EKCEP Workforce Innovation Board
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2017

Attendees:

**Members**
Betsy Clemons
Brad Hall – Proxy (Jacob Colley)
Brent Sturgill – Proxy (Kelly Osborne)
Derek Lewis
Frank Daware
Janet Slayden
Jason Slone
Mike Caudill
Paul Dole
Paul Patton
Sonya Bergman
Tim Wireman
Tracey Smith
Vince Minix

**EKCEP Staff**
Trish Adams
Kimberly Albright
Jennifer Bergman
Erin Blanton
Vanessa Collier
Michael Cornett
Owen Grise
Judie Miller
Ian Mooers
Sharon Poff
Jeff Whitehead
Travis Winkler

**Guests**
Andrea Morgan Begley
Regina Jones
Donna McClure
Minutes

The EKCEP Workforce Innovation Board held their quarterly meeting on September 14th, 2017 in the boardroom at the Kentucky Career Center, Hazard, Kentucky.

In the absence of the Board’s Chair, Rocky Adkins and Vice-Chair, Howard Blackburn, Paul Patton called the meeting to order. Paul Patton asked for the roll call. Roll call resulted in 14 members being in attendance.

Paul Patton called for a vote to approve the minutes from the June 2017 board meeting. Jason Slone made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tracey Smith. All were in favor, none opposed.

Governance and Funding

Jeff Whitehead began the meeting by informing the group one of the topics of today’s meeting was to describe the governance, what the roll of the board is, and how it relates to the EKCEP board.

Jeff asked the board to review the map that was included in the board packets. This map reflects the 10 local areas the state is divided into. Money comes from the Department of Labor, then to the State, and then by formula, is distributed to the 10 local areas.

Each local area has a Chief Elected Official or Elected official that receive the funding. They are required to perform certain functions and duties in their local areas. Owen Grise described the role of the Chief Elected Official and the role of the Workforce Development Board.

Paul Patton asked was the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act a federal law and Owen said it was a federal law.

Paul Patton asked how long has this board been in existence? Owen said this board has specifically be in existence since the new law went into effect in 2014. Councils like this board have been in existence dating back to the 1970's.

The EKCEP Board is a 27 member board. The EKCEP Board is represented by elected officials and the public/community sector.

The WIB is charged with being the more strategic board, the one who takes initiative for planning and prioritize funding from an economic and business perspective.

Paul Patton asked the question, is the staff the same on both boards? Jeff Whitehead answered, the staff is the same to both boards. The EKCEP board has been around since 1968. The by-laws state the Director hires the staff and implements the functions and duties according to law. Paul Patton said the WIB has one employee and it’s you, Jeff Whitehead said
yes. Paul Patton said is the EKCEP Board the parent of the WIB and WIB board members get appointed by the EKCEP board. Jeff whitehead said that is correct.

Jeff Whitehead stated the $9,046,130 EKCEP money, is the formula money that is divided up between adult dislocated worker and youth funding money. This is the base funding that comes from the US Department of Labor for workforce and education. EKCEP receives more money than the other areas, in part because of higher unemployment rates, excessive longer term unemployment rates, poverty, and we are geographically larger than the other areas.

Jeff Whitehead explained EKCEP’s available funding by reviewing the EKCEP “Available Funding Chart” which basically breaks down the funding by percentage. The dollar figures on the chart reflect what we have available starting July 1, 2017 in each grant.

All EKCEP funding is time limited and tied to specific allowable activities for eligible clients.

Upon reviewing the “WIOA Available Funding Chart”, Mike Caudill asked what some of the local employment barriers are for our youth. Jeff Whitehead stated poverty stricken, below grade level, dropouts, pregnant or parenting, homeless youth, offenders, foster children and many other reasons.

WIOA funding eligibility is broken down into four categories:
Adult money is for unemployed or underemployed adults 18 years of age and above.
Dislocated workers are for people who have lost jobs and are in need of assistance to transition back into the workforce.
Youth is for low income individuals age 18-24.
Incumbent Worker Training is to provide services to train employed workers to advance their skills.

Low wage workers fall under the adult category. In the EKCEP area, workers making over $13.40 an hour are called self-sufficient wage earner. Workers earning less than $13.40 an hour fall under the adult money category.

Jeff Whitehead stated money coming from the state is divided into three funding streams. One allocation comes to youth, one to adult, and one to dislocated workers. All three to us by formula. The latitude we have is we can transfer 100% of the adult money fund to the dislocated workers fund or 100% dislocated worker fund to the adult money fund. We must get approval from the State before this action can be complete.

We received a grant in 2013 that was awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Hiring Our Miners Everyday (H.O.M.E.). It was funded by a coal-related National Emergency Grant. EKCEP developed a good relationship with the Department of Labor and we received several
extensions. This grant money is specifically for laid off coal miners and their spouse who are located in our region. Frank Dawhare asked if we could just add the words “under employed” Jeff said there is some “wiggle room” if they have taken a part time job they can still be eligible. Derrick Lewis asked if there were any time constraints pertaining to the date the miner was placed on layoff? Jeff said no, there is no time constraints.

Paul Patton stated this money is grant funded money and the rest of the state may not have gotten this grant. Jeff Whitehead said that was correct. We applied for this grant and received it.

Jeff Whitehead said the **Paths 2 Promise grant** is specifically for able-bodied SNAP recipients who are residents of the Promise Zone. This is a research-based program. This is completely on a volunteer basis.

**Power ETA** (Employment Training Association) which is a division of the U.S. Department of Labor. This is a more general grant for people who have lost their job with focus on coal industry layoffs.

Paul Patton asked if this was just for EKCEP or the State. Jeff said this is just for EKCEP but the state applied for it.

