



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**2:00 P.M.**

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**EKWIB Members**

Bruce Carpenter  
Travis Cox  
Kim Combs  
Ben Collier  
Tracey Smith  
Jennifer Lindon  
Mikeal Fannin  
Tal Jones  
Paul Dole  
Brent Sturgill  
Dennis Messer  
Kevin Chesnut – Vice Chair  
Lisa Fannin  
Preston Jones  
Vince Minix

**EKCEP Staff**

Rebecca Miller – Executive Director  
Bridget Back  
Tonya Collins  
Cris Ritchie  
Jordan Phipps  
Sharon Poff  
Travis Winkler  
Jimmie Wilson  
Theresa Noble  
Lisa Meade  
Vanessa Collier

**Absent EKWIB Members**

Raymond Banks    Tonia Prewitt    Keith Gabbard – Chair    Amy Greene    Jeff Johnson

**Guests**

Mike Fine	Melissa Miller	Angie Higgins	Ken Corso
Jenni Hampton	Katie Houghlin	Larissa Gilreath	Loretta Daniel
Dillon Baker	Greg Caudill		

## **Minutes**

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on March 12, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The hybrid meeting was held at 145 Citizens Lane Hazard, Ky or via zoom (if requested). Attendees received electronic tablets to use during the EKWIB meeting.

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

EKWIB's Vice Chair, Kevin Chesnut called the meeting to order. All board members were reminded to have their cameras on during roll call and voting. Vice Chair Chesnut 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 15 WIB members being in attendance.

Kevin Chesnut announced that Governor Paul Patton had resigned from the EKWIB and expressed gratitude for his years of service to the EKWIB.

### **Approval of December 11, 2024 EKWIB Minutes**

Kevin Chesnut requested a motion to approve the December 2024 EKWIB minutes. Tracey Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. William Tal Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

### **EKCEP Finance Reports**

Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Director of Accounting, introduced Greg Caudill, Auditor with Caudill and Associates. Greg Caudill discussed the 2023-2024 single audit report. A link to the full audit report was provided on the agenda.

Tonya Collins discussed the second quarter (July 2024 – December 31, 2024) budget and expenditures. This report was provided to all EKWIB members.

### **EKCEP Program Overviews:**

- Bridget Back, EKCEP's Deputy Director discussed Business Services, Client Services, Prosper Appalachia, and Employer Resource Services. She highlighted the monitoring conducted by the Department of Labor and the State regarding all EKCEP state and federal grants and provided updates on some of the grants EKCEP has received.
- Cris Ritchie, EKCEP's Communication Director, provided an update on EKCEP's marketing campaign. Cris Ritchie discussed current grants and future grants. Additionally, he discussed the EKCEP podcast and newsletter. Cris Ritchie announced that Congressman Hal Rogers had been nominated by EKCEP for a Congressional Workforce Champion Award. Congressman Rogers will be presented with the award in Washington, DC in April.
- Jimmie Wilson, EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Director provided an update on EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Department. Jimmie Wilson discussed the areas that are currently being served.
- Travis Winkler, EKCEP IT Director, introduced the redesigned EKCEP website and revealed the new EKCEP Board Portal for all board members.

- Becky Miller provided an EKCEP Executive Director update. The items discussed were the EKCEP BOD approving the EKCEP employee handbook; the open NAWDP board seat; and Recognizing Bridget Back as National Workforce Professional of the Year.
- Becky Miller discussed Kentucky's top five in-demand sectors. Becky Miller said she would like a vote to allow EKCEP to adopt these five sectors for EKCEP's focus too. Jennifer Lindon made the motion for EKCEP to adopt the State's top five in-demand sectors. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.
- Becky Miller discussed the upcoming RFP for Direct Service Providers and the MOU/IFAs. Becky Miller discussed the One-Stop Certifications for the Pikeville and Hazard One-Stop locations. These certifications are due March 14, 2025 and EKWIB approval is needed to complete the process. Tracey Smith made a motion to approve the process. Bruce Carpenter seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.
- Becky Miller discussed, for informational purposes only, the Ky WIB membership link. There is a lack of representation from Eastern Kentucky, and she would like to see some representation from Eastern Kentucky on the board.
- **Adjournment**  
With no other business to discuss, Kevin Chesnut asked for a motion to adjourn. Tracey Smith made the motion. Ben Collier seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be on June 11, 2025.