



Kentucky Employment First Council
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Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet

Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

February 1, 2024
9:30am – 10:30am (EST)
Zoom
Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Members Present

Committee Chair, Jessica Beaven, Co-Chair, Frank Huffman, Diana Merzweiler, Todd Coffey, and Johnny Callebs.

Members Absent

Tal Curry, Gretta Hylton, and Larry Taylor.

Staff Present

Nanci Howard, Pepper Caudill, Veronic Dale, and Jonathan White.

Staff Absent

None.

Guest(s) Present

Audra Shutt and Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley.

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Administrator, Nanci Howard began the meeting by screen sharing the agenda with the group. She provided a brief update of Project NEON to the group and turned the meeting over to Chair, Jessica Beaven.

Chair Report

Chair, Jessica Beaven screen shared a power point presentation to the group, which set out the committee's focus to partner with the Kentucky Chamber. She read the definition of the Employment First Council to the group. Jessica then asked the question, "[When does the Transition process begin, when should it begin and how to provide proper training and guidance to individuals, to point them in the right direction?]" and called on individuals in attendance to share their answers with the group.

Committee Discussion

There was extensive discussion held amongst the group regarding when the transition process begins, when the process should begin and what could be done to provide resources to individuals to help them succeed. It was agreed amongst the group that transition services should begin as early as possible. Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley shared <https://hdi.uky.edu/employment-checklists> in the chat. There was a brief discussion about whether this committee is duplicating efforts that other Employment First Committees may already be working on. It was recommended that the Committee should attend the Kentucky Chamber Inclusive Workforce Event to aid in building a partnership with the Kentucky Chamber. It was also discussed the importance of the Employment First Council only affiliating with businesses that uphold the definition of competitive, integrated employment as it is part of the legislation. Katie also shared the document in the chat.

Future Areas of Focus

Chair, Jessica Beaven to add to the Employment First Council Dropbox and advise KYOVR Staff once this is done, information regarding Kentucky Department of Human Development Institute statistics relating to untapped workforce.

Chair, Jessica Beaven to add to the Employment First Council Dropbox and advise KYOVR Staff once this is done, a link to view the Bowling Green, Meltdown Ice Cream and Soda news video.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting ended on time and was informally adjourned.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, March 28, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358



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Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

March 28, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Members Present

Chair, Jessica Beaven, Co-Chair, Frankie Huffman, Tal Curry, Todd Coffey, Jason Wheatley as proxy for Gretta Hylton, Larry Taylor, Johnny Callebs and Tom Hamilton.

Members Absent

Diana Merzweiler

Staff Present

Nanci Howard, Pepper Caudill, Susie Edwards, and Veronic Dale

Staff Absent

Jonathan White

Guest(s) Present

Audra Shutt and Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief update of Project NEON. Introductions were held and Chair, Jessica Beaven began to screenshare a power point presentation.

Market Awareness for Transition Opportunities Discussion

Chair, Jessica Beaven screen shared a power point presentation regarding how the committee could develop market awareness for transition opportunities. There was discussion of the Committee desiring to facilitate the Employment First Council attending the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce 2024 Inclusive Workforce Summit Conference, however it was stated that the dates for this conference were not yet known. There was discussion about how the committee could better coordinate Transition services amongst the state. Jessica stated she reached out to Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and is working on scheduling a representative from that organization to give a presentation to the Committee at an upcoming meeting. Jessica requested two members of the Committee volunteer to coordinate an upcoming interview/presentation of transition friendly businesses within their community. The purpose of this interview is to gather impactful stories which can be shared with others to help drive the Committee's desire to spread awareness about transition services across the state. Jessica stated that she has contacted a business that will be sharing their story on inclusion in the workforce at the Committee's next meeting. There was discussion regarding existing collaborations with Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Guest, Susie Edwards stated there is a ramping up of the KYOVR Outreach Campaign, presently underway. There was discussion about developing a marketing campaign utilizing existing businesses, partnerships and affiliates. There was discussion of the Committee developing a draft marketing pdf and the levels of approval the material would need to go through before public dissemination. Guest, Audra Shutt stated she would share information with the committee regarding her work in transition. Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill stated that there are many resource documents categorized by respective audience and currently available for dissemination through the KYOVR website Employment First Page. She shared the link in the chat and requested that members save to their favorites. The link was also shared via email with the Committee and the meeting ended.

