



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2018**

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**Attendees:**

**EKWIB Members**

Betsy Clemons  
Brent Sturgill  
Carla Bishnoi Proxy (Gretta Fields)  
Denise Thomas  
Derek Lewis  
Frank Dawahare  
Howard Blackburn  
Mike Caudill  
Paul Dole  
Paul Patton  
Sonya Bergman  
Tracey Smith  
Trina Allen  
Keith Gabbard  
Mike Lasslo  
Rocky Adkins  
Tim Wireman  
Tracy Osborne-Clay

**EKCEP Staff**

Trish Adams  
Jennifer Bergman  
Ian Mooers  
Sharon Poff  
Jeff Whitehead  
Vanessa Collier  
Cris Ritchie

**Guests**

Ray Leathers  
Joe Grossman  
Douglas Beard  
Misha Curnutte  
Darlene Bussell  
Geoff Marritta  
Nicholas Wyman  
Andrea Begley  
Adam Rice

## **Minutes**

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on June 14, 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 18 members being in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Howard Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2018 EKWIB meeting, which had previously been distributed to the members. Mike Caudill asked for the minutes to reflect a correction. On page 3, "Mountain Comprehensive Care" should reflect "Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation". Howard Blackburn asked for a motion, with change, to approve the minutes. Mike Caudill made the motion to approve. Frank Dawahare seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

### **Introduction of Guests**

Howard Blackburn asked for each person in attendance to introduce themselves. Special welcome was given to three new board members, Trina Allen, Tracy Osborne-Clay, and Mike Lasslo.

### **Employer Highlight ARH-Joe Grossman**

Jeff Whitehead, EKCEP Executive Director, introduced Joe Grossman, ARH President and CEO. A short video was shown of the partnership between the Galen College of Nursing and ARH.

Joe Grossman spoke to the group concerning the shortage of nurses at the ARH and how the Galen College nursing program, located in Hazard, Kentucky is training individuals to become nurses.

ARH employees approximately 5,200 individuals in Southeastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. Approximately 3,500 of those individuals are employed in Southeastern Kentucky.

Joe Grossman stated another challenge is economic development and stressed the importance of "growing our economy".

Joe Grossman discussed "HEAL" an acronym for Helping End Addiction for Life. The intent of the program will be to educate people on the issues of the opioid epidemic.

Joe Grossman said we also have a doctor shortage due to the lack of a residency program. Mr. Grossman said he was hopeful to have a local residency program beginning in 2019.

Joe Grossman stated another challenge is the amount of patient transfers. In 2017, approximately 6,600 patients transferred to non-ARH facilities. Mr. Grossman said the ARH is expecting to provide eICU care in the near future. When this program begins, patients and their families will not need to travel out of our area for specialized care.

### **Intermediaries & Expanding Apprenticeships - Nicholas Wyman**

Jeff Whitehead introduced Nicholas Wyman. Nicholas is working with the Department of Labor to help provide opportunities for us to act as an intermediary with employers to connect small employers with apprenticeship programs.

Nicholas Wyman discussed the concepts of an intermediary model.

Nicholas Wyman provided each attendee a copy of his book, Job U.

### **PY 18 Budget and Spending Plan and Kentucky Health**

Jeff Whitehead briefly touched on an update of the program year 2018 budget. Mr. Whitehead asked each board member to contact him directly if they had questions concerning the PY2018 budget and spending plan.

Jeff Whitehead spoke about the Kentucky HEALTH contract and our responsibilities.

Jeff Whitehead stated in the coming months, he would be contacting the EKWIB Policy and Planning Committee members to adjust our procedures to evolve with some of the services available.

### **Commissioner Ray Leathers, Dept. for Workforce Investment**

Jeff Whitehead introduced Commissioner Ray Leathers who is with the Department of Workforce Investment. Ray Leathers introduced Doug Beard, Department of Workforce Development Project Manager. Doug Beard and Ray Leathers thanked the board for supporting Kentucky HEALTH.

Ray Leathers said the biggest objective in workforce development, in our state, is to improve the workforce participation rate. Kentucky is ranked 43 out of 50 states in workforce participation. Meaning 40% of the people in Kentucky who can work, don't work. Ray Leathers said Kentucky does not have a good participation rate for employers. Ray Leathers told the group, he thought we could increase the participation rate by utilizing our strategic plan and turning it into actions and assigning those actions to agencies, through a MOU, and holding them accountable.

### **Announcements**

Jeff Whitehead informed the group of the following announcements and dates.

- Kentucky Chamber Talent Pipeline Management Meetings
- SOAR Annual Summit

Jeff Whitehead thanked the board members for speaking with the Department of Labor auditors during a recent audit.

**Call for Adjournment**

With no other business to be discussed, Mr. Blackburn asked for a motion to adjourn. Rocky Adkins made a motion. Keith Gabbard seconded the motion. All were in favor.