



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2024**

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**EKWIB Members**

Bruce Carpenter  
Travis Cox  
Kim Combs  
Keith Gabbard - Chair  
Raymond Banks  
Jennifer Lindon  
Tonia Prewitt  
Frank Dawahare – Vice Chair  
Paul Dole  
Brent Sturgill  
Dennis Messer  
Kevin Chesnut  
Paul Patton  
Jeff Johnson  
Rusty Justice  
Colby Kirk

**EKCEP Staff**

Rebecca Miller – Executive Director  
Bridget Back  
Tonya Collins  
Cris Ritchie  
Michele Whitlock  
Sharon Poff  
Travis Winkler  
Jimmie Wilson  
Dottie Nolan  
Lisa Meade  
Crissy Sexton  
Melissa Williams  
Bobbie Eldridge  
Christina Sowders  
Vanessa Collier

**Absent EKWIB Members**

Jared Arnett  
Roger McGinnis  
Michael Lasslo  
Brandon Smith  
Vince Minix  
Tracey Smith  
Tanelle Sawyer

**Guests**

Mike Fine	Kayla Jude	Ali Hill	Jill Blevins	
Beth Spencer	Martina Roe	Crystal Turner	Jenni Hampton	Monia Whitaker
Allison Brown	Brian Fields	Amber Teverbaugh	Pasty Jackson	Robin Whitaker

## Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on June 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. The hybrid meeting was held at 412 Roy Campbell Drive Hazard, Ky or via zoom (if requested).

### **Welcome & Call to Order**

EKWIB's Chair, Keith Gabbard called the meeting to order. All board members were reminded to have their cameras on during roll call and voting. Chair Gabbard also asked board members to state their name as they made 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> motions. The roll call resulted in 16 WIB members being in attendance.

### **Approval of March 2024 EKWIB Minutes**

Keith Gabbard asked for a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 EKWIB minutes. Brent Sturgill made the motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Johnson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

### **EKCEP Program Reports:**

Rebecca Miller, EKCEP's Executive Director touched on the various programs.

- Jimmie Wilson, EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Director provided an update on EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Department.
- Bridget Back, EKCEP's Deputy Director – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reports, including contractor names, were discussed. Workforce and Business Services staff credentials was highlighted.
- Bridget Back discussed Policy and Procedure changes, a link was included in the EKWIB packet that was emailed to all EKWIB members. The changes requested was to switch from gas cards to a supportive services check and to stop the secondary approval process for the contractors. Paul Dole and Tonia Prewitt made the motion to approve. Jennifer Lindon seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.
- Michele Whitlock, EKCEP's Internal Auditor discussed contract extensions for the WIOA direct service providers. No changes, renewal only for one program year. Kevin Chesnut made a motion to approve. Bruce Carpenter seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried with Paul Dole abstaining for the vote.
- Michele Whitlock discussed the RFP process for Direct Service Providers. The process will begin early 2025.
- Cris Ritchie, EKCEP's Communication Director discussed the forthcoming Strategic Plan. EKCEP will be reaching out for input from each board member in the next few months. Cris Ritchie also discussed various grants EKCEP has applied for.
- Bridget Back discussed the youth program that EKCEP is launching. A Career Development Specialist will be located in high schools to assist high school seniors with a career path. Rebecca Miller said the ten workforce boards across the state worked together to get this money for the program.

### **EKCEP Finance**

- Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Finance Director discussed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter program year budget.
- Bridget Back discussed the EKY Flood and H1-B grants.
- Tonya Collins discussed the 24-25 WIOA budget. Rusty Justice made a motion to postpone the vote to approve the budget, asking for more time to review the budget. Chair Gabbard stated there is a motion to table the motion by Rusty Justice and seconded by Frank Dawahare. Chair Gabbard asked for a vote to table the motion. Three votes yes to postpone; but a vocal majority voted no to postpone. The motion failed. Bruce Carpenter made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Jeff Johnson seconded the motion. The majority voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss Keith Gabbard asked for a motion to adjourn. Kevin Chesnut made the motion. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.