



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020**

Attendees:

EKWIB Members

Betsy Clemons
Frank Dawahare
Paul Dole
Sonya Bergman
Diana Jarboe
Vic Adams
Mike Caudill
Mike Lasslo
Brent Sturgill
Chuck Sexton
Janet Slayden
Fran Feltner
Keith Gabbard
Vince Minix
Paul Patton
Carla Bishnoi
Howard Blackburn
Kevin Chesnut
Tracey Smith
Trina Allen

EKCEP Staff

Trish Adams
Sharon Poff
Jeff Whitehead
Bridget Back
Tonya Collins
Travis Winkler
Owen Grise
Michael Cornett
Joyce Wilcox
Ernestine Weems
Karen Wright
Tesa Turner

Guests

Zack Lawrence
Andrea Begley

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on September 17, 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 19 members being in attendance. Howard Blackburn EKWIB’s Chair, joined the meeting after the roll call and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2020 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed to the members. Tracey Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Sonya Bergman seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Bylaw Modifications

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP’s Executive Director asked the chair for permission to move the Bylaw Modifications to the top of the agenda. Howard Blackburn approved the request. Owen Grise, EKCEP Deputy Director for Administrative Support, Special Projects, and Target Groups discussed the modifications requested. Modifications discussed included the “location or means of meetings”. Mike Caudill, made the motion to approve the modifications as discussed. Fran Feltner seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed

Trish Adams, EKCEP Agency Ambassador, Boards, & Liaison discussed the dates of future EKWIB meetings be held on the 2nd Thursday of each quarter. Trina Allen, made the motion to approve the modification as discussed. Janet Slayden seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Program Year 2019 in Review

Bridget Back, EKCEP Deputy Director for Operational Effectiveness, Grant Acquisition, Reporting & Review discussed the program year 2019 for EKCEP.

Current Activities Aligned with Strategic Plan Goals

Michael Cornett, EKCEP Deputy Director for Employer Engagement and Program Operations discussed current activities that are aligned with the Strategic Plan goals. Specifically, Employers and Workforce Participation goals.

Goal One – Employers

- Michael Cornett, discussed a few examples of EKCEP engagement with employers.
- Trish Adams introduced Steve Evert, VP of Operations for Dajcor Aluminum. Dajcor Aluminum is located in the Coalfields Industry Park in Chavies, Ky. Steve Evert discussed the number of employees currently working at the plant and the assistance received from EKCEP.

- Joyce Wilcox, EKCEP Industry Liaison discussed Appharvest which is located in Morehead, Ky. Joyce Wilcox discussed the Talent Pipeline Management movement for healthcare providers.
- Michael Cornett discussed the Internship Program Policy for Adults and Dislocated Workers. A copy of the proposed policy was sent to all board members prior to the meeting. Michael Cornett stated EKCEP created this policy to increase work-based learning internships. Vince Minix, made the motion to approve the Internship Program Policy for Adults and Dislocated Workers as presented. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

Goal Three – Workforce Participation

- Bridget Back discussed labor force participation data to the meeting attendees.
- Owen Grise discussed some of the employment barriers in our region. Owen Grise discussed participants trying to enter/reenter the workforce after recovery. Tesa Turner, Project Director for eKART discussed current program stats with eKART and SITE.
- Owen Grise introduced Ernestine Weems, EKCEP Youth Director. Ernestine Weems discussed the status of the Youth Program.
- Michael Cornett discussed EKCEP’s efforts in the digital economy. A video was shown featuring McKee, Kentucky.
- Trish Adams, discussed the EKYWorks 2.0 workforce survey.

EKCEP’s Response to COVID-19

Bridget Back discussed how EKCEP’s contractors are servicing clients without seeing the client in person.

Michael Cornett introduced Dr. Karen Wright. Dr. Wright is working for EKCEP to assist with ReWork EKY. Dr. Wright provided the program stats and provided an overview of the grant.

Director’s Comments

Jeff Whitehead commented on “Goal Three – Workforce Participation”, Jeff Whitehead said some of the workforce participation issues and data trend numbers were negative, but there is opportunity in our region and EKCEP is doing good work and remaining active.

Jeff Whitehead said EKCEP is applying for a new grant to increase the number of people qualified to move into the healthcare field. Because of EKCEP’s work with the TPM and the collaborative and partnerships we have with healthcare facilities, I believe we are perfectly aligned to receive this grant.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Howard Blackburn adjourned the meeting.