**Community Impact NEG** (National Emergency Grant) Eligibility is for dislocated workers in the EKCEP’s service area who did not work within the coal industry, but whose careers were cut short due to impacts from the coal industry downturn. Spouses of those workers are also eligible for services under this grant.

Paul Patton said it appears EKCEP has been pretty aggressive and successful acquiring these grants.

**ARC TechHire Eastern Kentucky** This is ARC money we blend with DOL money to put people into computer programming or other IT-related positions. Examples are BitSource and Central App Technologies. This money comes with fewer strings and less eligibility requirements.

**Other funding Sources** - These funding sources creates diversity within the EKCEP agency.

**P3** is a grant from the Department of Education in partnership with Berea College. Berea College primarily manages this grant.

**ARC Teleworks** (Appalachian Regional Commission) - This grant established the Teleworks Hubs in Pike and Leslie County and expanded our ability to reach out to employers.

**Project CASE** - this funding allows people with disabilities to connect in the digital economy.
Youthbuild - This grant is phasing out and will be over in December 2017.

Rapid Response This is State money. These funds are used to help us with employer resource networks. We are putting success coaches with employers to help low-wage earners stay on the job.

Teleworks Mobile Delivery This is funding provided by USDA. This is the first time EKCEP has gotten funding from the USDA. This funding is allowing us to expand our Teleworks initiative.

Paul Patton asked a question concerning the administrative money in the first “pot”. Is there other administrative cost? Jeff Whitehead said yes, there is and it ranges from 1 – 10%.

Paul Patton asked, where does the board fit into this? Does the Board get informed? Is there a process for the board to know about grants? Jeff Whitehead replied, we try to inform this board when there is a grant opportunity and we apply for it. We do not ask for the Boards permission to apply for any of our grants. Sonya Bergman asked if it would be helpful to see, every six months, where we are in our spending on each grant. Jeff Whitehead stated we have that information and we can provide it to the Board. Paul Patton said it would be helpful, when we get a grant, to send each board member a copy of the grant for their files.

Legislative Staffer Tour
In August EKCEP hosted 20 legislative staffers from different states across the country. Jeff Whitehead thanked everyone that participated in the tour. The tour started in Bell County, went to Appalachian Wildlife Center, Harlan and Benham, Hazard Community College Lineman Training, Hazard’s One-Stop Career Center, BitSource, Addiction Recovery Care presentation and eKAMI.

Sonya Bergman said we had done an excellent job and it had been a positive tour.

Paul Patton asked the question, “Who came up with this idea? Jeff replied, Jobs for the Future (JFF) is a national organization located in Boston. They receive a grant from the Joyce Foundation each year to take legislative staffers on a “field trip”. While attending the NAWB conference in D. C. last March, I was approached by a staff member of JFF saying she would love to come to Eastern Kentucky for a site visit. Paul Patton said it was very impressive.

Janet Slayden said she thought it was good for the “staffers” to see and experience the success we have experienced, not just on paper. She stated, the staffers were asking the question, “When I go back to my office, what can I do to help you”? Normally, we are defending our money, and now they are asking what can we do for you?
**TEKY Evolution**

Michael Cornett began the discussion by stating Denise Thomas asked in our last meeting for an update on TechHire. Michael said the group began with 26 interns and as of today, 21 of those 26 interns are working and working in digital economy professions. Of the five individuals not working, two are with BitSource for an extended internship; one is with American Metal Works extended internship; one will be working for Amazon through Teleworks USA; and one had attendance issues, but will begin working with Teleworks USA. All who finished the internship will have had employment opportunities.

Michael made mention of the Tech/Hire map, which was included in the board packet, 43 jobs in 14 counties.

Michael mentioned several key points on the Tech/Hire handout which was included in the board packet.

Frank Dawahare asked if we were okay with Interapt. Michael replied, Interapt hired some people from the first TEKY. Our contract with them expired June 30, 2017 and was not renewed.

Central App Technology update. Eight of the ten people who received the three certifications went to work immediately earning an annual salary of $40,000. Video of Central App Technology was played.

TeleworksUSA update. Lawrence County is our most recent hub. Our first training class is huge. We have approximately 20 folks training, which is double the amount of folks we normally train in a workshop. The goal is 50 jobs in a year. We do not have a permanent manager in the location, we utilize our current managers. Lawrence County has good internet service and that makes a huge difference in the success rate. Since 2015, approximately 1,078 jobs have been created with at least $23.5 million in annual wages. Some of these people have been working since 2015.

We are looking at ways to bring employment opportunities that might require deeper training than what we normally do, but they come with higher pay yet still in the remote work world. We are exploring Amazon Web Service and Apple Tech certifications. What can we do to bring training to the region to get people these certifications? An example of what we are doing to make connections is, Ian Mooer and myself contacted North Virginia Technology Council. The outcome was we were connected to one of the Vice Presidents of Amazon Web Services.
Jacob Colley, employed by Kentucky Power asked the question, “out of the 1,078 jobs how many of those are currently employed”? Michael Cornett said the retention rate is 60% - 70% range. We track them for one year out. We look at 90 days, 180 and end of their year. Currently, we do not track their employment beyond one year.

The eKAMI training will be housed in Paintsville, Ky. The equipment is currently being moved into the facility. The first class will begin in November 2017. Training will consist of a 16 week training class. This class will train citizens in advanced manufacturing, primarily in C & C computerized numerical controlled machining.

Paul Patton asked the meeting attendees for any comments or questions. Mr. Patton said the information provided today was helpful to the board members.

**Call for Adjournment**

With no other business to be discussed, Mr. Patton asked for a motion to adjourn. Jamie Gaddis made a motion and Betsy Clemons seconded the motion. All were in favor.