



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Provider Capacity Committee

Minutes
April 8th, 2025
2:00pm – 3:00pm
Zoom

Members Present:

Jeff White, Katie Wolf Whaley, Shelly Durbin, Amanda Hutchison, Zac Sappenfield, Annette Jett, Lisa Carrico, Stephanie Miller, Melissa Marvel, and Ron O'Hair.

Staff Present:

Nanci Howard KYOVR Administrator and Anu Kumari, KYOVR Administrative Specialist Senior.

Members Absent:

Staci Cain, Cora McNabb, Leslie Hoffmann, Lori Norton, Cathy Anderson, Melanie Lybarger, and Todd Coffey

Welcome:

Chair, Jeff White welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda was reviewed by all participants.

Impact of New Rate Structure

Since the implementation of the new KYOVR rate structure on October 1, 2024, the agency has seen an influx of around 20 provider applicants.

The Supported Employment Training Project (SETP) reported a few new agencies, both waiver and non-waiver, that have completed training program.

It was identified there is a lengthy certification process to provide waiver services that delays impact of efforts to expand provider capacity.

An observation was made that there has been a general increase in individuals returning to or seeking employment services, often as a means of supplementing income due to reduced work hours or job losses in other sectors, such as the retail industry.

Service requests involving individuals looking for second jobs to compensate for decrease in primary employment hours were identified as a potential underestimated strain on provider capacity.

It was reported there are seasonal employment opportunities at Churchill Downs, which had offered approximately 8–10 part-time food service positions with the potential to lead to longer-term employment.

Order of Selection

Staff provided a brief overview of “Order of Selection”, updated committee members on the reasoning for its future implementation, and was directed to the agency [website](#) for more information.

Committee members discussed the impact of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation’s Order of Selection (OOS).

There was a call for clarity regarding eligibility categories and the potential impact on their agency’s ability to onboard new providers.

Clarification was provided regarding waiver funding and vocational rehabilitation funding:

It was mentioned that if VR funding was unavailable, providers who are certified to provide waiver services could still have those services funded through the waiver even if the individual was on a vocational rehabilitation waitlist.

Additionally, those who qualify for state general funds support through the regional comprehensive care centers and the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities may access support with documentation of the unavailability of vocational rehabilitation funding.

Last, the need to explore alternative sources of funding for those lacking other options was discussed:

Among the identified possibilities were:

- The use of funds deposited in Able accounts; and,
- In some cases, the use of supported employment expense as an impairment-related work expense or a subsidy/special condition.

There needs to be additional exploration of this topic.

1. Would there be a way for an emergency, expedited process to speed individuals through from Vocational Rehabilitation into Medicaid waiver status?
 - a. A process to accomplish this task is in place as part of our standard practice.
 - i. Before individuals can access the following sources of funding a coordination of employment service funding form must be submitted, and a determination of the appropriate funding stream must be made:
 1. Supports for Community Living Waiver,
 2. Michelle P Waiver,
 3. Acquired Brain Injury Waiver – Acute,
 4. Acquired Brain Injury Waiver- Long-term Care,
 5. State General Funds,
 6. The proposed RISE Initiative.
 - b. The process is designed for rapid response and includes the identification and integration of wrap-around services designed to improve the likelihood of a successful employment outcome.
2. From a provider level, could there be an expedited route to become a Medicaid provider if you are already a Vocational Rehabilitation provider?
 - a. If the agency is already certified to supply other waiver services, Supported Employment may be added to the provider's service menu in a fairly rapid span of time by:
 - i. The agency working with their DDID Quality Assistant to revise their policies and procedures to include Supported Employment, and
 - ii. Ensuring staff providing supported employment services meet both the general human resources and training requirements, as well as successfully completing the training conducted by the Supported Employment Training Project at UK-HDI.
 - b. If the agency does not hold certification to provide waiver services it's leadership must complete a lengthier process that includes:
 - i. Successful implementation of all the general requirements necessary to obtain waiver certification, and
 - ii. Successful completion of the training conducted by the Supported Employment Training Project at UK-HDI.
3. In the interim, can providers still provide Pre-ETS and Pre-Voc. Services?
 - a. Providers can continue to provide services through pre-ETS, as they are not included in the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Order of Selection does not apply to assessments or other services that are not part of the IPE.

It was clarified that, while an imbalance between available funding and the demand for services is part of the reason for Order of Selection, in this case the definitions of Category 1 and Category 2 both containing person's having the "most significant disability" also creates a discrepancy that must be resolved in order to proceed.

Concerns were heard regarding the impact Order of Selection would have on the provider community as well as Kentuckians with disabilities. It was stressed plans could still be development, only not signed, and referrals made until the waitlists are opened up as funding becomes available. There is no current timeframe for reconciliation of the definition discrepancy.

It was also clarified that CRP's can certainly still apply to become a vendor during the Order of Selection process.

Supported Employment Training Project (SETP) Expansion

It was reported that SETP staff are in the process of gathering information to assist provider agencies with new and revised Supported Employment processes/policies being developed. It was also reported there have been one-on-one conversations between providers and SETP staff covering a wide array of topics. Questions, such as, "can people be approved to be vendors during this period of Order of Selection, even if they cannot become authorized until after Order of Selection is done?". A webinar series from SETP staff, Zachery Sappenfield, offers education regarding the "nuts and bolts" of Supported Employment.

It was announced that SETP staff have started a book club and encouraged others to join.

Project NEON and Medicaid Buy-In

A meeting with Subject Matter Experts was held prior to the Provider Capacity meeting regarding Kentucky's Medicaid Buy-In. The Medicaid buy-in aims to extend coverage to individuals earning above the standard eligibility threshold through premium payments.

2025 Annual Report Recommendations

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, Nanci Howard, requested input on recommendations to be included in the 2025 Annual Report. The following was referenced:

- Northeast Kentucky Workforce Development Conference in Morehead, KY.
 - Featured participation from members of the Human Development Institute (HDI) and focused on enhancing provider services for businesses. The conference highlighted successful collaborations between employers and service providers as a model for improving employment outcomes.

Public Comments:

No Public Comment addressed.

Adjournment:

Chair, Jeff White thanked everyone for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Date: July 8th, 2025

Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Administrator: Nanci Howard

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