



Workforce Innovation Board
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2016

Attendees:

Members

Carla Bishnoi
Howard Blackburn
Frank Dawahare
Kevin Chesnut
Tracey Weinberg
Betsy Clemons
Tim Wireman
Melissa Quillen
Denise Thomas
Brad Hall
Paul Patton
Ron Hart
Cody Davidson
Brent Sturgill-Proxy

EKCEP Staff

Jeff Whitehead
Owen Grise
Jennifer Bergman
Janie Hackney
Bridget Back
Michael Cornett
Cris Ritchie
Joyce Wilcox
Trish Adams

Guests

Donna McClure
Adult Education Staff

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) held its quarterly meeting March 17, 2016, in the boardroom at the Kentucky Career Center, Hazard, KY. In the absence of Chair Rocky Adkins, the meeting was chaired by Howard Blackburn, who called the meeting to order and asked for the Roll Call. Roll Call resulted in 14 members being in attendance.

Vice-Chair Blackburn asked for a motion to approve the minutes as received via email by the members.

MOTION: By Kevin Chesnut, to approve the minutes.

SECOND: By Missy Quillen.

VOTE: All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

RFP for Direct Workforce Services

***Withdrawal and Reasons**

Mr. Grise stated that we withdrew the RFP because the new administration needed some time to look over the policies and decide if they felt changes should be made. He said we most likely will just renew the RFP at the end of our program year.

Summary of Pending Workforce Legislation

Mr. Whitehead said there has been some criticism of the work we have been doing in our region. He also said that we need to be working in an innovative way more than ever. Also, he said we should stay vigilant of things going on around the state.

Reports

***Employer Engagement**

Mr. Whitehead said that Joyce Wilcox provides leadership to employer representatives around our region while also ensuring employer visits are organized so that three or four different representatives make calls to the same employers. Joyce provided information about the employers they are working with and shared different ways in which the representatives assist them.

***Work Ready Communities**

Mr. Whitehead said that Melissa Quillen has been working closely with the Work Ready Communities. Ms. Quillen explained that these communities have to meet specific standards in order to achieve the goal of being listed as a Work Ready Community. She stated that many communities have been successful in earning this certification.

*Workforce Study

Mr. Whitehead asked Brad Hall to report on this study. He stated that people out of the area have come here to identify the characteristics of our workforce area. He said that he and Trish have worked on this and look forward to receiving the results. Trish said that they had job fairs in seven cities. She reported that the study will be beneficial to us to learn what kinds of training our area needs to focus.

*Teleworks USA Hubs

Mr. Cornett commented on a Lexington Herald Leader report complimenting EKCEP for successfully helping folks to find employment through our Teleworks HUBs in different counties. Also, he said that HUBs in more counties are being planned.

Power EDA Report & Proposed Workforce Development for Entrepreneurial Community

Mr. Whitehead said that EKCEP has been included in a Power Grant. Ian Mooers stated that EKCEP's responsibility is to identify ten companies to receive compensation from EKCEP to help them expand their business. He said that five companies have come forward so far.

Mr. Mooers has seen a need to support entrepreneurs and proposes an OJT program called Plus One to attract them to tap into OJT dollars. He referred to the handout included in the packet.

MOTION: By Brad Hall, that EKCEP establish the Plus One program and develop an online application.

SECOND: By Carla Tim Wireman.

VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

TechHire Grant Application Update

Mr. Whitehead said that our region was selected as one of two rural TechHire areas in the country. After talking with Bit Source, we realized that laid off coal miners are good candidates for coding. In order to bring the IT needs to our region, we have applied for this grant to provide coding training for 400 people.

Questions and Discussion

Mr. Whitehead stated that he welcomes any ideas or discussions that our board members have for us.

Call for Adjournment

Board member, Paul Patton asked if anyone would like to make a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: By Howard Blackburn, to adjourn.

SECOND: by Denise Thomas.

VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

