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Governor

Jaime Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Provider Capacity Subcommittee **Minutes**

March 15, 2023
09:00am – 10:00am
Zoom
Meeting ID: 819 3105 9171

Members Present: Jeff White, Chair, Todd Coffey, Katie Wolf-Whaley, Lori Norton and Ron O’Hair.
(Leslie Hoffman joined meeting after roll was taken.)

Members Absent: Staci Cain, Annette Jett

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

Staff Absent: None

Special Guest(s) Present: Pam Smith

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Chair, Jeff White began meeting by asking attendees to provide brief introductions and then made a **motion to approve and accept Minutes from February meeting. Subcommittee member, Todd Coffey provided a second to the motion. No discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.** Jeff explained the focus of meeting would be on:

- the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program’s success and growth and how that could be modeled across other programs that are not performing as well
- an action item regarding an educational document that was created for families/providers
- Information transfer of Provider Capacity Topics from NEON Discussion (if time allows)

Jeff then turned the meeting over to Subcommittee member, Lori Norton, for further presentation and discussion of the IPS Program.

Subcommittee Discussion:

Subcommittee member, Lori Norton began by asking KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard to screen share the map that was provided to attendees, prior to the start of the meeting. Lori then asked Subcommittee member, Ron O’Hair to interject at his leisure, regarding discussions of the IPS Program. Lori provided a historical overview of the program as well as explain the evolution of the IPS Program beginning from 2010 – Present, it’s growth, successes and where services are still needed.

Discussion and inquiries regarding the program were held amongst subcommittee members. Lori provided guidance as to how the program is currently being promoted across the state as well as statistical data and how the program works in conjunction with OVR. Targeting youth/students and streamlining processes between transition and other outreach/collaboration factors were discussed amongst the subcommittee. Lori provided further explanation of the IPS Program, as it pertains to;

- Focus on Individual's strengths
- How employment promotes recovery,
- Team approach
- Brainstorm ideas/feedback
- Convenience of location/office space
- Individualized services
- Provides progressive change to ways mental health services are delivered (more streamlined)
- Works hand in hand with Vocational Rehabilitation
- Rapid Job Search

Lori then provided discussion on the 8 core principles of the program, as follows:

1. Competitive employment
2. Zero exclusion – eligibility is based on client choice
3. Integration of employment specialist with mental health treatment team
4. Attention to client preferences
5. Personalized benefits planning
6. Rapid job search
7. Systematic job development
8. Ongoing support

Lori provided further discussion regarding how the program ties into provider capacity. She spoke about employment specialists having 20 max caseloads, transitioning consumers off caseloads after 1 year and the fidelity scale.

Further discussion was held amongst subcommittee members regarding provider capacity and how it collaborates into IPS Program, OVR and other services. During discussions, Lori continued to provide guidance on the different facets of the IPS Program, its collaborates and how the program operates to help consumers. Chair, Jeff White thanked Lori Norton for sharing all the information regarding the IPS Program and its success.

Chair, Jeff White then asked KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard to screen share a pdf file that he had provided to her prior to the start of the meeting. Jeff began discussions of the provider's survey results. He stated the results reported the main barrier for providers of employment services was listed as "staffing". Jeff went on to explain that he sees a "lack of understanding" from upper-level management, as a main problem of the supported employment program. He explained that the pdf is a tool targeted to provide a more in-depth explanation of employment services and his vision is that this tool would bear the Employment First branding and Council approvals. He would like the subcommittee to bring forth a motion to present the pdf to the Employment First Council for approval and distribution of the pdf to families and providers. **Subcommittee member, Katie Wolf Whaley made motion to bring the pdf to Employment First Council for approval and Subcommittee member, Lori Norton provided a second to the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.** Chair, Jeff White began discussion of Pre-ETS and the past bad decision of eliminating the pre-vocational services. He suggested there should be discussion of how to help consumers develop the skills needed to work in the community. Jeff made mention to KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard, that he would like to collaborate with the Transition Subcommittee in creating content/material to aid consumers in successful employment outcomes. Jeff continued to provide narration of the pdf document and discuss the National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) provider capacity elements therein, as listed below.

- Training of provider employment staff
- Training of leadership on infrastructure needed to support employment

- Fiscal incentives to transition to CIE
- Settings Rule/Final Rule response and improvement
- Transportation concerns
- Capacity to grow provider/state partnerships to expand provider base

Chair, Jeff White called for any public comments or questions to come forward. Discussions surrounding transportation difficulties during “training” periods were discussed between Subcommittee member, Katie Wolf Whaley and Chair, Jeff White. There was additional discussion amongst subcommittee members regarding this matter. Jeff mentioned that moving forward, the Subcommittee would be critically evaluating the IPS Program structure to determine how to model that program’s success across to other programs that aren’t performing as well. There was further discussion between Katie Wolf Whaley, Jeff White and Subcommittee member, Leslie Hoffman concerning Kentucky’s Final Rule Plan, ADT sites and how to help youth consumers in securing community employment. They also discussed the challenges and importance of location and how that translates to group homes/living arrangements and places of employment.

Due to time constraints of the meeting, Chair, Jeff White requested that a doddle poll be used to determine next meeting date, which would be scheduled after the Employment First Council meeting already scheduled for April 14, 2023. Subcommittee members thanked each other, and the meeting was concluded.

Future areas of focus:

The Subcommittee will be critically evaluating the IPS Program structure to determine how to model that program’s success across to other programs that aren’t performing as well.

Action Items:

Subcommittee member, Katie Wolf Whaley made motion to bring the pdf to Employment First Council for approval and Subcommittee member, Lori Norton provided a second to the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

None

Next Meeting Date:

TBD