

**Kentucky Employment First Council**

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Employment First Council

Advocacy and Education Committee

Minutes

June 12, 2026

9:00 am – 10:00 am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 843 2807 2518

Members' Present

Committee Chair, Amanda Owen, Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, Thomas Thompson, Melanie Lybarger

Members' Absent

Susan Brown, and Jeff Edwards

Staff Present

Nanci Howard, Michelle Cobb, and Anu Kumari

Welcome

Employment First Committee Chair Amanda Owen welcomed attendees. The agenda was reviewed and acknowledged by all participants.

Newsletter Updates | Content Discussion

The committee continued reviewing the draft newsletter inserts and discussed content, sequencing, and potential calls to action.

Discussion focused on directing educators to practical resources that support transition planning, employment-focused discussions, and implementation of Employment First principles within school settings.

Resources discussed for inclusion in the newsletter series included:

- [Employment First Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) webpage and Education Professional resources](#)
- [Pre-Employment Transition Services \(Pre-ETS\) information](#)
- Employment First informational materials and flyers

Members also discussed feedback from education stakeholders regarding the importance of providing specific actions and targeted resource links that educators can easily access and utilize.

Employment First Website Updates:

The committee received an update regarding ongoing revisions to the Employment First Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpages. It was reported that OVR staff are currently working on updates to the HTML webpages.

Discussion included website navigation and accessibility. The committee noted that the FAQ webpages are expected to serve as primary destinations for future newsletter links once updates are completed. Existing Employment First resources, including informational flyers and FAQ materials, were also discussed as tools to support future outreach efforts.

Plan for Submission of Newsletter Content

The committee discussed plans for distributing newsletter content through existing education-focused communication channels and emphasized utilizing established networks rather than creating new distribution methods.

Potential distribution opportunities discussed included:

- Education-focused newsletters
- Existing stakeholder communication networks
- Contacts and distribution lists identified through the Transition Committee

The committee discussed continuing to refine newsletter content throughout the summer and preparing materials for distribution prior to the beginning of the school year.

Additional Projects for 2026 Discussion

The committee discussed the possibility of developing short educational videos as a future outreach initiative.

Discussion included highlighting Employment First principles, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), work-based learning experiences, transition services, and successful employment outcomes. Examples of existing video resources were discussed, along with the potential value of showcasing real-world transition and employment experiences.

Action Items

The committee identified the following action items:

- Continue refining newsletter inserts and related resource links.
- Gather feedback from educators and transition professionals regarding newsletter content and resource needs.
- Follow up on updates to the Employment First FAQ webpage and Education Professional resources.
- Coordinate with the Transition Committee regarding distribution opportunities and stakeholder contacts.
- Continue planning for newsletter distribution prior to the start of the school year.
- Explore future outreach opportunities, including educational video resources.

Additional Announcement:

The committee was informed that the Employment First Council Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM ET at the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Room 136 CE, 1st Floor, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Employment First Committee Chair Amanda Owen thanked everyone for their contribution and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

July 24, 2026

9:00am – 10:00am – Friday (EST)