
Sonya Bergman - Proxy Amy Gabbard  
Tracey Smith  
Trina Allen  
Vic Adams - Proxy Rebecca Parrott  
Tracy Osborne-Clay  
Fran Feltner  
Vince Minix  
Mike Lasslo  
Brent Sturgill  
Carlo Bishnoi – Proxy Rachel Fields

**EKCEP Staff**

Trish Adams  
Jennifer Bergman  
Michael Cornett  
Sharon Poff  
Jeff Whitehead  
Vanessa Collier  
Melissa Quillen  
Tonya Collins  
Travis Winkler  
Owen Grise  
Joyce Wilcox

**Guests**

Shane Baker  
Ray Leathers  
Darlene Bussell  
Rick Schad  
Douglas Beard  
Scott Helton  
Terry Watson

## **Minutes**

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on December 13, 2018 in the boardroom at the Kentucky Career Center--JobSight, Hazard, Kentucky.

EKWIB's Vice-Chair, Howard Blackburn, called the meeting to order. Howard Blackburn asked for the roll call. Roll call resulted in 15 members being in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2018 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed to the members. Janet Slayden made the motion to approve the minutes. Tracey Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Recognition of Guest**

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP Executive Director, introduced the following guests to the group: Commissioner Ray Leathers, Darlene Bussell, Douglas Beard, Rick Schad, and Shane Baker. Vince Minix introduced Scott Helton, Superintendent of Magoffin County Schools and Terry Watson, DPP of Magoffin County Schools.

Ray Leathers, shared his thoughts on the EKCEP Workforce Board. Ray stated we have a tremulously active workforce investment board.

The WIB meeting continued according to the agenda. Each attendee received a "board packet" containing informational handouts prior to the call-to-order.

### **Reports**

Jeff Whitehead discussed EKCEP's Financial Report, Participant Report, Employer Report and our Committee Reports.

Frank Dawahare made the motion to accept the reports that Jeff Whitehead presented. Mike Lasslo seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Jeff Whitehead discussed the Youth Committee and the Policy and Planning Committee. A packet containing meeting minutes and the membership of each committee was also given to each attendee.

Howard Blackburn discussed the initial meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee.

Jeff Whitehead stated two objectives of the Policy and Planning Committee will be:

- 1) Filtering draft policies coming from Frankfort and providing comments.
- 2) Working closely to align our strategic plan with the KWIB's strategic plan.

Frank Dawahare, asked if we have “true” metrics and do we have any weaknesses. Jeff Whitehead stated he believes one area of weakness may be our dislocated workers in the region, but other than that, there is no huge concerns.

Owen Grise, EKCEP Deputy Director, discussed the Youth Committee. The committee will need additional information as to the needs of Youth in our region. A survey will be developed to obtain specific information from youth and a second survey for educators and employers. Upon completion of the survey, the Youth Committee will develop a Youth Program.

### **KWIB Performance Dashboard**

Jeff Whitehead demonstrated the KWIB’s Performance Dashboard. The dashboard will be a snapshot of quarterly statics as they relate to workforce in our state and region. Jeff Whitehead stated we would send the link to the KWIB Performance Dashboard to each member.

### **MOU/Infrastructure Funding Agreement**

Jennifer Bergman, EKCEP JobSight Service Director, explained the MOU/IFA that was emailed to all board members earlier in the week. Jennifer elaborated on the Budget Summary Report. EKCEP’s website will house this document. Howard Blackburn expressed his thanks to Jennifer for all her work on this project.

### **Grant Funds in Process**

Bridget Back, EKCEP Research and Program Effectiveness Manager, discussed the Community Impact grant and the Coal Grant extension. The Community Impact Grant and the Coal Grant extension are both currently in Washington, D.C. awaiting approval.

Owen Grise, EKCEP Deputy Director, discussed the Appalachian Regional Commission Opioid Response. Owen stated we are currently working with the Addiction Recovery Care Centers to train Peer Support Specialists. EKCEP has submitted an application for an Appalachian Regional Commission power grant. We are hopeful to hear a response in early January 2019.

Melissa Quillen, EKCEP Paths2promise Project Manager, discussed the Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK). The project is called Create Bridges, it recognizes retail, accommodation, tourism and the entertainment sectors in our region. The current counties to be covered are Lee, Owsley, Clay, Jackson, Perry, Harlan, Leslie, and Bell. We were awarded approximately \$312,000 to use over an 18 month time period.

Frank Dawahare asked the question if we were working with SOAR on this project. Melissa Quillen answered, we are not currently working with SOAR on this particular project because it is a CEDIK project, but we are hopeful to expand our efforts to include SOAR.

### **TechHire Update**

Michael Cornett, EKCEP Director of Agency Expansion & Public Relations, discussed the TechHire overview. A handout was provided to each attendee. Michael Cornett discussed one of the TechHire programs which is medical coding, and its success.

**Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 3** Jeff Whitehead discussed both bills. Handouts were provided to each attendee. In reference to Senate Bill 1. The bill directs the local workforce investment boards to be a part of the group compiling a list of industry-recognized certification, licensures, or credentials specific to their local workforce area. Jeff stated we are currently working with the state and awaiting the information from Frankfort, Ky.

Jeff Whitehead discussed House Bill 3. This bill is also referred to as the Essential Skills Act. The current plan is to prepare a questionnaire asking employers for indicators of essential skills. The results of the questionnaire will be shared with the schools. The schools can use this information as they feel appropriate.

**Graduations and Celebrations** Trish Adams, EKCEP Industry Liaison, highlighted some of the graduations and celebrations in 2018. Included in the celebration was Silverliner graduations; Ad East; Feltner's Barber Shop; ARH; Galen College of Nursing; Logan Corporation; the Linemen training program and many other success stories.

Chuck Sexton, Executive Director with One East Kentucky called to share an announcement pertaining to a company based out of Canada. This announcement has not been made public, but it is public information. Chuck Sexton stated EKCEP ran a labor market test/survey to gather information on the local labor pool. The company was happy with the results of the test and today the state of Kentucky approved that company for preliminary incentives to locate in Hazard, Perry County. Approximately 256 jobs will be the result with a 19.3 million dollar investment. Chuck said this was not announced to the press as of now, due to a couple formalities. Chuck said he was hopeful the official announcement would come in January 2019.

### **Questions or comments**

Rick Schad wanted to make mention of the excellent work Jennifer Bergman and her team completed pertaining to the completion of the MOU. Jeff Whitehead stated he and EKCEP were fortunate to have Jennifer Bergman working on this project.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Janet Slayden made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.