

**Cumberlands Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2021**

The Cumberlands Workforce Development Board met via zoom (video conferencing) on August 27, 2021 at the Lake Cumberland Area Development office in Russell Springs, due to Covid-19. Chairman Sam Brown called the meeting to order.

Ms. Beverly Grimes called the roll. There were twenty-one (21) of the twenty-nine (29) members present via zoom, thus constituting a quorum of the board. Fifteen (15) members present were Business and Workforce representatives which meets the requirement of 51% of members present be a combination of Business and Workforce representatives.

All members were e-mailed copies of the minutes from June 15, 2021 meeting. Questions/corrections were asked for; there being none, motion was made by Scott Pierce to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jay Shofner. Motion carried.

Mr. Sam Brown introduced our new member; Anna Larson with KY Skills U.

Mr. Sam Brown made appointments to the following committee's; Karen Miller-Disability Committee, Rebecca Wilson-Disability Committee and Anna Larson-One-Stop Committee. Motion was made by Wendell Emerson to ratify the appointments to the various committees as presented, seconded by Mike Buckles. Motion carried.

Mr. Scott Secamiglio, Visual Analytics & Strategy Director with KYSTATS gave an overview of KYSTATS. They connect data across time and agencies. They connect education, workforce, health & family services, corrections, labor market information and a lot of different sources over time. They can answer things that other states may not be able to and that can't be answered when data is in silos. An example would be; what happens to high school graduates in our area, are they enrolling in college, are they going right into the workforce and how much are they making. This data is secure and private. They follow all the strictest privacy laws. He presented a few reports to the Board. The first one was The Workforce Overview of Kentucky Regions, also known as the WORKR. If you are familiar with labor market information, such as unemployment statistics or occupational employment and wages or projections that comes out of their office. They have tried to put it all in one interactive dash board. Go to <https://kystat.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/WORKR>.

He went over the Family Resource Simulator, <https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/FRS>. It's the ability to better understand the hypothetical family's budget and their resources. This has really helped employers and policymakers understand what happens as an employee's earnings increase. If they earn an extra two dollars are they losing some social support and would they actually be losing money. At what dollar amount are they becoming self-sustainable?

Ms. Myra Wilson gave an update for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget for WIOA Programs for PY'20 is \$3,904,887.50. The expenditures from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21 is \$3,069,525.55 which is 78.61% of the budget spent. Since the preparation of the budget for the meeting, we had billing of \$37,000 which places us at 79.56% expended. In the new budget the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will not be included. Motion was made by Wendell Emerson to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Scott Pierce. Motion carried.

Ms. Marsha Wells gave an update on the WIOA program. For youth from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 they served 260, during the first COVID year. 220 were in a paid work experience (PWE), and 33 entered into a new ITA training. This doesn't count those that could have been in their second year of an ITA. From July 1st of this year they have enrolled 22 youth, 13 has entered paid work experience and 7 have started a new ITA training. For adults from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 they served 80, but as of last week they are up to a 103. The dislocated workers run low, they are at 10 in an ITA, but the National Dislocated Worker Grant they were at 148 as of June 30, 2021.

Ms. Marsha Wells presented a revision of the On-the-Job Training (OJT) policy. They have added a sentence to Number 24 in the policy; "The hours reported for reimbursement will only include those hours in which training actually occurred. Non-training hours for which the client was paid (holidays, sick leave, vacation, non-job training related hours, etc.) will not be reimbursed. Motion was made by Rhonda Thomas to approve the OJT Policy as presented, seconded by Wendell Emerson. Motion carried.

Ms. Marsha Wells presented an amendment to the, "Cumberlands Policy for Serving Individuals with a Bachelors or Master's Degree." The current policy is if you have a Bachelor's or Master's Degree and cannot obtain employment in a field that has no demand with the workforce area. Training will be limited to one year and will be subject to current ITA Policy. The request is to, "Amend the policy to pay for (2) years for those with Bachelor's degrees entering into the Master's Degree programs that encompass counseling within the mental health and substance abuse disorder fields. Motion was made by Jay Shofner to approve the request as presented, seconded by Kevin Shearer. Motion carried.

Ms. Marsha Wells asked the board for a wage increase for the out-of-school youth (OSY) paid work experience (PWE) program from \$8.00 an hour to \$10.00 an hour. We have lost a few of our youth because they can make more money other places. This will make us more competitive. Motion was made by Becky Wilson to increase the wage for the OSY PWE from \$8.00 per hour to \$10.00 per hour, effective 8/17/21, seconded by Scott Pierce. Motion carried.

Ms. Marsha Wells requested an increase for the ITA amount for CDL training to \$3,500 and for the Lineman training to \$3,700. This will decrease the amount that the participant has to pay out of pocket. These are high demand trainings, but we have lost out on some because they couldn't come up with the extra money. Motion was made by Becky Wilson to approve the ITA increases for the CDL training to \$3,500 and Lineman training to \$3,700, seconded by Jay Shofner. Motion carried.

