



Kentucky Employment First Council
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Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet

Employer Education and Engagement Committee Minutes

March 13, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Zoom

Meeting ID: 863 9806 2295

Members Present

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer and Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley

Members Absent

Jessica Beaven, Zach Morgan, Todd Coffey, Rebecca Wilson, and Dawn Gardner

Staff Present

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill and KYOVR Assistant Director, Kristen Beach

Staff Absent

KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble

Guest(s) Present

RETAIN Kentucky, Kimberly Wickert

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Project NEON Update

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and screen shared the agenda with the group before turning the meeting over to Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer. Introductions were held for all attended. Nanci also provided an update of Project NEON for the group.

Update on South ADA Meeting and Partnership with RETAIN Kentucky

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer explained that she had met with South ADA Center, Barry Whaley and RETAIN Kentucky, Kimberly Wickert regarding a partnership and collaboration of a webinar series that is due to launch in April 2024. Merry stated that the committee's plan to create an entire webinar series was now evolving. She explained that the committee should shift its focus towards facilitating the connection of affiliates with RETAIN Kentucky so that they could create specific webinar series which will target relevant issues. Kimberly Wickert provided information of the upcoming RETAIN webinar series and preparations she has been working on to collaborate with other groups to create additional webinar content. There was discussion of what could be done to interest employers in participating or engaging in the series. There was discussion of reaching out to KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimbler as her staff may have employers that are interested in participating in the webinar series. There was discussion of the RETAIN Kentucky April webinar information being disseminated to the entire Council. Kimberly stated that any contact wishing to be added to RETAIN Kentucky's distribution list should reach out to Campaign Monitor or Betty Whittaker as she is the KYOVR RETAIN Kentucky liaison.

Final Thoughts

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer, stated that she would continue the meeting via email and the meeting was informally ended.

Future Areas of Focus

RETAIN Kentucky April Employer Seminar Series - RETAIN Kentucky and Employment First Kentucky Presents: Navigating Employer Responsibilities under ADA Title 1.

April 23, 2024, 12:00-12:45 EST

Participant registration: Via link

Barry Whaley and Pam Williamson from Southeast ADA will share their expertise and field questions about trending topics like ADA protections for individuals with substance use disorder and how ADA impacts collective bargaining agreements.

Merry stated that the committee's plan to create an entire webinar series was now evolving. She explained that the committee should shift its focus towards facilitating the connection of affiliates with RETAIN Kentucky so that they could create specific webinar series which will target relevant issues.

There was discussion of reaching out to KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimbler as her staff may have employers that are interested in participating in the webinar series.

Next Committee Meeting Date

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Zoom

Next Quarterly Meeting Date

Friday, April 12, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid Format

Location: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

200 Mero Street

Frankfort, KY 40601