



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Provider Capacity Committee **Minutes**

June 11th, 2024
2:00pm – 3:00pm
Zoom
Meeting ID: 857 3674 3195

Members Present: Chair, Jeff White, Annette Jett and Katie Wolf Whaley

Members Absent: Staci Cain, Todd Coffey, Leslie Hoffman, Cora McNabb, and Lori Norton

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Supported Employment (SE) Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) Manager, Ron O’Hair, KYOVR Counselor, Johnathan Carr

Guest(s) Present: Stephanie Miller, Kentucky Department of Education

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Chair, Jeff White welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

New Business:

Jeff White asked Ron O’Hair to provide an update on Supported Employment initiatives. Ron began by stating the agency is working towards revamping Supported Employment. He stated he had hope the new changes would be launched July 1st, 2024. As a result, the agency pushed their target deadline to August 1st, 2024. Ron said the agency has made substantial changes and that everything has been approved by leadership. He stated the agency has been working with LEAD Subject Matter Expert, Karen Lee from Project NEON. He said she continues to provide guidance and support through many meetings. Ron said the changes would include converting to hourly payment system for services as well as outcome payments for providers, with some incentives that could possibly be obtained. Ron stated he remains positive and thinks it would be helpful for CRPs. He mentioned the CRP survey and how the agency took their feedback into consideration when thinking about the changes to SE. He concluded by informing the committee that training should be held mid-July. Committee member, Annette Jett, asked how much time as providers would have to implement the new system. Ron O’Hair answered by stating the plan is to provide training for CRPs after the training of KYOVR staff. Ron estimated there would be training 2-3 weeks before implementation. He said there are not many changes but informed the committee of a few. He continued by saying there are not huge changes with documentation and there is one new document that has been created. Ron stated there may be forms titled differently and ensured Annette authorizations should

flow the same and the description as well, that reflect incentive opportunities. He stated by saying the biggest change would be switching to an hourly rate with opportunities for incentives along the way. Ron said the CRP/SE Consultants would do in-person training to CRPs after implementation. Annette encouraged the agency to take into consideration that CRPs may need time to ensure their billing system is coded correctly to avoid any type of lag in services. Ron contributed by stating the agency would like to send information out in an email before the training and this could give the CRPs up to 30 days to make those changes. He does not foresee any huge changes in billing, but the timing could be different. Cathy Anderson provided an example regarding Pre-ETS. She also expressed concerned regarding billing codes. Chair, Jeff White, asked if the intent of the hourly rate is to cover direct costs personnel and to look at quality of services. Ron stated in terms of the hourly that the agency would be paying to providers, it does not include only direct time. He stated there were a lot of things to consider including, training, transportation, and indirect time to complete paperwork. He provided an example regarding a PCEP. Jeff white encouraged Ron to share numbers when they are available so that CRPs can plan and build the kind of systems to support them and pay for services. Annette Jett thanked Ron for the progress and asked if there was CRP involvement in the decision-making process. Ron answered that a CRP sustainability survey went out to all providers, CEO's, etc. for input. Discussion was held regarding the bonus outcome payments. Jeff White announced the results for the rate study for waiver funding have been received. He explained the details of the result and what type of outcomes came out of the survey. Jeff announced the rates for the Michelle P. Waiver will change from \$26.80 an hour to \$41.16 an hour. He stated it is a 47.31% rate increase. This was done to avoid providers losing money while providing that service, he explained. Annette Jett requested this information in writing. Jeff White said he would forward the information Administrator Nanci Howard to distribute to the committee along with the minutes.

Progress and of the Development of the Provider Workbook:

Chair, Jeff White, stated progress on the development of the Provider Workbook. He said the one thing the committee could assist will for providers who use these types of tools, is to include those changes to SE that will occur. He explained that the purpose of the workbook is for the providers to focus on quality and ease the stress of either becoming a provider, either with OVR services or waiver services. Jeff asked Ron if a OVR SE staff member could assist with the development of the OVR portion of the workbook. Annette Jett asked if there would be providers included in the development of the workbook. Jeff responded that providers would have an opportunity to submit input before the workbook is implemented. He continued to say the first draft needs to be subject to change and ensure Annette that everyone in the committee would be able to participate in its development. Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, encouraged provider input, family input, people who provide the service and those who are receiving services. She stated all that needs to come together before it goes to the full Council for approval. Jeff agreed and said the committee also needs to have educator representation as well. He said the workbook is a long-term project to ensure accuracy.

Provider Capacity Map:

Jeff White said the map will be updated after July 1st. If there are any changes that might have occurred, those would be reflected, he stated. Annette Jett asked if the committee could design a map overlay that reflects IPS growth. Discussion was held regarding IPS expansion funding streams.

Katie Wolf Whaley announced that Vocational Rehabilitation is funding three positions through the Supported Employment Training Project. She stated those positions are a full-time trainer and two full-time technical assistance individuals.

Progress towards marketing the Employment Specialist career:

Chair, Jeff White, stated there has been discussion about the opportunity to promote Employment

Specialist as a career. He stated with the new changes from OVR coming down the pipeline this might be a prime opportunity to explore. He proposed different ideas on how the committee could promote the career of Employment Specialist. Jeff said he think this is worth looking at and stated this is the very beginning stages. He said this is an issue for providers. Annette Jett said it is difficult to keep employees post-Covid and explained why. Discussion was held regarding ways to keep Employment Specialists employed with providers.

Closing Comments:

Annette Jett announced she helped in starting the Kentucky Association of Community Rehabilitation Providers to have a collective voice among them. She said there are members, and it is a very transparent and solution based. Looking to partner with agencies who are doing the work already. Jeff White said there is a similar organization for waiver participants.

Next Meeting Date(s):

Provider Capacity Committee:

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

2:00 – 3:00pm EST

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 857 3674 3195

Passcode: 694459

Employment First Council:

Friday, July 12th, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid Format

Location: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

500 Mero Street • 4th Floor NE • Frankfort, KY • 40601

Toll Free: (800) 372 - 7172 • Direct: (502) 782-3421 • Email: Nanci.Howard@ky.gov

