



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jaime Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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## **Public Policy Committee** **Minutes**

March 21, 2024  
09:00am – 10:00am  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 859 4707 5457

**Members Present:** Chair, Diana Merzweiler, Allison Johnson on behalf of Gretta Hylton, Jeff White, Katie Wolf Whaley, Amy Luttrell and Andrew Johnson

**Members Absent:** Cora McNabb and Leslie Hoffman

**Staff Present:** Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill and Division Director - Department of Workforce Development, Holly Hendricks

### **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief update on Project NEON. She explained that committee and council leadership support was planned to be provided through the project as well as the development and implementation of an online customized training program. She said that the 300 awarded hours would also be used to investigate ways to incentivize provider capacity through development of an updated rate system. Further development of this information is projected to be shared with leadership and stakeholders through a future presentation.

### **Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Definition & Discussion:**

There was extensive discussion of the [CIE definition](#) that the committee would like to present for vote to the full council, to be recommended to the legislature for implementation, to align the state's verbiage with Federal definitions. There was additional discussion regarding the Rehabilitation Services Administration ([RSA](#)) [FAQs](#) pertaining to this matter. The committee decided to move forward with definition number one and recommended adding references to Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and revisions to the federal law citation in the opening paragraph.

### **Michelle P Waiver Discussion:**

Member, Jeff White gave a brief review and recap of the [Michelle P Waiver](#) and discussion was held regarding this matter. He explained the challenges that are presently faced due to the unalignment between this waiver and the federal definition of competitive integrated employment as well as other issues arising from the language used in the waiver. He recommended aligning both the Michelle P and Supports for Community Living (SCL) waivers under the same regulation due to their similarities.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Chair, Diana Merzweiler requested volunteers to review the KYOVR Provider Contract and Medicaid Policy. She asked that the volunteers send an email to Administrator, Nanci Howard stating their intent to volunteer for either topic and then Nanci is to relay this information to Diana. There was discussion of the substantial size of the Medicaid Policy, and it was decided that this matter would be tabled for now. It was determined that only one volunteer was necessary to review the KYOVR Provider Contract and that this review would be discussed at the Committee's next meeting. Administrator, Nanci Howard reminded Diana that there would be ten hours of committee support dedicated to this committee through Project NEON. The meeting was informally ended.

### **Future Areas of Focus:**

- There was extensive discussion of the [CIE definition](#) that the committee would like to present for vote to the full council, to be recommended to the legislature for implementation, to align the state's verbiage with Federal definitions. The committee decided to move forward with definition number one and recommended adding references to Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and revisions to the federal law citation in the opening paragraph.
- [Jeff White] recommended aligning both the Michelle P and Supports for Community Living (SCL) waivers under the same regulation due to their similarities.
- It was determined that only one volunteer was necessary to review the KYOVR Provider Contract and that this review would be discussed at the Committee's next meeting.

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

#### Public Policy Committee:

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00am-10:00am EST

[Zoom Link](#)

#### Employment First Council:

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Hybrid Format

Location: Transportation Cabinet  
200 Mero Street  
Conference Room C107  
Frankfort, KY 40622

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