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**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jamie Link**  
Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet

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## Provider Capacity Committee Minutes

December 10, 2024  
9:00am – 10:00am (EST)  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 857 3674 3195

### Members Present

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Chair, Jeff White, Katie Wolf Whaley

### Members Absent

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Staci Cain, Leslie Hoffman, Todd Coffey, Lori Norton, Annette Jett, and Cora McNabb

### Staff Present

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Nanci Howard, and Anu Kumari

### Staff Absent

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Ron O'Hair

### Guest(s) Present

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Zachery Zappenfield and Michael Uptegraff

### Guest(s) Absent

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Shelly Durbin, Sara Lynn, Cathy Anderson, Heather Wood, Siera Miller, Jessica Barnett, Stephanie Miller, and Melissa Marvel

## Welcome

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

## Project NEON and Annual Report Update

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Administrator, Nanci Howard provided an update on Project NEON (National Expansion on Employment Opportunities Network). She stated a press release announcing the core states had been received and that Kentucky was one of the states chosen out of 13. She mentioned there is no word regarding how to proceed at this time. She then announced to committee members that an accessible version of the Employment First Council Annual Report will be sent out to the full council in the coming week. Nanci concluded her report by stated, Administrative Specialist, Anu Kumari, will be on leave for an extended period. Employment First Council duties proceed as normal.

## New Provider Recruitment Information for Distribution to Waiver Providers

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Committee Chair, Jeff White, shared a PowerPoint with committee members and provided background information regarding the waivers and Supported Employment. He began by saying that all waiver providers will eventually need to become OVR Vendors, per current proposed regulations. He then shared that there are currently 266 SCL providers, of which about 106 are certified to provide Supported Employment, though less than half are doing so. He continued explaining, of those, certified to provide Michelle P services there are 253 providers (though there is some duplication). He reported, of those, 86 are certified to provide Supported Employment. As far as the two ABI waivers, he stated, there are slightly more than a handful though only one or two are providing Supported Employment. He then switched his slide to show a map of Kentucky labeled “Potential Waiver Participant Demand for Supported Employment.” Staff Support, OVR CRP/SE Branch Manager, Ron O’Hair highlighted that funding is crucial for expanding IPS capacity, as it directly affects the ability to hire staff for technical support. He notes that traditional supported employment has significantly more providers than IPS, making it challenging to provide the same level of support. Mr. O’Hair mentioned they are looking to adding another consultant position within VR to enhance support.

Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley explained that IPS is an evidence-based model with national standards, while traditional supported employment lacks the same fidelity scale and technical support. She shared there will be additional staff to assist with the Supported Employment Training Project and that they plan to begin on November 13th and November 18th.

Jeff White mentioned that Medicaid is developing a 1915 (I) waiver, which will provide ongoing funding for IPS services, including extended services and supported education.

## **Updated Supported Employment Map Discussion**

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Chair, Jeff White, then directed committee members to a map for demand of Supported Employment. He said the map (updated 11/17/2024) shows numbers based upon the number of working-age waiver participants (16-67) enrolled in Medicaid waivers offering Supported Employment as a service option and multiplied by the estimated percentage of waiver participants wishing to work in the community. He stated the data was collected from the most recent National Core Indicators Survey. Jeff reported numbers have gone up to 5,467 as per the survey. He used 42% as the multiplier for this data (42% of those wanted to work in the community). In some counties such as Robertson County, he said, there are 0 members who wanted to work in the community as there were no working age participants. He said in Fayette County, there are 335, and in Jefferson County there is just under 1,000. He explained there is significant demand in the two major metro areas, and some areas where there is a challenge to provide to all members wishing to participate in community employment.

He then switched focus to the Provider Capacity Map. He highlights Floyd County, because there is high demand and low capacity. It is the same for Campbell County, Jeff explained.

Discussion turned to the OVR rate changes for Supported Employment.

## **KYOVR Rate Comparison, Statewide Revenue Potential, Occupational Outlook, Pro Form vs. Day Training**

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Chair, Jeff White, highlighted the rate changes for OVR. He explained to committee members that previous system used outcomes payments for services, however, the new structure now allows agencies to bill for time spent.

He then presented a slide, detailing the potential demand and area revenue from services. He said there is significant potential for revenue through Supported Employment.

Jeff presented an additional slide regarding the Occupational Outlook for 2021-2031, which includes potential for up to 2.4 million new jobs in the state. He shared a slide with members regarding education attainment and new jobs forecasted. He said expectations of new jobs in Kentucky are estimated at 700,000 for people with no formal educational credential. High school diploma or equivalent is predicted to gain over 1 million jobs. Discussion was held regarding median wage.

Discussion turned to the pro forma income statement of Supported Employment vs Day Training. Committee Chair, Jeff White, said to match the net income, they could potentially receive from one person receiving Supported Employment, they would have to provide day training services to 7.13 people. The net income is almost equal in Medicaid providers, he said. Some discussion was held regarding the wages of the Day Training vs/ Supported Employment providers. Jeff stated an email will be sent out regarding this information as well as assisting providers to become OVR vendors. Discussion was held regarding a graphic that was created detailing everything you need to become an OVR vendor. He then opened up the floor for comments or concerns regarding the information presented.

Council Chair and Committee Member, Katie Wolf Whaley, asked the Chair if she could use maps from this meeting in an upcoming speaking engagement. The Chair provided her with permission to use the maps.

Ron O'Hair and Jeff White then held discussion about the changes, sustainability, and upcoming potential revenue for providers. Jeff spoke briefly about the (i) waiver which requires coordination of funding and then mentioned the policies and procedures manual for waiver-funded Supported Employment. He explains, the document allows providers to provide Supported Employment with less barriers and is currently working on a required form for providers and is working with BHDID staff on the form. The Chair discussed wraparound services and stressed the importance of providing services to consumers. He brings up a wholistic approach, that needs to happen between the two agencies. Jeff said he is attempting to eliminate the need for a letter of exhaustion and the PA1 form. Discussion is held between Jeff and Katie about the form. Jeff reported regulations are looking at moving forward in mid to late July.

## **Action Items**

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Chair, Jeff White will send out emails regarding the changes to the need for providers to be OVR vendors.

Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley will use graphics from this meeting in a talk she is giving upcoming.

## **Adjournment**

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