Advocacy and Education Subcommittee
Minutes

March 30, 2023
03:00 pm – 04:00 pm
Zoom
Meeting ID: 850 6298 7614

Members Present: Amanda Owen, Michelle Cobb, Jeff Edwards, Diana Merzweiler, Morgan Turner, Amanda Friend, David Allgood

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill

Staff Absent: None

Special Guest(s) Present: None

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:
KYVOR Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and held a brief introduction for KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill, before turning the meeting over to Chair, Amanda Owen.

Chair Report:
Chair, Amanda Owen began meeting by sharing her screen and explaining the Google Drive, Brainstorming Doc for the Advocacy & Education Committee. This doc reiterated the committee's previous ideas to 1) introduce a Power Point that can be used by professionals at conferences, trainings, etc. to educate; and 2) Create an APP that can be utilized in Kentucky as a single point of access to information of resources, education, advocacy and embracing mindset of opportunities for parents/educators/workforce.

Subcommittee Discussion:
Member, Diana Merzweiler began discussing IEP requirements and how that pertains to the Committee's "Road Map to Employment" section of the Google doc. Chair, Amanda Owen added this verbiage to the Google doc that she was still screen sharing. Amanda went on to provide personal, historical background of her experience as an educational provider. She explained how the IEP will

work in conjunction with the "Portfolio" that this Committee wants to collaborate with the Department of Education to incorporate into the school systems. There was further discussion between Diana and Amanda concerning this matter and Amanda was updating the Google doc with verbiage as the discussion went on.

Administrator, Nanci Howard made mention that the February 2023 minutes needed to be approved and **David Allgood made the motion to approve the February 2023 minutes and Amanda Friend provided a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chair, Amanda Owen began discussions of the "What is Employment First"?" section of the google doc and added verbiage to the doc as discussion was held. Amanda was adding verbiage to the remainder of the Google doc as discussion was held. There was further discussion among the committee members regarding the Power Point and APP brainstorming and Chair, Amanda Owen added verbiage to the Google doc throughout the discussion.

KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard reminded the Committee members that there is one Council member belonging to the Chamber of Commerce and another belonging to the Department of Education that could be invited as guest(s) to the next meeting for collaborative purposes of these projects.

There was further discussion regarding "Transportation issues" and Chair, Amanda Owen was adding verbiage to the Google doc as discussion was held.

There was further discussion of the APP and its accessibility and cost. **A motion to bring the APP idea to the full council for approval in moving forward with its development was made by David Allgood and seconded by Diana Merzweiler. The motion carried unanimously.**

A motion to bring the master Power Point concept to the full council for approval in moving forward with its development and distribution, was made by Diana Merzweiler and seconded by Amanda Friend. The motion carried unanimously.

(A copy of the "Brainstorm" Google doc used during this meeting, has been attached to this report as a memorialization of the items discussed and added to the doc during these discussions.)

Future areas of focus:

Action Items:
A motion to bring the APP idea to the full council for approval in moving forward with its development was made by David Allgood and seconded by Diana Merzweiler. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to bring the master Power Point concept to the full council for approval in moving forward with its development and distribution, was made by Diana Merzweiler and seconded by Amanda Friend. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date:

    TBD

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Employment First – Advocacy & Education Subcommittee Minutes

Employment First/Advocacy Committee Brainstorming Document:
What Information We Want to Educate On!

ONE VOICE- Branded on Information from Council
Strategic "End in Mind" Goals:

1. Create a powerpoint that can be used by professionals at conferences, trainings, etc. to educate parents/professionals/workforce

2. Create an accessible APP to be utilized in Kentucky as a place of accessible information on resources, education,advocacy, and embracing mindset of opportunities for parents/educations/workforce

What information/resources do we want to collect and organize our goals?

What is…?

- Legislation described
- Past (how we got here)
- Beginning documents (connect to those)

Services

- OVR (great data points - maybe connect to transportation and further needs and desires)
- Supported Employment Providers
- HDI
- Pre-Ets
- KCDHH
- Office of the Blind
- Department of Education (contact: Tony Peaveler) school of Blind & Deaf
- Transportation (Maria Kemplin resource to provide this slide)
    - Medicaid Services/Waiver - Access

- ○ Ride/Share
    Barriers, The Needs, Current Resources, The Benefits …..
- ● Finance Benefits Counseling
- ● Department of Public Advocacy (criminal topic)
    - ○

Rights & Advocacy

- ● Self-advocate information and resources
- ● Financial
- ● Transportation (what are my rights)
    - ○ Federal regulations (look into these-My note)

Road Map to Employment (Primary, Middle, High School, Post-Secondary)

- ● IEP recommendation, put into the IEP form (Department of Education council member)
    - ○ Portfolio (pilot outline/parent expectations in the app)
    - ○ Templates