



**EKCEP Board of Directors and EKWIB
Joint Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025
10:30 a.m.**

Attendees:

EKCEP BOD Members

Albey Brock Vice Chair – **Absent**
Bishop Johnson – Proxy Samuel Lawson
Steve Silcox – Proxy Jason Murphy
Dean Hall – Proxy Wanda Thacker
Mark McKenzie – Proxy Judy Daniel
Mike Howell
Christine Gregory
Rodney Chrisman – Proxy Monia Whitaker
Tommy Harmon – Proxy Robin Whitaker
Greg Motley – Proxy Martina Roe
Krystal Chapman – Proxy Valrey Easterling
Phillis Lawson – Proxy Jarred McKnight
Dan Mosley – **Absent**
Jack Miniard
Luther Blanton – Proxy Jill Blevins
Connie Barnes
Gilbert Holland – Chair
Susan Dunaway
Derek Campbell
Terry Adams
Walter Nixon
Hubert Herald
Raymond Banks – **Absent**
Steve May – Proxy Amber Teverbaugh
Becky Walker – Proxy Halie Baisden
Carl Tolliver – Proxy Jody Maynard
Judy Roark – Proxy Bridget James

EKCEP Staff

Becky Miller
Bridget Back
Cris Ritchie
Tonya Collins
Sharon Poff
Jordan Phipps
Travis Winkler
Theresa Noble
Ethan Phipps
Jennifer Breeze

Guest

Mike Fine
JoAnn Nolan
Brian Fields
Beth Spencer
Tawny Aker
Tesa Turner
Donna Pace
Traci Prater

EKWIB Members

Jeff Johnson
Kevin Chesnut – Vice Chair
Keith Gabbard – Chair
Hope Potter – **Absent**
Preston Jones – **Absent**
Bruce Carpenter – Proxy Ali Hill
Kim Combs – **Absent**
Tracey Smith
Raymond Banks – **Absent**
Amy Greene – **Absent**
Mikeal Fannin
Dennis Messer
Jennifer Lindon – **Absent**
Benjamin Collier – Proxy Curtis Branham
Paul Dole – Proxy – Jennifer Smith
Vince Minix
Meghann Chesnut – Proxy Sarah Wahlstedt
Travis Cox
William Tal Jones – **Absent**
Tonia Prewitt
Brent Sturgill

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Board of Directors (EKCEP BOD) held its quarterly meeting on September 10, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The in-person meeting was held at 145 Citizens Lane Hazard, Ky. This meeting was conducted jointly with the Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB).

Welcome and Roll Call

EKCEP BOD 's Chair, Gilbert Holland called the meeting of the EKCEP BOD to order. Mr. Holland asked members to state their names as they make a 1st and 2nd motion. The roll call resulted in 24 BOD members being in attendance.

EKWIB Chair, Keith Gabbard called the meeting of the EKWIB to order. The roll call resulted in 14 EKWIB members being in attendance.

Minutes Approval

Gilbert Holland asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting. Walter Nixon made the motion to approve. Connie Barnes seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Keith Gabbard asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting. Tracey Smith made the motion to approve. Kevin Chesnut seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Pre-K for Everyone

Sam Flynn provided a virtual presentation on the Pre-K for Everyone initiative.

EKCEP AI Policy

Travis Winkler, EKCEP IT Director, discussed artificial intelligence (AI) and the importance of establishing policies governing its use. A draft AI policy was provided to both boards in advance of the meeting. The EKCEP BOD was asked for a motion. Hubert Herald made the motion to approve the AI policy as presented. Connie Barnes seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Program Year 2024 year-end performance report

Bridget Back, EKCEP Deputy Director, presented the highlights of the performance reports for year ending 2024 (July 2024 through June 2025). Detailed performance reports were provided to both boards in advance of the meeting for review.

EKCEP Finance

Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Director of Accounting, discussed the financial reports for year ending 2024 and the financial reports for 7/1/2025-7/31/2025. Detailed reports were provided to both boards in advance of the meeting for review.

EKCEP Return on Investment (ROI) & National Performance

Rebecca Miller, EKCEP Executive Director, presented the return on investment (ROI) analysis for Program Year 2023–2024. She noted that EKCEP’s Adult WIOA Services Program ranked 21st nationwide in PY23 for the total number of participants served.

Printed copies of the EKCEP Annual Report for PY2024 and Return on Investment brochures were provided to all attendees.

Board Member Donation Opportunities

Cris Ritchie, EKCEP Director of Advancement, emphasized the importance of making a donation to EKCEP, noting that contributions of all sizes make a meaningful impact. He also reviewed the various methods available for making donations.

Veteran Recognition

Rebecca Miller presented certificates of appreciation to Walter Nixon and Vince Minix, both EKCEP BOD members, in recognition of their service to our country.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chair Holland asked for a motion to adjourn the EKCEP BOD. Connie Barnes made the motion to adjourn. Walter Nixon seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Keith Gabbard asked for a motion to adjourn the EKWIB meeting. Tracey Smith made the motion to adjourn. Brent Sturgill seconded the motion. All votes in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.