



TEAM KENTUCKY PRE-K FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 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 August 26, 2025, at approximately 4:04 PM. The members met virtually via Zoom.

Committee Members Present:

Jamie Link
Aaron Thompson
Alice Forgy Kerr
Alvin Garrison
Brent Cooper
Carrie Ballinger
Felicia Cumings Smith
Greg Terry
Jamie Rodgers
Jason Slone
Jeff Noel
Jeni Ward
Joel Wolford
Maddie Shepard
Mary Elizabeth Bailey
R. Travis Brenda
Robbie Fletcher
Rudy Spencer
Ruth Ann Palumbo
Sarah Davasher-Wisdom
Scott Davis
Sharon Price
Lesa Dennis, Proxy for Steven Stack

Committee Members not Present:

Colby Hall
Derrick Graham
Laura White-Brown
Pamela Morehead-Johnson
Ron Bunch



Additional Attendees:

Lynn Baker, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood, Education and Labor Cabinet
Kelsey Turley, Director, Head Start Collaboration, Education and Labor Cabinet
Andrea Day, Director, Division of Childcare, Department of Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Sam Flynn, Executive Director, Pre-K for All Program
Oran McFarlan III, Special Advisor, Pre-K for All Program
Malaya Rivers, Executive Administrator, 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
Sarah Hail, Deputy Executive Director, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education
Leslie Sizemore, Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Education
Walter S. Gilliam, Ph.D, Executive Director, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska
Members of the Public

II. Old Business

The Committee voted on the approval of the August 13, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Mr. Slone made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Cooper seconded. The motion carried 23-0.

III. New Business

a. Report from Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the Program and discussed Pre-K for All's recent events and outreach efforts.

Mr. Flynn also introduced guest speaker, Dr. Walter Gilliam, Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute and the Richard D. Holland Presidential Chair in Early Childhood Development at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Gilliam is the vice president of ZERO TO THREE, a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center, and former president of Child Care Aware of America.



b. Program Presentation: Impact of Pre-K for All

Ms. Baker, Ms. Turley, and Ms. Day gave a presentation on the impact of Pre-K for All programs in other states. They discussed the lasting benefits of Pre-K programs that extend to children, families, and communities.

c. Guest Speaker: Walter S. Gilliam, Ph.D, Executive Director, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska

Dr. Gilliam gave a presentation on the different research-backed ways in which Pre-K programs benefit children, families, communities, businesses, and the early educator workforce. Dr. Gilliam walked through the science behind brain development and the research about the return on investment that Pre-K brings. Dr. Gilliam also explained how children who attend high-quality Pre-K programs are less likely to need special education services, more likely to graduate high school, less likely to be arrested during their lifetime, more likely to earn more money, and more likely to own a home.

IV. Comments and Announcements

Dr. Gilliam took questions and comments from the Committee members and the Pre-K for All Program staff.

A member of the public asked if the recommendations would include funding for high-quality teacher and childcare preparation.

Mr. Flynn announced that the Pre-K for All Program staff will be providing Committee members with a draft of the report for review and consideration. Mr. Flynn also announced that the next regular meeting of the Advisory Committee will be October 8, 2025.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Cumings Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Slone seconded, and the motion carried 23-0 (approximately 5:30 PM).


Secretary Jamie Link
Committee Chair