



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jaime Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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## **Executive Committee** **Minutes**

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
2:00pm – 3:00pm  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 834 2701 1731

**Chairs Present:** Merry Reid Sheffer, Amanda Owen, Jeff White, Katie Wolf Whaley and Morgan Turner

**Chairs Absent:** Jessica Beaven, Frank Huffman and Diana Merzweiler

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

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

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and screen shared the agenda for the group to review together. The goal of the meeting was to finalize the agenda for the 2024 first quarter meeting of the Employment First Council, scheduled for Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **2024 Project NEON Update:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard gave a brief overview of the 300-hour technical assistance award and explained that its focus is to be on Provider Capacity. There was extensive discussion held amongst the group to determine how to effectively present this information to the full council in January. Council member, Leslie Hoffman was mentioned as a potential contact for explanation of Medicaid waiver. There was discussion regarding the recent changes Medicaid has implemented regarding pre-authorization of provider services. There was discussion of structuring the presentation in a way to prevent an administrative burden falling on Member, Jeff White. There was discussion regarding the presentation focusing on OVR aspects of Provider Capacity.

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

**Advocacy & Education:** Chair, Amanda Owen explained that the committee did not have any action items requiring a full council vote. She also stated the committee had three informal action items that link directly to the Strategic Plan.

**Provider Capacity:** Chair, Jeff White explained that the committee did not have any action items requiring a full council vote. He also explained that the committee has a list of barriers, however he would rather use this information to determine a provider wish list, in which to better provide employment services.

Employer Education & Engagement: Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer explained that the committee would like to present to the full council for their consideration, approval of a partnership with Kentucky RETAIN. She explained that the collaboration would directly correlate with the committee's Lunch N' Learn Series and dissemination thereof from Kentucky RETAIN's online platform. There was a discussion between Merry and Member, Katie Wolf Whaley regarding the Lunch N' Learn Series and the introduction video that they had planned to collaborate on.

The Public Policy and Transition Committee chairs were not in attendance at the meeting and therefore could not provide a formal report. Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill shared into the chat, both committee's recent meeting minutes "Future Area's of Focus", to provide the group with a quick glance update of each of the committee's recent focus areas.

#### **Annual Report Update:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard provided a brief overview of the finalized Annual Report that was submitted to Education and Labor Cabinets' Communication Team. She explained there were changes made to the report that related to accessibility issues and there was discussion amongst the group regarding this matter. Nanci stated that the report is presently with the Secretary of the Cabinet, pending final review. She stated that she hopes to have a copy of the final report to present to the Council at the January meeting. The group requested that Nanci work with the Cabinet Communications and Legal Teams to determine and then share the review and approval processes currently in place for graphics that are approved for dissemination by the Employment First Council.

#### **Agenda Finalization:**

It was decided that Nanci and Katie would work on finalizing the agenda at another time.

#### **Future areas of focus:**

- The group requested that Nanci work with the Cabinet Communications and Legal Teams to determine and then share the review and approval processes currently in place for graphics that are approved for dissemination by the Employment First Council.

#### **Next Meeting Date:**

Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid Format

Location: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Conference Room # C107  
200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY. 40601

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