

Kentucky Employment First Council

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Secretary, Education and Labor Cabinet

Transition Committee Minutes

September 25, 2025 9:30 am – 10:30 am (EST) Zoom

Members Present

Tal Curry, Katie Wolf Whaley, Johnny Callebs, Larry Taylor, Frank Huffman, Sara Tinker, Amanda Hutchson, and Zac Sappenfield

Members Absent

Jessica Beaven, Tracy Belfield, Gretta Hylton (proxy, Jason Wheatley), and Todd Coffey

Staff Present

Nanci Howard and Anu Kumari

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

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

FAQ Document Update

- Content approved by the Council in July 2025.
- Currently undergoing Cabinet review.
- Expected to be included in the Council's annual report.

Transition Resource Sheet Update

- Existing sheet is live and ADA accessible via the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism's website.
- Updates are being reviewed to the sheet; Employment First and Autism Council will co-brand the final version.
- Workgroup to reconvene for review once accessibility remediation is complete.
- Council Administrator will ask what the process is for a co-branding between two Cabinets and report back to the committee Chair.

Transition 360 Course and IEP Review Updates

- Significant interest has been expressed in the Transition 360 training opportunities, and the committee acknowledged the need for clear updates on availability and participation.
 - Sara Tinker will draft specific questions regarding the Transition 360 training program. Chair Tal Curry will forward these questions to Jason Wheatley and follow up to obtain a consolidated response for the committee.
 - The Committee will follow up with Jason Wheatley regarding KDE Transition 360 updates.
- The IEP Review workgroup will reconvene with additional members who have educational expertise and will continue their work.
- The workgroup formed for the review of the Transition Resource Sheet will also continue.

Order of Selection (OOS) Course and IEP Review Updates

- All priority categories remain closed.
- As of September 22, 2025, there are 3,178 individuals on the waitlist.
- Updated priority category definitions have been drafted to align with RSA guidance.
- OVR staff training scheduled for October 2 and 8 on priority categories.

Service restoration is dependent on funding availability.

OOS question

What is the process for opening those on the waitlist?

Answer

Those individuals with a signed IPE would continue to receive services. Those who did not have a signed IPE, went directly on the waitlist. Pre-ETS services are not included in OOS. It is based on federal law that the state serves the most significant disabilities first. Once funding is available, categories will begin to open and services will be provided to those with the most significant disabilities.

Additional Discussion

- Kentucky Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) "Save the Date" December 8–9, 2025, Elizabethtown, KY.
- The Greater Louisville Area Cooperative of Kentucky (GLACK) and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVIC) will host a Student Transition Conference in March 2026, with participation from 13 counties. The event will include both keynote speakers and a transition resource fair.
- Assistance was asked of the committee to test a website entitled, "Assistive Technology Wizard" website's accessibility as concerns were raised about the site being ADA compliant.
 - Council member, Johnny Callebs, stated he would ask the Council on Developmental Disabilities staff to assist.
 - Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, offered staff assistance for testing website accessibility.
- Employment Checklists remain available on the Supported Employment Training Project website, with updated Links.
- Employment First Council Chair Katie Wolf Whaley reminded the Employment First Council Meeting: October 10, 2025, 1:00–3:00 p.m. at the Transportation Cabinet & Zoom. Opportunity for presentations are still open.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting Date

TBD

9:30 am- 10:30 am (EST)