Ms. Marsha Wells petitioned to the Board to add to the local Sectors, Education. It's a High Demand Occupation. We want to add Teaching-Elementary, Middle and High School. Motion was made by Scott Pierce to add Education-Teaching-Elementary, Middle and High School to our local sectors, seconded by Wendell Emerson. Motion carried.

Ms. Myra Wilson gave the Director's Update.

- Mr. Tyler Martin joins the CWDB to serve as the Re-Entry Navigator. In this role he will connect Justice-Involved individuals to training and employment opportunities to increase workforce participation among the region's Re-entry and Justice-Involved populations. He will also serve as a guide for the Justice-Involved who are working but underemployed, facilitating opportunities for the up-skilling and re-training needed to fill critical roles of the region's industries. He brings three years of experience in leadership and training from his time enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and two and a half years of experience in law enforcement as a Police Officer with the City of Liberty. He also brings two years of experience working for a non-profit organization, Galilean Children's Home.
- She thanked the team at the Somerset Career Center for all their hard work. From April 15th through August 13th they have served 2,858 UI recipients.
- They are working with the Lake Cumberland Area Development District leadership to confirm a date of the re-opening of both Russell Springs & Campbellsville Career Centers. Once we have this date, it will be sent to the board members published with Social Media through Kinetic Strategic Design (KSD).
- They have been working with the Russell County Industrial Authority and the school system on a project for the Agri-Tech Center. They were in Frankfort a couple weeks ago to discuss the project with Governor Beshear and Rocky Adkins, Senior Advisor.
- They received information back regarding our local and regional plan. Our area did a good job identifying in-demand sectors with expected growth, necessary skills needed, and attendant education requirements and a great job laying out strategic vision and goals. We have a few minor revisions to make on both the local and regional plan. We will have those updated this month and reposted. The State actually provided us 90 days to make any updates.
- Commonwealth Coders is a sixteen week training program powered by BC Skills Development Academy and prepares participants to become a junior web developer. Four Workforce Development Boards which include the Cumberlands, South Central, Bluegrass and Northern Kentucky regions partnered together and launched Commonwealth Coders on August 11th. We have forty-eight participants over the 48 counties.
- The new Executive Director for the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board is Stefanie Ebbens Kingsley.
- Work is being done to assist individuals with a justice-related background with reentry into the workforce. This work is being led by Aaron Poynter. His great work in the Cumberlands and South Central region has now caught the attention of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB), Goodwill of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Corrections and other state agencies. Over the past

three months, Lt. Colonel Jon Sowards who is the President and CEO of the South Central Workforce Board, Aaron Poynter and Myra Wilson have presented their approach to re-entry to the KWIB and Goodwill of KY on several occasions, which subsequently led to us participating in several intense and in depth meetings with Deloitte. The KWIB has contracted Deloitte to lead an initiative dubbed "Putting Kentuckians First", whose goal is to conduct a pilot that identifies and finds best practices for re-entry that can be shared statewide. The KWIB expects to secure funding this month and then quickly announce where Putting Kentuckians First pilot will be. The Cumberland and South Central are in serious contention to be selected for this pilot.

- The Pulaski County Detention Center (PCDC) Welding Certificate program with Somerset Community College (SCC) kicked off Monday, August 16th. All welding kits were funded by Goodwill. The total cost per student will be \$935.00 which is the tuition cost only with 9 participants, which is a total cost of \$8,415. The course is an eight week course taught by SCC. The funds were available through the National Dislocated Workers Grant. Those enrolled in the program primarily will be released the first quarter of 2022. This would not have been possible without Alesa Johnson and the team at SCC, Jailer McCollum and staff Marsha Wells and Amy Dennis traveling to PCDC to qualify the inmates, and Aaron Poynter, Chris Hall, Becky Wilson and the staff at the Department of Corrections will assist with monitoring once the individuals are released. Our goal is to have the employers ready once they are released. Ernie Alexander from Gatormade is very interested in this program. Our plan is to fund this through March of 2022. We are resubmitting an updated NDWG budget asking for additional funds. We are working with Rachel Adams, Division Director for the Department of Workforce Investment.
- The One-Stop Operator & Director Service Provider RFP will be submitted this year in order to fulfill the April 2022 cutoff timeline. This has to be renewed every year with the option to extend up to 2 years, so 3 years max.

Motion was made by Scott Pierce to adjourn, seconded by Mike Buckles. Motion carried.

DocuSigned by:

Sam Brown

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Sam Brown, Chairman

DocuSigned by:

Vickie Wells

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Vickie Wells, Secretary/Treasurer