



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2020**

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**Attendees:**

**EKWIB Members**

Betsy Clemons  
Frank Dawahare  
Paul Dole  
Sonya Bergman – Vice Chair  
Diana Jarboe  
Vic Adams - Proxy Sherri Clark  
Brent Sturgill  
Chuck Sexton  
Janet Slayden  
Fran Feltner  
Keith Gabbard  
Vince Minix  
Paul Patton  
Sean Cochran  
Derek Lewis  
Kevin Chesnut  
Trina Allen

**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**

Zack Lawrence  
Donna McClure  
Dylan Baker  
Dorian Moe  
Jessica Ritchie  
John Willoughby  
Lisa Estep  
Angelia Reynolds  
Allen Gillum

## **Minutes**

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on December 10, 2020. The meeting was conducted via video communications, "Zoom".

EKWIB's Vice Chair, Sonya Bergman, called the meeting to order. The roll call resulted in 17 members being in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Sonya Bergman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed to the members. Vince Minix made the motion to approve the minutes. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Reopening Plan Submitted to Labor Cabinet**

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP Executive Director began by discussing the "Reimagining Career Center Services" which was a proposal for moving forward after COVID-19. Jeff Whitehead explained we have been operating "differently" but we have not been closed. Jeff Whitehead discussed the handout which had been provided to all board members prior to the meeting. The handout outlined the statistics, as they pertain to the number of persons served from July 2020 through October 2020. Sonya Bergman said she believed it was a good plan and EKCEP and their partners have done an excellent job during the entire COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Opportunity Youth**

Ernestine Weems, EKCEP Director of Youth Services provided an update on the Opportunity Youth Program. A handout was previously provided to each WIB member.

Owen Grise, EKCEP Senior Deputy Director discussed the RFP for Youth Services. Owen Grise stated this RFP will emphasize remote services.

### **Request for Adult & Dislocated Worker Proposals July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023**

Owen Grise discussed the RFP to be advertised for Adult and Dislocated Workers. This proposal will include two basic functions; delivering services and serving as the one stop operator for the area that the contractor serves. Proposals will only be accepted for contractors who are willing to perform both roles. This RFP will increase the emphasis on work-based learning; use of virtual/remote services; social media recruiting; more dollars spent on student completion and employer and community engagement. This RFP should be advertised in late January 2021. The due date should be early March/early April 2021.

Owen Grise asked for any questions. Paul Dole commented on virtual training issues, Paul Dole said there are some issues on virtual training. Owen Grise said it will not be a 100% virtual.

Sonya Bergman commented it was important for employers to be aware of this program and understand how it works.

Paul Dole made the motion to issue the Request for Proposals as discussed. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Internship Policy Implementation**

Jeff Whitehead told the group the EKCEP WIB members passed the Internship Policy during the September 2020 meeting. Jeff Whitehead stated as we began to implement the policy, we want to make sure we have a high degree of employer engagement. Jeff Whitehead said we want to make sure our policy and program can be a catalyst for change in the region.

Michael Cornett, EKCEP Deputy Director discussed the Employer Advisor Council (EAC) as part of the Internship Policy. Michael Cornett said we initially see the EAC working with our Business Service Team.

Sonya Bergman said she was excited and felt this would be an excellent opportunity for the workforce and employers in our region.

### **Healthcare Collaborative**

Michael Cornett discussed the Rural Healthcare Grant that EKCEP recently applied to receive. Michael Cornett discussed EKCEPs partnering with Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) and the Kentucky Chamber of Workforce Center to identify shortfalls in the medical field. The deadline to apply for the H1B Rural Healthcare Grant was November 13, 2020.

Frank Dawahare asked what will happen if we are not awarded the grant. Michael Cornett said the TPM process is around with or without receiving the grant. Receiving the grant will allow us a much larger and much quicker means to help our healthcare providers. Frank Dawahare also asked if this was a “all or nothing” grant. Michael Cornett said he was not entirely sure of that answer. Jeff Whitehead stated with this type of grant he had not seen partial funding of the grant before, but we will wait and see.

Sonya Bergman stated the TPM has been an overwhelming success. Sonya Bergman also said the collaboration between healthcare employers has been excellent.

### **Partners for Education – An investment in a Cradle-to-Career Collaborative**

Jeff Whitehead discussed how EKCEP is a core partner in a foundation grant through Berea College and the Partners for Education Program. The focus will be in the Promise Zone area. EKCEP will run a pilot program called The Youth Thrive Program. A Youth Advisory Council will be formed. A paid summer internship program will also be developed.

Dr. Geoff Marietta will be the project lead for this grant.

The foundation group may possibly fund this grant for long-term if it is successful.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Sonya Bergman adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be March 11, 2021.