



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Provider Capacity Subcommittee

Minutes

February 8th, 2023

9:00am – 10:00am

Members Present: Jeff White, Chair, Staci Cain, Todd Coffey, Annette Jett, and Katie Wolf-Whaley

Staff Support: Supported Employment/CRP Branch Manager, Ron O'Hair

Staff Present: Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, Nanci Howard

Guests Present: Amanda Adams, Medicaid

Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, Nanci Howard, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time. After reviewing the agenda with the team, she turned the meeting over to Chair, Jeff White, who provided a presentation to subcommittee members. The presentation was entitled "Employment First council Provider Capacity Work Team Draft Information."

Highlights:

- The group reviewed a flyer that describes Kentucky's Supported Employment Process.
 - Chair, Jeff White explained that his hope for the document is to ask the full council to endorse and brand the document with the Kentucky Employment First logo and distribute it to the community for use.

Subcommittee member, Todd Coffey, stated that he would like to see is how the supportive agency work with the companies directly to provide some support in the initial and then an ongoing phases as on as needed basis. He wanted to make sure that the group was not excluding this conversation.

Chair, Jeff White, agreed and stated that this was important, and more information would follow.

- ***Issues identified:***

- “Eliminate the current unit of service payment structure for Long-Term Employment Supports based upon the number of hours the person works each week.”
- Built-in limits in Long-Term Supports.
- Inconsistency among Medicaid waivers.
- Develop natural supports training to use to ease the transition of people with disabilities in effective workplace relationships with coworkers.
- Add Benefits Counseling as a waiver service. Jeff White explained, there needs to be a process in place to assist families to better understand that if an individual who wants to become employed, how it will impact their benefits.
- Convert the existing SCL transportation entitlement to a provider support and extend it to person’s receiving SCL residential supports and across all waivers (\$300 per month). The idea is to change the rules to ensure this is a provider-based service and to make available to all waiver participants and those receiving residential supports.

A form was shown to the subcommittee members entitled, “Coordination of Funding for Employment Services”. The Chair explained the form to the group. “The lapse of time initiating the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation services and the inability to move directly to waiver services has resulted in many Case Managers concluding employment services.” Mr. White paraphrased, this could cut the initial intake from two months to two days. He stated the group needed to think on how they want to address this.

- Another concern that was mentioned, was providers finding and retaining staff. He mentioned the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is a fast track to services and he suggests a faster track process for waiver participants.
- Reimbursement rates and service limits is another concern for providers. “Many providers state they are still focused on reestablishing services that contribute to their solvency following Covid”. There is a need for consistent rate structure.

Future Areas of Focus:

- IPS
- Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired
- Youth Services
- General Supported Employment and Other Services

Discussion was held regarding natural supports training. The chair explained it is more of a focused opportunity of training. Katie Wolf Whaley asked Todd Coffey if this is helpful. He stated he comes

from the employer side, and he is looking on how to get agencies to get more staffing for him. He said he loved the presentation. Mr. Coffey stated one of the roadblocks in employment is training management teams on how to work with people with disabilities. He stated management teams are not entirely experienced on assisting those with disabilities. Katie Wolf Whaley stated this might be a recommendation to bring to the full council.

Administrator, Nanci Howard, explained to the subcommittee members there are no limits on what each subcommittee can participate in. She provided an example of how subcommittees can collaborate with each other.

The Chair suggested the group share these thoughts with Employer Education and Engagement subcommittee at some point in the future.

Todd Coffey, continued to state he has seen a decrease in providers as well.

Action Items:

No motions were made during the meeting.

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023

9:00am – 10:00am

Zoom

Meeting adjourned.