Final Thoughts

Member, Jason Wheatley stated he would like to be added to the next agenda to provide an update on the disability innovation fund grant in Kentucky's program, Kentucky Transition 360.

Future Areas of Focus

Jessica stated she reached out to Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and is working on scheduling a representative from that organization to give a presentation to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Jessica requested two members of the Committee volunteer to coordinate an upcoming interview/presentation of transition friendly businesses within their community.

Jessica stated that she has contacted a business that will be sharing their story on inclusion in the workforce at the Committee's next meeting.

Guest, Audra Shutt stated she would share information with the committee regarding her work in transition.

Member, Jason Wheatley stated he would like to be added to the next agenda to provide an update on the disability innovation fund grant in Kentucky's program, Kentucky Transition 360.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting ended on time and was informally adjourned.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, May 30, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Employment First Council Quarterly Meeting

Friday, April 12, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm (EST)

Hybrid Format

Transportation Cabinet

200 Mero Street

Frankfort, KY 406022

Conference Room C107



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Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

May 30, 2024
9:30am – 10:30am (EST)
Zoom
Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Members Present

Chair, Jessica Beaven, Co-Chair, Frankie Huffman, Tal Curry, Jason Wheatley as proxy for Gretta Hylton, Tracy Belfield as proxy for Larry Taylor, Johnny Callebs, and Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley.

Members Absent

Diana Merzweiler, Tom Hamilton, and Todd Coffey.

Staff Present

Nanci Howard and Jonathan White.

Staff Absent

None

Guest(s) Present

None

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief update of Project NEON. Introductions were held. Howard stated that subject matter expert, Steve Blanks, will be coming in to speak at the next Employment Education and Engagement Committee meeting. Chair, Jessica Beaven, added by saying there would be a series of webinars from Subject Matter Expert, Steve Blanks, geared towards employment specialists on how to engage with employers. These will be held on June 20 2024, July 18 2024, and on August 15 2024. They are two-hour free webinars. KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Jonathan White, stated that would be a fantastic resource for the CWTP employment specialists at the schools.

Kentucky Department of Education Presentation

Jessica Beaven introduced Jason Wheatley to provide a presentation regarding Transition 360. Jason Wheatley began by stating his work involves transition to adulthood and preparing students with disabilities for transition. Wheatley says that the Kentucky Department of Education, has a team of people, including himself, that are working to improve post school outcomes for students with disabilities. Wheatley says this group is working to identify what type of footprint, action, or role that this committee has within the context of Employment First and the Council. Jason Wheatley provided a presentation on Transition 360. He stated that the Kentucky Department of Education was awarded a grant through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). This grant money will allow for creation of Transition 360. Program Transition 360 is still in the design stage, he stated. Wheatley said that Transition 360 is about building partnerships across the state. Jason informed the committee they are in the process of preparing to hire a network of community-based Family Transition Mentors. These mentors, he continued, would be charged with providing individual, small group mentoring for parents, and families, as well as providing some direct services to students. The mentors will be charged with providing individual and small group mentoring for parents, families and students focused on identifying and addressing barriers and challenges for students transitioning into adulthood. Jason continued to say, from the onset of early design of the program, staff recognized that families are important and are critical to the work. As a result, he stated, staff want to be intentional about targeting families. The purpose of the mentor group is to collaborate with other families and partners. He expressed staff would like them to have knowledge of resources, supports, and opportunities that exist within a network of partnerships. Jason announced that the Kentucky Department of Education's Transition 360 group is

working very closely with the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, specifically with Assistant Director, Jonathan White. The goal is to have 20+ mentors across the stated to assist families with those resources and networks. Jason proposed the question of how Employment First can be a part of that partnership to provide information and knowledge to family mentors.

Jason Wheatley discussed how Transition 360 would work for educators. He explained a training would be developed for K-12 educators and working closely with Employment Specialists through the Community Work Transition program. He mentioned the training would be developed online. He informed the committee of the target audience which includes Employment Specialists, general education teachers, special education professionals, Community and Technical College teachers, administrators, vocational education professionals, district administrators, district staff, school administrators, and school staff. The goal is for the online training modules to be available in the fall of 2024. Jason also informed committee members that because of federal funding, educators would be compensated for completing the training.

