



**MINUTES**  
**SOUTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**SCWDB BOARD OFFICE AND ZOOM CONFERENCE**  
**December 11, 2025**

**Time & Place of Meeting**

The South Central Workforce Development Board meeting was held at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom Conference and in person at the WKU Innovation Center.

**Members Present**

Amy Thomas; Chad Spencer; Drew Preston; Dr. Joda Johnson; John Eaton; Josh Anderson; Justin Browning; Katie Houghlin; Kelly Johnson; Kendra Sewell; Dr. Kim Myers; Paul Wherry; Roxana Miracle; Sam Ford; Shane Wilson; Shannon Manrique; Teresa Hayes; and Veronica Lopez.

**Visitors Present**

Michelle Harris; DaRhonda Hawthorne; Jon Sowards; Jessica Calvert; Brian Becker; Frank Garabato; Regina Jackson; Issa Wilondja; Brittany Hippler; Jake Brown; Bill Sandell; Laura Torres; Shannon Gottke; Alexa Hatcher; Paula Brooks, Judge Doug Gorman, Judge Tim Flener, Judge Phil Baker, Jasmine Bass, Monique James, Joshua Toomey, Brian Young, Jeff Meisel, Chris Jensen, Katie Schaller-Ward, State Rep. Robert Duvall, State Rep Kevin Jackson, Mayor Todd Alcott, Jason Lowe, KY Secretary Jamie Link, Robert Boone, Matt Bacon, Bionca Wilson, Derek Olive, Mark Lord and Mike Wilson.

Teresa Hayes welcomed everyone to the meeting. She recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Teresa welcomed several special guests.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

- **President/CEO Opening Remarks – Jon Sowards**

**Approval of Minutes October 16, 2025 Minutes – Teresa Hayes**

**Motion by:** A motion was made by Amy Smith Thomas, seconded by Kelly Johnson, to approve the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

- **Executive Committee Update from November 13, 2025 – Teresa Hayes**

**Approve Secretary and Treasurer Roles**

Jon Sowards stated that per the bylaws the SCWDB should formally appoint a Secretary and Treasurer.

Teresa Hayes made a suggested motion to the Board to appoint Josh Anderson as the Secretary and John Eaton as the Treasurer for the SCWDB.

**Motion by:** A motion was made by Sam Ford and seconded by Kendra Sewell, to appoint Josh Anderson as the Secretary and John Eaton as the Treasurer for the South Central Workforce Development Board, as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Financial Report – Michelle Harris**

**Motion by:** A motion was made by Chad Spence, seconded by Justin Browning to approve the financial report as presented. **Motion carried.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

- **Audit Update – Jon Sowards**
- **2025 Year-In-Review Highlights**
  - **Overview of the Year-in-Review Publication - Brian Becker**
  - **“Maximizing the Labor Market’s Mixed Signals” - Jon Sowards**
  - **Career TEAM Performance & Compliance - Matt Bacon and Jessica Calvert**
  - **Supporting Employers - Jake Brown and Bionca Wilson**
  - **WIOA in Action: Delaney’ Story - Jasmine Bass**
  - **WIOA in Action: Brent’s Story - Monique James**
  - **Reentry and Employment Services - Brittany Hippler**
  - **Work Ready Bootcamps in Logan Co. DC - Jon Sowards and Joshua Toomey**
  - **Serving New Americans - Alexa Hatcher**
  - **Refugee Vocational Training Story - Issa Wilondja-Bawa**
  - **Ready.Set.Hire. Stories - Shannon Gottke and Laura Torres**
  - **YourTern: Internships for Military Service Members - Jon Sowards and Brian Young**

**Discussion/Public Comment – Brian Becker**

**Looking Ahead to 2026 – Jon Sowards**

**Adjournment -Teresa Hays**

*<<there were no public comments>>*

The next Board meeting will take place on February 12, 2026. Location SCWDB Board Office and/or participation by Zoom.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Approved:**   
02/12/2026

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_