



**Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 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 – Proxy Terri Doton  
Tal Jones  
Paul Dole  
Brent Sturgill  
Dennis Messer  
Kevin Chesnut – Vice Chair  
Vince Minix  
Keith Gabbard  
Tonia Prewitt

**EKCEP Staff**

Rebecca Miller – Executive Director  
Bridget Back  
Tonya Collins  
Cris Ritchie  
Jordan Phipps  
Sharon Poff  
Travis Winkler  
Lisa Meade  
Melissa Williams  
Ethan Phipps

**Absent EKWIB Members**

Raymond Banks    Amy Greene    Jeff Johnson    Hope Potter

**Guests**

Mike Fine                      Ken Corso  
Jenni Hampton              Tesa Turner

## **Minutes**

The Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) held its quarterly meeting on December 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The hybrid meeting was held at 145 Citizens Lane 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 15 WIB members being in attendance.

### **White Paper Presentation**

Rebecca Miller, Executive Director, introduced Andrew Bercich of SummitWorX Solutions, LLC to the members via Zoom. Mr. Bercich reviewed the results of the recently completed EKCEP culture survey. A copy of the full presentation was included in the EKWIB packet that had been distributed to all members in advance of the meeting.

### **Approval of September 10, 2025 EKWIB Minutes**

Keith Gabbard requested a motion to approve the September 2025 EKWIB minutes. Brent Sturgill made the motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Lindon seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Rebecca Miller and Mike Fine discussed the annual conflict of interest forms and the importance of completing the forms annually. Sharon Poff, EKCEP H.R. Director will send each virtual WIB member the form to complete.

### **EKCEP Program Overviews**

- Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Director of Accounting, reviewed this program year's 1<sup>st</sup> quarter statement of revenue and expenditures.
- Bridget Back, EKCEP's Deputy Director discussed Workforce Services. The reports provided were for the first quarter of this program year.
- Cris Ritchie, Director of Advancement, provided an update on various grants for which EKCEP has submitted applications. Cris Ritchie also provided an update on the Communications Department, including recent initiatives and ongoing efforts to support EKCEP programs and outreach.
- Travis Winkler, EKCEP IT Director, discussed various AI projects being reviewed with EKCEP and the State.

- Rebecca Miller introduced Ethan Phipps as EKCEP's new Recovery and Reentry Director. Ethan Phipps provided an update on EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Department.

### **2026 Meeting Dates**

Rebecca Miller discussed the EKWIB meeting dates for 2026.

### **Adjournment**

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

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2026.