



Andy Beshear  
Governor

Jamie Link  
Education & Labor Cabinet Secretary

## Advocacy and Education Committee Minutes

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
9:00am – 10:00am

**Attendees:** Amanda Owen, Jeff Edwards, Amanda Friend, Tara Eversole, David Allgood, Bill Bates, Katie Wolf Whaley, Tracy Belfield, Morgan Turner, Carrie Wedding, Lisa Amstutz, Megan Coleman, and Melanie Lybarger.

**Staff Present:** KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard and Administrative Specialist Senior, Anu Kumari.

**Members Absent:** Andrew Johnson, Susan Brown, Kaitlyn Paschall and Michelle Cobb.

**Welcome:** Employment First Committee Chair, Amanda Owen welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda was reviewed by all participants.

### Announcement

#### Announcement 1:

Employment First Council Member, Bill Bates, shared an update on the Transition Education Unit's through the Office of Special Education and Early Learning collaboration with Career View from North Dakota on a virtual career experience project.

- Two of three Kentucky-specific virtual career experiences were completed, with filming at Ingram Barge in Western Kentucky and Cleary Construction in Monroe County.
- Filming at Conley Bottom Resort is scheduled for the next couple of months. Students will be able to virtually experience various careers at these two Kentucky sites.

## **Announcement 2:**

- Committee Member, Megan Coleman, Director of the State Independent Living Council (SILC), highlighted roles the Statewide Independent Living Council, noting that it had a governor-appointed board of directors.
- Two roles were highlighted:
  - Develop a three-year state plan addressing issues and setting goals for people with disabilities across the state, based on feedback and stakeholder input.
  - Support Centers for Independent Living (CIL) across the state, including the Center for Accessible Living and Disability Resource Center, which have recently merged.
- The state plan has recently been updated, ensuring that services will be available in every county across the state starting July 1st, 2025.
- She announced that SILC had launched a new project called the Youth Advisory Council, focused on:
  - Self-advocacy skills training
  - Peer support for youth across the state
- The Youth Advisory Council is open to disabled youth ages 14-24, and participation will be virtual. She provided contact information for youth coordinators and encouraged sharing the information.

## **Review FAQ Google Doc**

Employment First Committee Chair, Amanda Owen, provided an update on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, noting that it had received significant feedback from other committees. She mentioned that the document wasn't finalized yet, and with the full council meeting scheduled for April 11, 2025, no actions were taken.

## **Feedback**

- Amanda Owen shared positive feedback on the document's usefulness for teachers in understanding "Employment First," which aligned with the committee's goal of creating a beneficial resource.
- Committee Member, Carrie Wedding, Special Education Director at Owensboro Public Schools, reviewed the document and provided feedback, on the education related aspects of the document.
- Amanda highlighted that the document had the potential to serve as a useful tool for teachers to better understand Employment First and could be utilized in IEP meetings or as a resource for parents. She the importance of making the document accessible and useful for multiple stakeholders.
- Carrie provided insights into the education section, emphasizing that the document could have been a valuable resource for teachers. She noted its potential as a tool for parents to understand career preparation.
- Amanda inquired whether the document could have been used as a resource for schools, parent meetings, or teacher training.
- Carrie confirmed this potential, noting a parent's request for more comprehensive information.

- Amanda expressed enthusiasm for the feedback, emphasizing how one school adopting the document could lead to wider sharing and impact.

## Action Items

Committee Chair, Amanda Owen inquired about the next steps asked Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley for provide advice and guidance.

- Katie Wolf Whaley encouraged reviewing the document (link provided in the chat), adding comments directly to it, and emailing suggestions to Amanda and Katie.
- Katie Wolf Whaley and Amanda Owen planned to meet to discuss and revise the FAQ document based on the feedback received.
- Katie suggested review and finalizing the FAQ document before the Full Council July meeting for approval and dissemination.
- Amanda Owen agreed and proposed a review process involving individual comments, a joint review with Katie Wolf Whaley to address questions and suggestions, and a final meeting before the deadline.
- The plan was to present the draft to the Employment First Council for approval. Upon approval, it would proceed to the office of vocational rehabilitation for universal design review and in-house collaboration.
- The transition committee is collaborating with another group to refine the FAQ document
- Katie clarified that while the Employment First Council's approval technically precedes the Universal Design review, they were exploring ways to expedite the process by seeking accessibility feedback earlier, potentially speed up the overall approval process through vocational rehabilitation accessibility and cabinet approval.

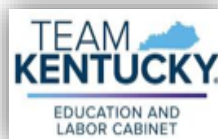
**Public Comment:** No public comment addressed.

**Adjournment:** Committee Chair, Amanda Owen, thanked everyone for their contribution and adjourned the meeting.

## Next Meeting:

Date: July 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Time: 9:00am to 10:00am (EST)



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