



**EKCEP Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2026
10:30 a.m.**

Attendees:

EKCEP BOD Members

Bishop Johnson
Mark McKenzie
Terry Adams
Rodney Chrisman – Proxy – JoAnn Nolan
Christine Gregory
Connie Barnes
Greg Motley
Carl Tolliver – Proxy – Emily Jarrell
Gilbert Holland – Chair
Susan Dunaway
Hubert Herald
Jack Miniard
Krystal Chapman
Judy Roark – Proxy – Bridget James
Tommy Harmon - Robin Whitaker
Dean Hall – Proxy – Wanda Thacker
Mike Howell
Becky Walker
Steve Silcox – Proxy – Samuel Lawson

EKCEP Staff

Rebecca Miller
Travis Winkler
Jordan Phipps
Sharon Poff
Tonya Collins
Bridget Back
Ethan Phipps
Cris Ritchie
Melissa Williams
Theresa Noble
Crissy Sexton

Absent BOD Members

Derek Jorge Campbell Albey Brock Steve Mays Raymond Banks Walt Nixon Dan Mosley
Phyllis Lawson

Guests

Mike Fine Brian Fields Allison Brown Valerie Easterling Tawny Acker
Barbara Smith Jill Blevins Jenni Hampton Ali Hill

Minutes

The Eastern Kentucky Board of Directors (EKCEP BOD) held its quarterly meeting on June 10, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The hybrid meeting was held at 145 Citizens Lane Hazard, Ky or virtual via Zoom, if requested.

Call to Order

EKCEP Board of Directors (BOD) Chair, Gilbert Holland, called the meeting to order. Members were reminded to have their cameras on during roll call and voting. Chair Holland also requested that members state their names when making a motion or second. Proxies were reminded that, while they may be counted toward quorum, they are not permitted to vote.

Roll Call

The roll call confirmed that 19 BOD members were in attendance, and a quorum was established.

Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary Positions

Mike Fine, EKCEP Legal Counsel, reviewed Article IV of the EKCEP Board of Directors Bylaws, which states: *"The Officers of the Corporation shall be... elected every third year... and may be re-elected to succeed themselves."* Mr. Fine called for nominations from the floor for any individuals interested in serving as officers other than the current officers. No nominations were received.

Mr. Fine then requested a motion and second to re-elect the current officers for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, as follows:

- **Chair:** Gilbert Holland
- **Vice Chair:** Albey Brock
- **Secretary:** Sharon Poff

Christine Gregory made the motion to approve. Connie Barnes seconded the motion. Gilbert Holland abstained from the vote. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Minutes Approval

Chair Holland asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting. Terry Adams made the motion to approve. Hubert Herald seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

New EKWIB Member

Gilbert Holland informed the members that Ron Frazier was recently appointed to the EKWIB to represent the business sector. Ron Frazier replaced Jame Howard.

EKCEP Finance

Rebecca Miller, EKCEP Executive Director, discussed the link included on the meeting agenda, which provided access to EKCEP's Direct Service Contracts with the nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs). She explained that each June, the EKCEP Board of Directors reviews and approves these contracts for the upcoming program year.

Ms. Miller noted that one section of the contracts remains marked "TBD" because the state has not yet released the required performance measures. Once received, those measures will be incorporated into the contracts. Chair Gilbert Holland called for a motion to approve the Direct Service Contracts. Connie Barnes made the motion to approve, and Hubert Herald seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Tonya Collins, EKCEP's Director of Accounting, discussed the 2026-2027 program year budget. The total of \$18,411,641.22 includes all EKCEP funding. Chair Holland asked for a motion to approve the program year budget. Connie Barnes made the motion to approve, and Hubert Herald seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with none opposed. The motion carried.

Lightcast Presentation on EKCEP Return on Investment

Rebecca Miller introduced Jade Rohloff of Lightcast, who presented the findings of Lightcast's Return on Investment (ROI) analysis for EKCEP. Following the presentation, Bridget Back, EKCEP Deputy Director, discussed the process used to complete the ROI analysis and highlighted how the data was gathered and evaluated to measure EKCEP's economic impact and program effectiveness.

DOL Rankings

Rebecca Miller reported that, in the previous year's rankings, EKCEP was recognized as 21st nationally in Adult Services. She was pleased to announce that, in the current year's rankings, EKCEP improved significantly and is now ranked 8th nationally for adults served, reflecting the organization's continued commitment to providing quality workforce development services and achieving strong performance outcomes.

Partnership Agreement

Rebecca Miller explained that it is good governance practice to periodically present the Partnership Agreement between the EKCEP Board of Directors and the Eastern Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (EKWIB) for review and reaffirmation. She stated that it was an appropriate time to bring the agreement before both boards for review. Ms. Miller noted that no changes or revisions had been made to the Partnership Agreement since its last review in 2024.

Mike Fine explained that the Partnership Agreement is required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Specifically, Section 107 of WIOA requires an agreement outlining the relationship and responsibilities between both boards. The agreement is a sound governance practice to ensure continued compliance and clarity of roles.

This item was presented for both the EKCEP BOD Chair and the EKWIB Chair to re-sign.

KWIB Meeting in Hazard – August 27, 2026

Rebecca Miller reminded all attendees that EKCEP will be hosting the August 2026 KWIB meeting. The meeting will take place August 27, 2026 at EKCEP's office in Hazard.

SETA Fall Conference

Rebecca Miller informed the Board that the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference will be held August 30 through September 1, 2026, at the Omni Louisville Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Miller noted that, as a member of the SETA Board of Directors, she hopes EKCEP and its partners will have a strong presence at the conference. She encouraged Board members to contact their respective Community Action Agency (CAA) Executive Directors if they had interest in attending the conference.

EKCEP Program Overviews

- Tonya Collins discussed the third quarter program year budget and expenditure reports that were included in the board packet. The reports were for both EKCEP Program and EKCEP Workforce Solutions.
- Bridget Back discussed the third quarter performance reports. A copy of the reports discussed were provided to all EKCEP BOD members prior to the meeting. Currently we have 1,334 active participants, which is extremely low. This number will affect our ROI next year.
- Cris Ritchie, EKCEP Director of Advancement, discussed the work of his department. Cris Ritchie provided an update on our marketing outreach. Mr. Ritchie also updated the Board on current and upcoming grant opportunities.
- Ethan Phipps, EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Director provided an update on EKCEP's Recovery and Reentry Department.
- Travis Winkler, EKCEP IT Director, provided an update on the work EKCEP is doing using with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Mr. Winkler also presented information on the increasing prevalence of cyber scams and fraud schemes, emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity awareness.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be September 9, 2026