



Kentucky Employment First Council
500 Mero Street, 1st Floor SE
Frankfort, KY 40601
Toll Free: (800) 372-7172
Direct: (502) 782-3421
Email: Nanci.Howard@ky.gov

Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet

Employment First Council

Transition Committee | Advocacy and Education

Committee Collaboration Meeting

Minutes
February 19, 2026
9:30 am – 10:30 am (EST)
Zoom
Meeting ID: 859 9250 0062

Members Present

Chair Tal Curry, Council Chair Katie Wolf Whaley, Committee Chair Amanda Owen, Bill Bates, Jeffery Edwards, Carrie Wedding, Rhonda Logsdon, Sara Tinker, Amanda Hutchinson, Jason Wheatley/Proxy Allison Johnson, Melanie Lybarger, and Zac Sappenfield

Members Absent

Johnny Callebs, Susan Brown, Larry Taylor, and Frank Huffman

Staff Present

Jonathan White, Nanci Howard, and Anu Kumari

Welcome | Introductions | Agenda Review

Employment First Transition Committee Chair, Tal Curry, welcomed attendees, and introductions were conducted. The agenda was reviewed and acknowledged by all participants.

Purpose of Committee Collaboration: FAQ Document Discussion (Education Professionals Section)

Advocacy and Education Committee Chair Amanda Owen provided attendees with a brief history of the FAQ document.

Each committee reviewed the Employment First Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document developed by the Advocacy & Education Committee. The FAQ was developed to address common questions across five targeted audiences and is intended to serve as a practical, user-friendly resource. Discussion focused on collaboration across each committee to support effective dissemination and use of the resource.

A QR code has been created to link directly to the FAQ document on the website and may be incorporated into newsletters, presentations, and printed materials to improve accessibility and visibility.

Dissemination through the Kentucky Department of Education

Members discussed several approaches to expand awareness of the resource, including:

- Submitting brief informational blurbs with embedded links for potential inclusion in Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) communication channels.
- Expanding distribution through partner networks such as employment specialists, CWTP, regional contacts, and community organizations.

Information was shared regarding communication avenues available through the [Office of Special Education and Early Learning \(OSEEL\)](#) at the Kentucky Department of Education.

- Members were informed that OSEEL distributes information through two primary communication methods:
 - “News You Can Use”- a weekly communication sent to Directors of Special Education that may allow brief informational submissions with links.
 - A public-facing KDE newsletter distributed to teachers, district staff, and other subscribers and posted on the KDE website.
- The committee discussed the submission process for KDE communications and noted that materials would be submitted through KDE staff and reviewed by the communications team prior to publication.
- The committee was informed about the Kentucky Transition 360 for Educators program, which included approximately 600 educators and could serve as a platform to highlight the resource.

- It was noted that some communication systems required links rather than attachments when sharing materials.

Document Maintenance

The committee also discussed the ongoing document maintenance, including:

- Monitoring broken links resulting from website updates and digital accessibility changes; and
- Confirming website hosting stability with appropriate state IT personnel.

Implementation Strategies

To support implementation, the committee discussed:

- Pre-approved informational blurbs;
- A centralized contact and champions list; and
- Coordinated outreach across committees.

Both committees agreed to continue collaborative efforts to strengthen communication strategies and promote consistent statewide awareness while using the FAQ resource.

Additional Transition Committee Projects for 2026

The Transition committee discussed priorities and potential projects for the upcoming year, building on the completion of the FAQ document. Members noted that future work will focus on the dissemination of resources, strengthened communication strategies, and continued cross-committee collaboration.

The Transition committee members and guests reviewed the updated Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism (KYACA) [Transition Resource Sheet for students with disabilities](#), available on the accessible website [Transition Planning Resources – KYACA](#). Members noted that the resource complements the FAQ document and supports youth, families, educators, and providers involved in transition planning.

Members also identified upcoming meetings, presentations, and partner events as opportunities to share both the FAQ document and the Transition Resource Sheet through brief overviews and coordinated outreach.

Key Highlights from Collaboration Meeting

- Promoting strategic dissemination to ensure resources are actively used rather than remaining static on a website.

- Creating a centralized contact and champions list to support targeted outreach across education, employment, family, and community systems.
- Developing coordinated communication approaches, including newsletter inserts, audience-specific messaging, QR codes, and presentations within existing meetings and networks.
- Continuing collaboration across committees, particularly with the Transition Committee, to align messaging and share related resources.
- Monitoring and maintaining resources over time, including link verification and accessibility compliance to ensure continued public access.

The committee agreed that future efforts will focus on strengthening awareness, improving coordinated outreach, and increasing practical use of Employment First and transition-related resources statewide.

Additional Discussion:

A council member shared information regarding the recently released [Tech = Access infographic](#), which provides practical guidance on the use of assistive technology across education, home, and workplace settings.

Members were also informed of an upcoming session titled “[Beyond Access: Supporting Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People with ADHD at Work,](#)” scheduled for March 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (EST) via Zoom. The session will focus on effective support strategies for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and who also experience ADHD, including communication strategies, executive functioning support, and workplace accommodations to address employment barriers. Registration information was provided.

Information was also shared regarding [Transition Tuesday](#), held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. (EST).

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Transition Committee Chair, Tal Curry, thanked everyone for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, April 2, 2026
9:30 am- 10:30 am (EST)