Guest collaborator, Tracy Belfield, asked how do educators and administrators sign up for the training. Jason Wheatley replied by stating it is unknown but once that information is available, he would get the information out to the committee.

Transition Flyer

Chair, Jessica Beaven shared a flyer about Employment First in Kentucky. The flier told the story of one women's transition into the workforce.

Final Thoughts and Future Areas of Focus

Jessica stated that she would like the Council to meet with Jason Wheatley, before the next Employment First Council meeting to further discuss Transition 360.

Jessica invited Employment First to participate in an Inclusive Workforce Summit on September 30, 2024.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, July 25, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Employment First Council Quarterly Meeting

Friday, July 12, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm (EST)

Hybrid Format

Transportation Cabinet

200 Mero Street

Frankfort, KY 406022

Conference Room C107

Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

August 1, 2024

10:00am – 11:00am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 835 2501 4487

Members Present

Jessica Beaven (Chair), Frankie Huffman (Co-Chair), Johnny Callebs, Larry Taylor, and Tal Curry.

Members Absent

Diana Merzweiler, Grett Hylton (Jason Wheatley, proxy), and Todd Coffey.

Staff Present

Nanci Howard and Anu Kumari.

Staff Absent

N/A.

Guest(s) Present

N/A.

Introductions

Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update on NEON Project (National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network).

Introductions were held, and Chair, Jessica Beaven, welcomed all participants

Announcements

Nanci Howard provided an introduction of new employee, Anu Kumari, who will assist with Employment First Council duties and correspondence.

Review of Agenda

April Johnson from KCTCS was unable to attend to present at the meeting. Documents will be shared on her behalf, and she will attend the next meeting

Video Presentation

Jessica Beaven presented a short video from the Ohio Employment First Council to illustrate their efforts and initiatives.

Discussion on KCTCS Disability Services

April Johnson's role and the resources provided by KCTCS for students with disabilities were discussed.

A video on KCTCS accommodations was shown, highlighting services such as alternative textbooks, assistive technology, extra time for exams, and more.

Future Collaboration with KCTCS

A discussion was held on how Employment First can partner with KCTCS to support students with disabilities.

A suggestion was made that April Johnson provide data on the number of students requesting accommodations and the types of accommodations provided.

A proposal to have another representative from KCTCS join the next meeting to provide additional perspectives was discussed among committee members.

Inclusive Workforce Summit

Employment First will be an exhibitor at the Inclusive Workforce Summit in Lexington, KY, on September 30th, 2024.

Nanci Howard reported on the progress with Employment First signage and materials, concluding by stating that signage will be provided soon for the event. Preparation for the summit and the development of materials for representation were also discussed.

Transition Resource Sheet

Tal Curry's draft transition resource sheet was reviewed.

Committee members agreed to provide feedback on the draft within a week.

Committee members will review the draft transition resource sheet and provide feedback.

Other Business:

The committee discussed the importance of early intervention and the need for accessible information for parents and caregivers.

Action Items

Jessica Beaven will follow up with April Johnson of KCTCS regarding data on accommodations and to confirm her attendance at the next meeting.

Jessica Beaven will coordinate with another KCTCS representative to join the next meeting.

Preparation for the Inclusive Workforce Summit will continue, with materials to be developed and finalized.

Next Meeting

Date: September 26,2024

Time: 9:30 am to 10:30 am (EST)

Agenda: Items for next meeting

April Johnson will be invited to speak with a colleague from KCTCS to provide insight into data trends within the disability resource centers across the commonwealth.

Finalize preparations for the Inclusive Workforce Summit.



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Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

September 26, 2024
9:30am – 10:30am (EST)
Zoom
Meeting ID: 833 2501 4487

Members Present

Jessica Beaven, Chair, Frankie Huffman, Co-Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, Council Chair, Todd Coffey, and Tal Curry.

Members Absent

Diana Merzweiler, Johnny Callebs, and Larry Taylor.

Staff Present

Nanci Howard and Anu Kumari.

Staff Absent

N/A.

