



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education & Labor Cabinet Secretary

Transition Committee

Minutes

November 26, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am

ZOOM

Members Present:

Frankie 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, Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, KYOVR

Anu Kumari, Administrative Specialist Senior, KYOVR

Jonathan White, Assistant Director of Field Services, KYOVR

Guests Present

Lisa Carrico, SETP

Melanie Lyberger, 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 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 be 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

No public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Date/Location

Thursday, January 30, 2025

9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 827 6001 4509

Passcode: 002787

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