



Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025
2:00 P.M.

EKWIB Members

Bruce Carpenter
Travis Cox
Kim Combs
Ben Collier
Tracey Smith
Jennifer Lindon
Mikeal Fannin
Tal Jones
Paul Dole
Brent Sturgill
Dennis Messer
Keith Gabbard - Chair
Tonia Prewitt
Vince Minix
Jeff Johnson
Hope Potter
Meghann Chesnut
Raymond Banks – Proxy – Amber Teverbaugh

EKCEP Staff

Rebecca Miller – Executive Director
Bridget Back
Tonya Collins
Cris Ritchie
Jordan Phipps
Sharon Poff
Travis Winkler
Jimmie Wilson
Theresa Noble
Lisa Meade
Kaytlin Hoskins
Melissa Williams
Bobbi Eldridge
Crissy Sexton

Absent EKWIB Members

Kevin Chesnut Amy Greene Preston Jones

Guests

Mike Fine	Allison Brown	Jenni Hampton	
Tesa Turner	Ali Hill	Brian Fields	Tawny Acker
Jennie Hampton			

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on June 11, 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 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 1st or 2nd motions. The roll call resulted in 18 WIB members being in attendance.

Approval Minutes

Keith Gabbard requested a motion to approve the March 12, 2025 EKWIB minutes. William Tal Jones made the motion to approve the minutes. Tracey Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Minutes of a March 24, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting discussing the Local and Regional Plan were included in the packet – a vote was not required.

New EKWIB Members

Keith Gabbard welcomed two new WIB members. Hope Potter will represent the Business Sector and Meghann Chesnut will represent the Education and Training Sector.

RFP for Direct Workforce Services Provider & One-Stop Operator and Contracts

Cris Ritchie, EKCEP's Communication Director, discussed the RFP's. Keith Gabbard asked for a motion to accept the proposals as recommended by the EKCEP RFP Review Team and to grant Becky Miller the authority to proceed with finalizing contract negotiations and executing the contracts for both the Direct Services Provider and the One-Stop Operator. Paul Dole abstained from the vote. Brent Sturgill made the motion. William Tal Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor, non-opposed. The motion carried.

EKCEP Finance Reports

Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Director of Accounting, discussed the third quarter (January 2025-March 31, 2025) budget and expenditures. This report was provided to all EKWIB members.

Tonya Collins discussed the 2025-2026 WIOA budget. A copy was included in the board packet. Dr. Jennifer Lindon made the motion to accept the 2025-2026 budget as

presented. Ben Collier seconded the motion. All voted in favor, non-opposed. The motion carried.

Tonya Collins discussed the WIOA MOU/IFA. A copy of the document was included in the board packet. William Tal Jones made the motion to accept the WIOA MOU/IFA as presented for signatures. Paul Dole seconded the motion. All voted in favor, non-opposed. The motion carried.

Tonya Collins presented the remaining ten completed 2025 One Stop Certifications. Tracey Smith made a motion to approve as presented. Dr. Jennifer Lindon seconded the motion. All voted in favor, non-opposed. The motion carried.

EKCEP Program Overviews:

- Bridget Back, EKCEP's Deputy Director discussed the Workforce and Business Solutions Department. She highlighted the third quarter performance reports; monitoring reports, and the National Dislocated Worker Grant. Bridget Back also discussed some WIOA Policy Updates (A link was provided to each board member prior to the meeting). A motion to accept the updates to the WIOA policy was made by Brent Sturgill. Tonia Prewitt seconded the motion. All voted in favor, non-opposed. The motion carried.
- Cris Ritchie, EKCEP's Communication Director, provided an update on EKCEP's Communication Department. Items discussed included Fund Development; Local & Regional Plan; Review of Service Milestones, and Grant updates.
- Jimmie Wilson, EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Director provided an update on EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Department. Jimmie Wilson discussed the third quarter performance reports.
- Travis Winkler, EKCEP IT Director, discussed AI and the AI policies for EKCEP.
- Sharon Poff, EKCEP Director of HR informed the board that the Education and Labor Cabinet had recertified the EKWIB for two more years. (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027). Sharon Poff also discussed the location of the EKCEP office.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be on September 10, 2025.