Guest(s) Present

N/A

Welcome

Chair, Jessica Beaven and Nanci Howard, Administrator, welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Inclusive Workforce Summit/Announcements

Administrator, Nanci Howard announced a potential checkout system for council members to borrow outreach equipment for events such as the upcoming Inclusive Workforce Summit. She mentioned having a floor banner, a table banner, a tablecloth, and 300 flyers to distribute at the Inclusive Workforce Summit for Employment First.

Success Stories

Chair, Jessica Beaven, reviewed the meeting agenda, and highlighted the importance of sharing success stories related to Employment First. She emphasized the educational value of these stories. She introduced a success story about a young adult who graduated high school and participated in the Work Readiness Program. The consumer story highlighted the importance of support systems, including her family and with the assistance of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation services that helped her develop essential job duties. Jessica shared another consumer success story who faced significant challenges after losing his job during the pandemic and after being diagnosed with autism. The consumer found support through the Office Vocational Rehabilitation and secured a job at the local public library. Jessica stated that she has signed releases for the consumers. She emphasized the importance of providing options and career paths for individuals, particularly those who may feel they lack access. She expressed her hope that these stories resonate with others who may know similar individuals, and she noted that both individuals have now successfully transitioned into employment. Co- Chair, Frankie Huffman expressed appreciation for the stories shared and inquired about programs that hire individuals with disabilities, specifically mentioning a hospital program. Frankie sought out suggestions on how to engage businesses in starting similar programs. Chair, Jessica suggested to meet with Frankie and discuss these ideas further.

The Chair of the Employment First Council, Katie Wolf Whaley, suggested a local program called "Project Search", which partners with schools and businesses to support students with disabilities. She noted that while there are existing project search sites in Kentucky, there is potential for more. She highlighted the importance of

collaboration between local school systems and businesses to enhance employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Review Of KCTCS Materials

Chair, Jessica Beaven, led a discussion about partnering with KCTCS and Employment First. She shared April Johnson's presentation, a local KCTCS representative in the local area. Jessica stated April is interested in the Employment First Council would like to assist in improving transition services for students. Jessica said there were 50 students enrolled in disability services at that particular KCTCS location. She emphasized the need for collaboration with the Education and Labor Cabinet, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and local school systems to ensure that students with disabilities receive the necessary support to transition into employment. Katie Wolf Whaley highlighted the importance of raising awareness about available scholarships and programs. She discussed the underutilization of scholarships and grants available through KCTCS, highlighting that many individuals are unaware of these resources. Jessica mentioned that Employment First outreach be prevalent to ensure students with disabilities can access the supports they need. She emphasized the importance of connecting students with the right resources to help them succeed in their employment goals. Todd Coffey raised a question about the support provided to the 50 students regarding job placement and the transition from education to employment. Chair, Jessica Beaven replied to Toddy Coffey and acknowledged the need for clarity on how these students are supported in finding jobs and what percentage of them successfully transition into employment after completing their programs. Discussion continued around the gaps in the support for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to college and into the workforce. She notes that while colleges have disability resource centers, their primary focus is not on job placement. The council's role is to identify barriers and make recommendations to ensure that students with disabilities receive the necessary support for employment. Chair, Jessica Beaven provided updates from Jason Wheatley, He mentioned as working on the Kentucky Transition 360 program, which aims to develop materials related to Employment First. Chair, Jessica encouraged collaboration and sharing of resources to raise awareness about employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. They express a desire to ensure that teachers and educators are equipped with the knowledge and tools to support students in their transition to employment. Katie Wolf Whaley suggested the need for a comprehensive approach to ensure that all students, including those with disabilities, relate to the appropriate services and resources for employment. She

highlighted the importance of understanding the existing programs and how they can be effectively utilized to support students in their transition to the workforce.

Discussion on Kentucky Transition 360

Chair Jessica Beaven, discussed about whether to set up a separate conversation with Jason Wheatley to clarify the purpose and objectives of the Kentucky transition 360 for educators. The committee members feel they need more information on how to represent employment first within this framework before submitting anything. Chair, Jessica Beaven, reflects on the importance of inclusion in the workforce, sharing stories of individuals who have successfully transitioned into employment. She encouraged committee members to continue to collect stories and consent forms for individuals who have benefited from work-based learning programs. Jessica stated she plans to gather and forward transition stories to Nanci Howard, acknowledging the necessary processes for sharing these stories within the Education and Labor Cabinet. She also emphasized the importance of these narratives in advocating for individuals across the state. Jessica intends to follow up with April Johnson from KCTCS regarding scholarship availability and the number of students served, aiming to strengthen partnerships between the Employment First Council and KCTCS on transition initiatives. Jessica concluded her report by extending an invitation for final comments or questions. She stated she would be in contact with Jason Wheatley in the coming week and expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the committee.

