



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education & Labor Cabinet Secretary

Advocacy and Education Committee

Minutes

August 7, 2024

9:00am – 10:00am

Zoom

Meeting ID: 879 7222 9865

Passcode: 499069

Attendees:

Nanci Howard (Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator)
Amanda Owen (Chair)
Bill Bates (Council member)
Michelle Cobb (Staff Support)
Tracy Belfield (Additional Member)
Susan Brown (Additional Member)
Morgan Turner (Council Member)
Amanda Friend (Council Member)
Andrew Johnson (Council Member)
Tia Henson (ASL Interpreter)
Anu Kumari (Administrative Specialist Senior)

Members Absent:

David Allgood (Council Member)
Jeff Edwards (Council Member)

Welcome

Administrator, Nanci Howard, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update on the Project NEON (National Expansion on Employment Opportunities Network).

Introductions/Announcements

Chair, Amanda Owen welcomed everyone, and participants introduced themselves and their roles. The agenda was reviewed by all participants. Administrator, Nanci Howard provided an introduction of the new employee, Anu Kumari, who will assist with Employment First Council duties and correspondence.

Overview of Current Progress

Chair, Amanda Owen provided an update on the committee's progress:

- Resources have been compiled and are available on the Employment First [website](#).
- A flyer with a QR code linking to resources has been created and approved by the full council. This document has been distributed to the full council several times and is entitled, "Employment First in Kentucky". Participants were encouraged to distribute to their networks.
- Draft email templates for educators and employers have been developed but need approval.

Brainstorming Session: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The committee discussed potential FAQs for different audiences (parents, educators, self-advocates, employers, and providers). The following were questions discussed by the committee to include in the FAQs document.

Parents	Educators	Self-Advocates	Employers	Providers
<p>Where do I start? Direct them to the Employment First website and local vocational rehabilitation centers.</p>	<p>How do I explain Employment First in an IEP meeting? Provide a concise explanation and link to resources.</p>	<p>Where do I start? Similar to parents, direct them to the Employment First website and local vocational rehabilitation centers.</p>	<p>How do I support and accommodate individuals with disabilities? Link to resources like the Employer Lunch and Learn series.</p>	<p>Tabled. Will be discussed at next committee meeting.</p>
<p>How can my child keep their benefits while working? Provide links to resources like DB101 and local benefits analysis services.</p>	<p>What should I communicate if an OVR rep is not present? Share a flyer or video summarizing OVR services.</p>	<p>How can I keep my benefits while working? Provide links to benefits analysis resources.</p>	<p>Where can I learn more about inclusive workforce policies? Provide links to the Employment First website and other educational resources.</p>	
<p>Are there success stories I can refer to? Link to the Employment Files on YouTube and other success stories from the</p>	<p>How does Employment First support post-secondary education? Link to resources and programs that support post-secondary</p>	<p>What skills or programs can help me prepare for employment? Link to relevant curriculums and programs like LEND.</p>	<p>How does Employment First benefit my business? Explain the business advantages of hiring individuals with disabilities.</p>	

Transition Committee.	education for students with disabilities.			
	Why is it important to update the 504 plans? Explain the significance of a current 504 plan and the differences between IEPs and 504 plans.		How can I access this untapped workforce? Provide guidance on connecting with vocational rehabilitation centers and other resources.	
	What are the compliance requirements and the vision for Employment First? Outline the basic compliance and the broader vision.			

Action Items

- Amanda Owen to compile the FAQs into a Google Doc and share it with the committee for edits.
- Committee Members to review and edit the Google Doc by September 15th.
- Amanda Owen to send out draft email templates for review and approval.
- Nanci Howard to include the Employment First flyer in the email templates.
- Amanda Friend to provide resources for employers and educators regarding accommodations and interpreters.
- Tracy Belfield suggested collaborating with KDE representatives regarding 504 and IEP inquires. She suggested asking KDE representatives about the significance of a current 504 plan and the differences between IEPs and 504 plans.

Agenda Items for next meeting

- The committee aims to finalize the FAQs and email templates by the next meeting in November.
- Chair, Amanda Owen will present the drafts to the Executive Committee for feedback before the Employment First Council meeting.

Adjournment

Chair, Amanda Owen and Administrator, Nanci Howard thanked everyone for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Highlights

Introduction of new staff member Anu Kumari.
Progress update on resources and email templates.
Detailed brainstorming session on FAQs for different audiences.
Action items assigned with a deadline for review and edits.
Next meeting scheduled for November 6, 2024.

Next Meeting:

- **Date: November 6,2024**
- **Time: 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

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500 Mero Street • 4th Floor NE • Frankfort, KY • 40601

Toll-Free: (800) 372 - 7172 • Direct: (502) 782-3421 • Email: Nanci.Howard@ky.gov

