



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Employer Education and Engagement Committee **Minutes**

June 12, 2024
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Zoom
Meeting ID: 819 3105 9171

Members Present: Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer, Rebecca Wilson, and Todd Coffey

Members Absent: Dawn Gardner and Jessica Beaven

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Manager, and KYOVR Staff Assistant, Betty Whittaker

Staff Absent: KYOVR Employer Services Branch Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble and KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Kristen Beach

Guest(s) Present: Project NEON Subject Matter Expert, Steve Blanks (Director of Partnerships, SEEC), KYRETAIN, Kimberly Wickert, Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer, welcomed committee members and reviewed the agenda.

Update on Lunch N' Learn Series:

Merry Reid Sheffer provided an update on the Lunch and Learn Series in collaboration with the Kentucky Employment Council. She stated there will be another webinar hosted on Friday, June 14th, 2024. Kimberly Wickert put details of the next Lunch N' Learn series in the chat.

- Return to Work and Stay at Work is Good Business: Keeping your Bottom Line Healthy (In-person Event)
Presenter: Dennis McClain, MD, FACEP, ABEM, MROCC
June 14, 2024, | 12pm – 12:45pm | EST
The Norton Healthcare Goodwill Opportunity Campus—Goodwill Opportunity Center
2820 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40211
Lunch will be provided.
Register at: qrco.de/beybvT

Kimberly Wickert continued to state there are openings for the event. She stated she ordered lunch

for 50 people while thirty people are registered. She welcomed the committee to join and encouraged reaching out to employers to attend. There will be employers attending who will share their experience of inclusivity. Kimberly then stated the Lunch N' Learn series would be virtual in July. She stated Bev Harp will be discussing innovative ways to support employers who have Autism. She provided details in the chat.

- Kentucky's Employment First Council and RETAIN Kentucky present the July Employer Seminar Series:
Innovative Supports for Autistic Workers
Join Bev Harp from University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute to learn innovative ways to support the employment of people with Autism.
July 11, 12:00-12:45
Register: <https://bit.ly/4bIGQNw>

She stated there is a recording of the presentation available on the UKHDI website. She encouraged the committee to attend and stated Merry Reid Sheffer introduced her to Sherry Glen from Brown Foreman. Sherry will be presenting at the virtual Lunch N' Learn Series on August 13th, 2024. Kimberly announced there will be more details to come regarding this presentation. She stated the title of the presentation will be, "Employers as a Change Agent" and she said the hope is to recruit more employers to attend the webinar series. Merry Reid Sheffer thanked her for her synopsis and encouraged the committee to reach out to employers.

Project NEON Webinar Series Update:

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer, stated that UKHDI, on behalf of the committee and Council, will be hosting a three-part webinar series from Director of Partnerships at SEEC, Steve Blanks. Merry stated the first part in the series will be held on Thursday, June 20th, 2024. She further announced the series will focus on three strategies for attendees to use to engage employers. She encouraged anyone who connects with employers to attend the series. Steve Blanks asked for a registration update and it was stated by Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley that she will send to Mr. Blanks as soon as possible. Mr. Blanks stated he has been in touch with Chelsea Bocard from UKHDI regarding the logistics of the webinar. Becky Wilson stated she had sent the information to Goodwill directors and that her staff will be in attendance. Merry Reid Sheffer stated the webinars will be recorded as well. Discussion was held regarding obtaining certifications for CEU's. It was decided that a certificate of completion would be sent out to attendees after they complete the survey at the end of each session. Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, will send language to Merry Reid Sheffer to assist with her introduction of Mr. Blanks. Mr. Blanks will reach out to Chelsea Bocard of UKHDI to discuss the addition of a question on the survey. Discussion was held regarding those individuals who wish to view the recording and receive certificates of completion. Katie Wolf Whaley stated a link would be sent out with the recording for those individuals to receive credit. Merry Reid Sheffer announced that part-two and part-three of the series will be July 18th and August 15th.

Next Meeting Date:

Employer Education & Engagement Committee:

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 863 9806 2295

Passcode: 757737

Employment First Council:

Friday, July 12, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Hybrid Format

Location: Transportation Cabinet
200 Mero Street
Conference Room C107
Frankfort, KY 40622

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