Administrator Nanci Howard highlighted reason for the absence of many attendees, could be attributed to the Kentucky Transition Summit, hosted by the Education and Labor Cabinet, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), on September 25-26, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 110 Grandstand Dr., Georgetown, KY. The two-day event was primarily aimed at educators. She noted that Jason Wheatley attended the Kentucky Transition Summit, which may explain the low turnout for the committee meeting. She also mentioned that Jonathan White and Jason Wheatley are collaborating, though she is uncertain about the extent of their involvement.

Future Steps

Chair, Jessica Beaven will collaborate with Jason Wheatley.

Administrator, Nanci Howard will set up a committee meeting to ensure a representative from the Kentucky Department of Education be present to discuss Transition 360.

Adjournment

Chair, Jessica Beaven thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting

Date: TBD

Time: 9:30 am to 10:30 am (EST)

Employment First Council Transition Committee Minutes

September 26, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Zoom

Meeting ID: 833 2501 4487

Members Present

Frank Huffman, Co-Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, Council Chair, Todd Coffey, Johnny Callebs, and Tal Curry.

Members Absent

Committee Chair, Jessica Beaven, Diana Merzweiler, and Larry Taylor.

Staff Present

Nanci Howard, Jonathan White, and Anu Kumari.

Staff Absent

N/A.

Guest(s) Present

Lisa Carrico, SETP and Melanie Lybarger, SETP

Welcome/Annual Report/Project NEON Update

KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were held and guests were recognized. Nanci provided updates on Project NEON and the Employment First Council's Annual Report. Nanci stated the Annual Report was submitted on October 30th to the Cabinet Legal Services. She stated the report was at the Cabinet Secretary's Office in review. She announced the report is moving through the necessary channels and does not foresee any issues moving forward. She reported, the Project NEON application was submitted on November 6th with a deadline of November 7th. The announcement for the Core States selected will be reported on November 27th. She provided background information about Project NEON from years past. Nanci stated this year, the agency has applied for 300 maximum hours to continue previous unfinished projects as well as potentially begin new projects.

Update on Transition Success Stories

Committee Co-Chair, Frank Huffman, led the committee into a discussion regarding the collection of transition success stories. He shared a draft success story to the committee. The committee thanked him for his work and agreed to continue to develop the story.

KCTCS Update/Transition 360 Discussion

KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard, stated she did not have an update on this topic at this time. However, she continued to state that in the previous committee meeting minutes there was conversation surrounding Transition 360 and the Kentucky Department of Education and how the Employment First Council could potentially assist with a resource, etc. She mentioned partnering with Jason Wheatley who serves on the Transition Committee and as a proxy for Gretta Hylton on the Council. KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Jonathan White stated he has been working on a couple of different projects with Jason Wheatley and Allison Johnson of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). He explained the Transition 360 is part of a grant received and consists of partnering with the Center for Accessible Living as well. He stated they are looking for parent advocates to help coach other parents who have students transitioning out of high school. Chair of the Council, Katie Wolf Whaley explained there is further discussion regarding the Transition 360 modules in other committees where a module for Employment First could be created, however, no guidance has been received at this time. Discussion was held regarding this topic. She

stated the Council needs to know the bigger picture of the curriculum so that it makes sense to the audience. She also stated that there needs to be input from the education system. Katie presented at the Exceptional Children's Conference on Transition and Employment First and stated she met two individuals who are educators who seem to be interested in the work of the Transition Committee. Jonathan White clarified there is a Transition 360 for Families and a Transition 360 for Educators.

