



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jaime Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Public Policy Committee **Minutes**

November 16th, 2023
09:00am – 10:00am
Zoom
Meeting ID: 896 6875 1393

Members Present: Chair, Diana Merzweiler, Jeff White, Katie Wolf Whaley, Amy Luttrell and Andrew Johnson

Members Absent: Gretta Hylton and Leslie Hoffman

Additional Members Present:
KYAE Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Luv'Tesha Robertson

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill, Holly Hendricks, KYOVR Manager, Ron O'Hair, KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble

Staff Absent:
KYOVR Executive Director, Cora McNabb

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided time for introductions of the group. Nanci screen shared and verbally narrated the agenda for the group and turned the meeting over to Chair Diana Merzweiler.

Standing Meetings for 2024:

It was decided that the committee would meet twice per quarter, on the third Thursday of the month from 9:00 – 10:00am EST, beginning on Thursday, February 15th, 2024.

Strategic Plan:

Administrator, Nanci Howard screen shared the Strategic Plan pdf and began discussions of Goal 3 with the group. There was discussion of the 3.1.2 strategy, "refine the review process", and the difficulty the committee is having in implementing its recommendations, at the cabinet level. It was stated that a main difficulty experienced at the cabinet level is that the governing authority of statutory is coming from the federal level. There was additional discussion of the lack of consistent definitions of competitive integrated employment between state and federal policies. In preparation for the

committees next meeting agenda, Chair, Diana Merzweiler requested that committee members send any other agencies needing to be included, to Nanci and Member, Katie Wolf Whaley. She also requested that committee members also include any preliminary thoughts to refine the review process by identifying the moving parts. Diana confirmed these responses would be the main two focus points of the committees next meeting. She requested that Nanci send a follow up email to the committee members regarding this matter.

Annual Report:

Chair, Diana Merzweiler began discussions of the Annual Report and confirmed that the report is due by December 1st, 2023. Administrator, Nanci Howard gave a brief verbal overview of her work alongside Executive Director, Cora McNabb in preparing the report to date and requested additional input from the committee regarding what they would like to have included in the Annual Report. Diana spoke of making a recommendation for future budgetary needs for the 2026 budget sessions. There was discussion held surrounding the OVR budget. There was discussion regarding capacity building. There was further discussion of the inconsistent definitions of competitive integrated employment and how it affects Medicaid Waivers. Diana requested Nanci to discuss with Cora, how KYOVR or the Council could push forward a recommendation through the Annual Report, to align the Kentucky Revised Statue (KRS) definition of competitive integrated employment with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) definition. It was decided that the committee needed additional time to review the CIE_KRS and WIOA Disconnects.docx word document that was sent out in an email earlier that morning and decide whether they would like to make a recommendation through the Annual Report to align the competitive integrated employment definition. Nanci stated she would send a separate email to committee members containing the word doc and additional conversation could be had through the email chain, regarding how the committee would like to move forward in this matter. It was decided that all recommendations on this matter would be submitted via email to Nanci no later than close of business on Monday, November 20, 2023.

Future areas of focus:

- In preparation for the committees next meeting agenda, Chair, Diana Merzweiler requested that committee members send any other agencies needing to be included, to Nanci and Member, Katie Wolf Whaley. She also requested that committee members also include any preliminary thoughts to refine the review process by identifying the moving parts. Diana confirmed these responses would be the main two focus points of the committees next meeting. She requested that Nanci send a follow up email to the committee members regarding this matter.
- Diana requested Nanci to discuss with Cora, how KYOVR or the Council could push forward a recommendation through the Annual Report, to align the Kentucky Revised Statue (KRS) definition of competitive integrated employment with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) definition.
- Nanci stated she would send a separate email to committee members containing the (CIE_KRS and WIOA Disconnects.docx) word doc and additional conversation could be had through the email chain, regarding how the committee would like to move forward in this matter (inconsistent definitions). It was decided that all recommendations on this matter would be submitted via email to Nanci no later than close of business on Monday, November 20, 2023.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, January 12th, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Hybrid Format

Location: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Conference Room # C107
200 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY. 40601

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