



TEAM KENTUCKY PRE-K FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF THE JULY 02, 2025, MEETING

- I. The regular meeting of the Team Kentucky Pre-K for All Advisory Committee was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Pre-K for All Program, on July 02, 2025, at approximately 4:02 PM. The members met virtually via Zoom.

Committee Members Present:

Jamie Link
Robbie Fletcher
Felicia Cumings Smith
Scott Davis
Colby Hall
Pamela Morehead-Johnson
Leslie Sizemore, Proxy for Aaron Thompson
Jeff Noel
Mary Elizabeth Bailey
Steven Stack
Jason Slone
Ron Bunch
Sharon Price
Alice Forgy Kerr
Ruth Ann Palumbo
R. Travis Brenda
Laura White-Brown
Carrier Ballinger
Jeni Ward
Rudy Spencer
Jamie Rodgers

Committee Members not Present:

Alvin Garrison
Sarah Davasher-Wisdom
Brent Cooper
Derrick Graham
Greg Terry
Maddie Shepard



Joel Wolford

Additional Attendees:

Michael Yoder, Commissioner, Department of Workforce Development, Education and Labor Cabinet

Lynn Baker, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood, Education and Labor Cabinet

Kelsey Turley, Director, Head Start Collaboration, Education and Labor Cabinet

Sam Flynn, Executive Director, Pre-K for All Program

Malaya Rivers, Executive Administrator, Pre-K for All Program

Oran S. McFarlan III, Special Advisor, Pre-K for All Program

Georgiana K. Ledford, Executive Advisor, Pre-K for All Program

Ben Weathers, Outreach Coordinator, Pre-K for All Program

Cali Mills Arnold, Legislative Liaison, Education and Labor Cabinet

Nick Therrell, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Members of the Public

II. Old Business

The Committee voted on the approval of the June 24, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Mr. Slone made a motion to approve the minutes, and Secretary Bailey seconded. The motion carried 21-0.

III. New Business

a. Report from Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the Program, stating that the first town hall was on June 25, 2025, in Frankfort, Kentucky. The town hall had an engaged group of participants who let their voices be heard. The speakers included parents, educators, county judge/executives, business leaders, and other community members. The Frankfort Town Hall attendees were also provided an optional, anonymous survey. Around half of the attendees submitted complete surveys upon exiting the town hall. These attendees identified themselves as elected officials, business owners, Pre-K educators, child care providers, parents, and taxpayers. 88% of all respondents reported that they are most excited about kindergarten readiness or relief for working families, and 88% of all respondents stated that they would strongly support more state funding for Pre-K in Kentucky. Overall, the feedback was very positive with a high degree of support for Pre-K for All.



Mr. Flynn also provided an overview of the two “State of the Commonwealth” sessions that will occur. Part I of the “State of the Commonwealth” will be focused on a basic overview of Kentucky’s early childhood and Pre-K landscape and Part II of the “State of the Commonwealth” will aid in the understanding of Kentucky’s early childhood system.

b. Presentation: “State of the Commonwealth” Part 1: Kentucky Early Childhood and Pre-K Landscape

Ms. Baker and Ms. Turley gave a presentation on Kentucky’s early childhood and Pre-K landscape. Kentucky’s early childhood system is comprised of key partners who strive to support every child, every family, and every community. The Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) is the umbrella organization that unifies this network of key early childhood partners to help overcome fragmentation and silos for better alignment, coordination, efficiencies, and messaging about early childhood policy and practice.

Ms. Baker provided an overview of Kentucky’s early childhood policy timeline, stating that Pre-K for All aims to expand access to all 4-year-olds in the state, addressing large challenges related to access and availability.

Ms. Baker also provided a brief overview of the main sources of funding for Kentucky’s early childhood system and discussed Kentucky’s publicly funded early childhood programs.

Ms. Turley provided information about kindergarten readiness in Kentucky. In Kentucky, school readiness means that a child starting kindergarten is ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child’s success. She provided information about kindergarten readiness benchmarks in Kentucky and the factors which are associated with lower Kindergarten readiness rates.

Ms. Turley also provided information about formal early childhood settings in Kentucky. There are 4 primary formal early childhood settings in Kentucky. These settings include public schools who offer preschool programming, licensed child care centers, Head Start, and certified Family child care homes.

Ms. Turley and Ms. Baker provided information about child care program seats in Kentucky. Ms. Turley discussed Kentucky’s current capacity. In Kentucky, the number of seats available is determined by the square footage of the location where the services are provided and the number of qualified staff/teachers present in a classroom, regardless of setting. Ms. Baker provided an overview of all 15 Area Development Districts across the Commonwealth and the percent below poverty line in each. The Area Development



Districts with the highest poverty rates tend to have the fewest seats compared to number of kids.

IV. Other Business

None.

V. Comments and Announcements

Mr. Flynn took questions, comments, and requests from the Committee Members.

Committee members asked if the slides would be made available following the meeting and made requests for additional data.

Secretary Link announced that the next Town Hall event will be July 8, 2025, in Northern Kentucky and the next regular meeting of the Advisory Committee will be July 15, 2025.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Price seconded, and the motion carried 21-0 (approximately 4:56 PM).


Secretary Jamie Link
Committee Chair