Discussion on the Development of Transition Resources

Chair of the Council, Katie Wolf Whaley, reminded the committee of previous discussion regarding the development of Transition resources. Committee Member, Todd Coffey, stated there should be a timeline of resources whether it be online or a simple handout. Committee Member, Tal Curry, mentioned the UKHDI Checklists for families and youth as a valuable resource. Katie Wolf Whaley shared them in the chat with the attendees. Tal asked how we can do a better job at promoting this resource and letting individuals know the checklists exist. Todd Coffey agreed to get this information in the hands of people and educate from the beginning. Extensive discussion was held regarding how to consistently use and distribute the checklists. Committee Co-Chair, Frank Huffman, suggested developing a brochure with individuals with disabilities shown working in the community. He also suggested using a QR code to link to a video to show other people with disabilities working in the community as well. Jonathan White discussed some barriers that students and parents and face. He suggested educating parents on benefits as well. He stated another project he is working on with Jason Wheatley and Allison Johnson from KDE, is the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT). He stated technical assistance has been received for a few years from NTACT. He said recently he is working to develop guidance for local collaboration between local KYOVR counselors and their school districts. As a result of the technical assistance and focus groups held, it was found that the level of services is very much impacted by the relationship by the school districts and the KYOVR Counselor. Jonathan continued to explain that Allison Johnson from KDE has put together local guidance that when a student with a disability turns 14, they should be applying for Pre-ETS services and at age 16 they should apply for KYOVR services for additional supports. The document will also outline who they should talk to and when and outlines the steps and the points of contact along the way. He announced there will a pilot period. Eight school districts have agreed to implement this document and report back how useful it is. He stated the hope is to go statewide if feedback is positive. He continued to state that KYOVR does not provide services for younger than 14 and there would be a separate resource for that age population.

Committee member, Todd Coffey asked if there would be a timeline for the pilot. Jonathan White stated it is not for the public yet, but the hope is the document will be implemented after the first of the year. Katie Wolf Whaley asked if this was something the committee could review further to see what might be useful in creating a document. Jonathan agreed and did not see an issue with the committee's review. Discussion turned to the Transition Resource Sheet. Tal Curry suggested ensuring this document is updated once new information is received. Co-Chair, Frank Huffman, asked Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, about the Employment First Council video. Katie described the two-minute video about, "What Employment First Means to Me?" She explained of the five people on the video, three have disabilities. She said there is two versions of the video. One includes 12 minutes of resources she explained. Frankie proposed the question of showing the two-minute video in IEP meetings. Katie agreed getting resources in the hands of those present during IEP meetings has been challenging since the Transition Committee's creation in 2018. Todd Coffey asked if there was a guide that educators follow. Katie explained there is and that the IEP document is a legal and a compliance document. Allison Johnson has sent the document to the Council's Public Policy Committee for their review and input as well. Katie informed the committee the document is up for review in 2025 and explained the Public Policy committee is trying to see how Employment First can be incorporated into the IEP Guidance document and into the hands of teachers. Todd Coffey agreed to be involved in the Public Policy Committee to assist with the review. Council Chair, Katie wolf Whaley, stated it may be a workgroup formed to review the document, and that Todd is welcome to become involved. Jonathan White discussed barriers with schools and KYOVR Counselors and scheduling the IEP meetings. He suggested putting together a resource that outlines the process to give to parents so they can know where to begin the transition process.

Additional Announcements

Committee member, Johnny Callebs, announced on behalf of the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, two grant opportunities are available and have been posted. He encouraged sending the information to committee networks. KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard, agreed to send the information regarding the grants to Employment First Council members, staff and guests on his behalf. He explained one grant targets community access for rural Kentuckians and the second grant is specific to accessible and affordable housing.

Discussion was held regarding the development interview questions for compiling success stories. This will be on the next agenda for the January meeting.’

Committee member, Johnny Callebs, also sent congratulations to Co-Chair Frank Huffman, for the ceremonial signing of “The Frank Huffman Act”. He stated Mr. Huffman spoke to the audience and the Governor was in attendance. Kudos were expressed.

Highlights

- The draft success story share by Committee Co-Chair, Frank Huffman will be developed further.
- UKHDI Checklists were distributed to all committee members.
- The Transition Resource Sheet was distributed to all committee members.
- Todd Coffey agreed to join the Public Policy Committee.
- Possible workgroup formed to review IEP Guidance document to include Employment First language/resources

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)