



Kentucky Employment First Council

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Employment First Council

Transition Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2026

9:30 am – 10:30 am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 859 9250 0062

Members' Present

Chair Tal Curry, Council Chair Katie Wolf Whaley, Rhonda Logsdon, Stacie Hutchison, Sara Tinker, Jason Wheatley/Proxy Gretta Hylton, Johnny Callebs, Larry Taylor, and Zac Sappenfield

Members Absent

Susan Brown

Staff Present

Jonathan White and Anu Kumari

Staff Absent

Nanci Howard

Welcome | Introduction | Agenda Review

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

Update on Advocacy and Education Committee Collaboration

The committee discussed ongoing collaboration between the Advocacy and Education Committee and the Transition Committee to improve communication and dissemination of Employment First resources. Discussion focused on how information should be shared and presented.

Key discussion points included:

- Using a content calendar approach as a strategy to organize communication efforts.
- Emphasis on sharing information in bite-sized, accessible formats to improve engagement.
- Discussion of utilizing existing toolkits and sample messaging to support consistent communication.

Additional approaches included sharing information through links, smaller content segments, and partner networks to improve accessibility and broaden reach.

The committee discussed leveraging existing partner networks and platforms, noting established audiences and communication channels. Collaboration between Kentucky SPIN and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), including recent resource-sharing efforts, was also discussed.

Transition Distribution List and Dissemination Plan-Document Review

The committee reviewed a draft “Transition Distribution List and Dissemination Plan” document intended to support more coordinated communication across stakeholders.

Key points included:

- Review of a proposed distribution list structure (organization name, contact person, email, and communication channels).
- Identification of designated points of contact within each organization.
- Recommendation to use a shared, collaborative platform (e.g., Google Docs) for ongoing updates.
- Consideration of multiple communication methods (listservs, newsletters, websites, and social media) and establishing clear definitions.
- Recognition of the need for an environmental scan to identify additional stakeholders and categorizing organizations to support targeted communication.
- Emphasis on maintaining accurate and up-to-date contact information.

Transition Distribution List and Dissemination Plan Discussion

The committee further discussed the development and implementation of the dissemination plan.

Key discussion points included:

- Recognition of the need for structure and organization of the communication plan.
- Emphasis on shared ownership across partners.
- Support for identifying primary and backup contacts.
- Using a collaborative platform for real-time updates.
- Utilizing multiple communication channels to expand reach.
- Categorize stakeholders for targeted dissemination.
- The distribution plan will function as a living document requiring ongoing updates.

The committee recognized that organizations operate under varying policies and capacities, and not all partners may be able to share all materials; therefore, a flexible, collaborative approach will be maintained.

The committee emphasized the need for Employment First content to be housed in a centralized, accessible, and flexible online platform, supporting dynamic and accessible information rather than static documents.

The committee supported the development of a coordinated, intentional, and partner-driven communication framework.

Additional Discussion:

Announcement:

- An announcement was shared regarding staffing changes within the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR): Veronica Dale has retired, and Beth McDaniel was named the new Transition Services Branch Manager, effective March 16.
- An update was provided on the implementation of [\(SPARK\) Supporting Postsecondary Achievement and Resources for Kentucky students with disabilities](#) grants, with participating districts actively forming local transition teams and initiating project activities.

- It was shared that GRREC will host its final Regional Interagency Transition Team meeting on April 21. The meeting will include mental health therapists from WKU’s Circle of Support program, followed by a student roundtable discussion and a focus on youth autonomy and decision-making.
- The Employment First Council Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Eastern Time). The meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with an in-person option at the Mayo-Underwood Building in Frankfort, KY.

Next Steps

- Transition Committee members will access the shared [Google Doc](#) and enter information in a few fields by the close of business on April 9, 2026, as a test to ensure access and usability prior to the April 10 Council meeting.
- On or after April 10, members will enter all dissemination contact information, including suggested agencies and organizations, into the Google Doc by the close of business on May 7, 2026, allowing time for review and updates before the May 14 Transition Committee meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

Employment First Committee Chair, Tal Curry, thanked everyone for their contribution and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, May 14, 2026
9:30 am- 10:30 am (EST)