



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jaime Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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## **Transition Committee** **Minutes**

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
09:30am – 10:30am  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 822 0151 1398

**Members Present:** Chair, Jessica Beaven, Co-Chair, Frankie Huffman, Diana Merzweiler, Tal Curry, Todd Coffey, Jason Wheatley as proxy for Gretta Hylton and Johnny Callebs

**Members Absent:** Larry Taylor

**Additional Members:** Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Pre-ETS Coordinator, Audra Shutt

**Staff Present:** Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard and KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill,

**Staff Absent:** KYOVR Transition Services Branch Manager, Veronica Dale and KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Jonathan White

### **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard began the meeting by screensharing and narrating the meeting agenda for the group. She explained that the committee would be deciding the 2024 standing meeting dates, discussing the Strategic Plan, and discussing any recommendations the committee may want to contribute towards the Annual Report. Chair, Jessica Beaven held time for introductions of each member the group in attendance.

### **Chair Report:**

Chair, Jessica Beaven gave a brief verbal recap of the committee's work throughout the 2023 year and informed the group of a recent meeting she had with Jeff White. She stated that through this meeting with Jeff, a couple points were brought to light. First, she had decided that the Transition Toolkit project that the Transition Committee had been planning to develop, already existed and therefore the committee would not need to further develop, at this time. She was also given the name of an individual, who wishes to remain unnamed at this time but, would like to work with the committee to complete focus groups across the state to determine where resources are needed and aid the communities in understanding what resources are available. Jessica mentioned this person is perhaps interested in making a presentation to the Committee alongside her Board Chair in 2024, to

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ensure that the Committee's goals align with what that unnamed group is doing. There was discussion amongst the group of how this collaboration would fit into the Strategic Plan.

### **Strategic Plan Discussion:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard screen shared the Strategic Plan pdf and Chair, Jessica Beaven began discussions of what the Transition Committee could offer that would align with the Strategic Plan. There was discussion of transition or other resources being made available to students, sooner than 16 years old and more intentional dissemination of Transition Toolkits, already in circulation. Jessica stated that she was provided a link to the existing Transition Toolkit documents by Jeff White and she would share that with the committee. There was discussion of a contact list for individuals at the elementary age and Member, Diana Merzweiler mentioned that Special Education Directors of each district would be a good start. Member, Jason Wheatley discussed the Department of Education's plan for the transition work grants they had recently received. Jason gave a verbal description of the work currently being done through the two grants awarded to the Department of Education and stated he would send an overview to the committee. Jason recommended the committee could identify the different groups of stakeholders and then develop resources or information that could be tailored to the different groups. There was further discussion amongst the group regarding this matter and how it pertains to Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and OVR services. Jessica stated that the committee should focus its' efforts on measurable goals. There was further discussion of the professional development and family mentors' data that will be gathered through the Department of Education's grant work, and what goals could be set for this committee using that data. Member, Frank Huffman started discussions of whether Employment First could use social media for education and outreach. He also began discussions of whether education modules regarding Employment First could be added to the SCL waiver program. There was discussion regarding Kentucky low ranking and how it pertains to the state's budget.

### **Standing Meetings for 2024:**

It was discussed and decided that the committee would meet every other month, on the last Thursday of the month, from 9:30 – 10:30am EST, beginning on January 25, 2024, and continuing throughout the 2024 calendar year.

### **Future areas of focus:**

- Jessica stated that she was provided a link to the existing Transition Toolkit documents by Jeff White and she would share that with the committee.
- Jessica to develop partnership with unnamed presenter for 2024, for support collaboration.
- Jason recommended the committee could identify the different groups of stakeholders and then develop resources or information that could be tailored to the different groups.
- Jessica would like to move forward in partnering with the Department of Education to utilize the grants they've received for Transition Services.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid Format

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

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