

Transition Committee

Minutes

May 29th, 2025

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Attendees: Chair, Tal Curry, Katie Wolf Whaley, Larry Taylor, Johnny Callebs, Amanda Hutchison, Sara Tinker, and Frank Huffman.

Staff Attendees: Nanci Howard, Kentucky Office of Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, and Anu Kumari, KYOVR Administrative Specialist Senior.

Members Absent: Diana Merzweiler, Gretta Hylton, and Todd Coffey.

Welcome and Introductions:

Committee Chair, Tal Curry welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were held. Then agenda was reviewed by all participants.

Education and Advocacy FAQs Review:

Committee Chair, Tal Curry, asked for an update on the review of the Advocacy and Education Committee's [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document. The FAQs aim to introduce Employment First in plain language with helpful links and resources specific to educational professionals and other groups. Members were encouraged to review and comment on the Google Doc before June 30th, 2025. KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard confirmed the next Advocacy and Education Committee meeting is on July 2nd, 2025, at 9:00am (EST). To adhere to the timeline requested by Advocacy and Education Committee Chair, Amanda Owen, it was proposed to establish an internal deadline of June 16th, 2025, for feedback to ensure sufficient time for revisions prior to the Advocacy and Education Committee meeting.

Transition Resource Sheet for all students with disabilities ages 13-21:

Committee Chair, Tal Curry, provided an update on the ongoing development of the Transition Resource Sheet. The resource is currently being piloted and tested for accessibility. It was noted that a hyperlink and QR code at the top of the document direct users to the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism's WordPress site which is compatible with screen readers and serving as a temporary accessibility workaround. A survey link is listed at the bottom of the document to collect feedback for future improvements. The State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children, the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism, and the Employment First subcommittees have engaged in collaborative discussions to develop this resource tool tailored for transition-age students, beginning as early as ages 13-14. The primary purpose of this Transition Resource Sheet is to support students and their families during Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings by providing comprehensive information about available services, including, Vocational Rehabilitation. The Transition Resource Sheet has been shared via the Supported Employment Training Project, among others, and have received positive feedback thus far. The finalized version will seek endorsement from, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Education and Workforce Development Cabinet through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism, under the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). It will be hosted on relevant agency websites, with a goal to release the document at the beginning of the school year, in an accessible PDF format, pending user feedback.

Committee Member, Larry Taylor, announced an upcoming "*Educator Conference*" scheduled for July 8th and 9th, 2025, and shared the registration [link](#).

Committee Member, Amanda Hutchison, announced details regarding the "*Learning Disabilities Association of Kentucky*" (LDA of KY) summer conference that will take place on Saturday, July 12th, 2025, from 9:00am to 1:00pm (EST) at Assumption High School, 2170 Tyler Lane, Louisville, KY 40205. The event is open to both parents and educators, and teachers are eligible to receive up to four hours of professional development credit. Several sessions will be led by LDA of KY board members and invited speakers.

Transition 360 Course and IEP Review Updates:

It was noted that there has been no movement or updates on reviewing the IPE process. Meetings have occurred and extensive Vocational Rehabilitation input and feedback has been received.

2025 Annual Report Recommendations:

KYOVR Administrator Nanci Howard requested content for Employment First Council Annual Report. The committee discussed their priorities over the next several months. Those priorities are:

- **Access analytics and Evaluation Data:** Data regarding the AETNA collaboration was addressed. This type of data would be included in the Employment First Council Annual Report.
- **Development of Transition Resource Sheet:** The Transition Resource Sheet is currently being shared, piloted, and refined.
- **Learning Disability Conference:** Employment First will be featured at the upcoming statewide Learning Disability Conference, offering professional development sessions specifically designed for educators.
- **DHDID Strategic Plan Alignment:** Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DHDID) Strategic Plan includes two goals aligned with Employment First
- **Educator Institute Presentation:** Tal Curry will present on behalf of Employment First at the Educator Institute, highlight the critical role of educators in supporting successful employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

Additional Discussion:

The committee briefly discussed the recent announcement regarding Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (KYOVR) implementation of Order of Selection (OOS). Effective May 14th, 2025, KYOVR implemented OOS and has temporarily closed all priority categories. A formal notification has been posted on the KYOVR [website](#) for stakeholders seeking additional information.

KYOVR Administrator Nanci Howard provided further details regarding upcoming public forums. A [link](#) was shared that contained detailed information for further inquiries regarding upcoming OOS public hearings. The hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, the June 3rd, 2025 via Zoom at 10:00am and 6:00pm (EST).

She also outlined the information on the process for submitting written comments. Comments should be [emailed](#) or via mail to the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Public Hearing Comment, 500 Mero Street, 4th Floor., Frankfort, KY 40601. The public comment period begins on May 21st, 2025, at 4:00pm (EST) and ends on June 17th, 2025, at 4:00pm (EST).

Action Items:

- Chair Tal Curry recommended maintaining Order of Selection (OOS) as a standing agenda item.
- Chair Tal Curry encouraged members to identify priorities for the next six months, with particular focus on enhancing transition efforts. This reflection will help guide future priorities and inform the annual report.
- Chair Tal Curry proposed inviting Jeff White to provide input on DHDID and Medicaid waivers at the next Transition Committee meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment addressed.

Adjournment

Chair, Tal Curry thanked everyone for their contribution and adjourned the meeting, reminding attendees of the date of the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Date: July 31st, 2025

Time: 9:00am to 10:00am (EST)

Nanci Howard

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