



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jaime Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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## **Employer Education and Engagement Committee** **Minutes**

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
11:30am – 12:30pm  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 848 7522 9755

**Members Present:** Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer, Rebecca Wilson, Zach Morgan

**Members Absent:** Jessica Beaven, Todd Coffey, Cora McNabb, Dina Klimkina, Dawn Gardner

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

**Staff Absent:** KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble, KYOVR Assistant Director, Kristen Beach

**Guest(s) Present:** Kentucky Workforce Development Specialist for Amazon, Ramone Blair on behalf of Michael Rimer

### **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed attendees to the meeting and allowed time for brief introductions of all, for new Employer Representative, Ramone Blair. Naci explained the agenda and provided details of the Project Charter Document and the Best Practice Day scheduled for August 21, 2023.

### **Committee Discussions:**

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer began by screen sharing the power point presentation that has been built around the different agendas for each Lunch & Learn Series event. She gave historical overview of each agenda and provided background of already planned agenda for Amazon representative, Ramone Blair. It was discussed that there would be a short five-minute clip added to each series event, which explains the definition of competitive integrated employment. Because KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble is on extended leave, it was discussed that Merry would reach out to Cheryl Martinez to lead the "Intro to Etiquette, Myths, and Range of Disability Experience" event of the Lunch & Learn Series. It was further discussed that Katie Wolf Whaley would be a good resource for this event as well. Member, Zach Morgan is working with his member services to determine a possible subject matter expert to present the "Demystifying Regulatory Issues Around Disability" event. It was discussed that possibly this council could request businesses to sponsor an event to help alleviate the financial burden that could be posed by subject matter experts. The committee

requested that Administrator, Nanci Howard research the possibility of the event(s) sponsor(s). Nanci stated that she would work with KYOVR Leadership to determine available options for sponsor(s). Zach recommended a partner employer that is already providing competitive, integrated employment could present their experiences to other employers as he has found that this is best practice. Ramone Blair explained that Vanessa S. is the “PWD Channel Specialist” for Amazon, and he agreed with former member, Michael Rimer’s recommendation to have her present on the “Creating an Accommodations Process” event. Ramone stated that he would reach out to Vanessa S. and Kitty Zachary after the meeting concluded. He also recommended Willie Bird from Options Unlimited as a good resource. Zach clarified that his idea to have employers talking to employers pertained more to this event rather than the “Demystifying Regulatory Issues…” event. He recommended a teaser at the end of the session that would lead into the next session and Merry agreed this was her thoughts as well. Merry stated that she is hoping to have her mentor Milton Tyree assist in presenting the “Customized Employment for Industry Innovation” event in the Fall of 2023 as he is presently out of the country. There was discussion regarding the “Adult Education and Apprenticeship’s for Employers” event. Nanci explained that Summer Morgan was previous contact at Adult Education and the new representative was not in attendance of this meeting. She offered to share Dr. Luv’Tesha Robertson’s email address with Merry so that they could collaborate further. Nanci stated she would share slide with Dr. Robertson and request additional feedback for this event. Member, Rebecca Wilson stated that her contact Emily James is on board to present the “WIPA for Employers” event and the presentation is in the works. There was mention of the series launching in September 2023, lasting for roughly an hour and occurring around noon time. Zach stated that the committee should begin to promote the launch of the series, so to grow interest. Rebecca stated that a set day of week/month for the events to take place would be a good idea (ex. First Thursday of every month, last Thursday of every month). It was discussed when the committee would like to meet next and it was decided that they would like to schedule another meeting before the August 21, 2023, Best Practice Day so they can stay on track for launching the series in September-October 2023. KYOVR support staff is to send out a doodle poll for next meeting date. Merry mentioned that she would start an email thread for members to share information and progress of their assigned events.

**Minutes Approval:**

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer called for a motion to approve the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, minutes. Member, Rebecca Wilson made motion to approve April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, minutes. A second was provided by member, Zach Morgan. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. There was no opposition and the motion passed unanimously.

**Future areas of focus:**

**Action Items: None**

**Public Comment: None**

**Adjournment:**

Rebecca Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was provided by member, Zach Morgan. Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer confirmed that a vote was not necessary and Administrator, Nanci Howard replied “no”. Therefore, it was implied that the motion passed, and the meeting was ended.

**Next Meeting Date:**

TBD