



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jamie Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Transition Committee

Minutes
July 31st, 2025
9:30am – 10:30am (EST)

Attendees:

Chair, Tal Curry, Katie Wolf Whaley, Jeff White, Johnny Calles, Amanda Hutchison, Zachery Sappenfield, Todd Coffey, Jason Wheatly, and Frank Huffman.

Staff Attendees:

Nanci Howard, Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR). KYOVR Administrator, Jonathan White Assistant Director, and Anu Kumari, KYOVR Administrative Specialist Senior.

Members Absent:

Larry Taylor and Jessica Beaven

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 Approved:

Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley, stated that the FAQ document content was approved during the July quarterly meeting. Issues related to broken hyperlink issues were identified and are currently being addressed. Once these

corrections are completed, the document will be submitted for an official accessibility review.

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

Committee Chair, Tal Curry, provided an update on the Transition Resource Sheet, intended for all students with disabilities ages 13–21. A designated working group is actively focused on enhancing the accessibility of the document and is scheduled to convene in August to review the final version. He indicated a preference for disseminating the information through a new approach, rather than utilizing previous distribution methods.

Transition 360 Course and IEP Review Updates:

It was shared that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) received a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), to enhance transition services and support successful postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities.

Tier One:

As part of this initiative, KDE developed a 30-hour online course focused on transition education, aligned with the principles of Employment First. To date, nearly 300 educators across the Commonwealth have completed the course. The demand remains high, with more than 700 educators currently on the waitlist reflecting strong statewide engagement and interest in strengthening transition practices. Participants, including special education teachers, general education teachers, school counselors, administrators, career and technical education (CTE) instructors, paraprofessionals, and employment specialists were in attendance.

Tier Two:

In July 2025, KDE launched tier two of the Transition 360 program with a two-and-a-half-day Focus Institute in Louisville. Approximately 70 educators representing 13 school districts, and two Area Technology Centers attended. KDE's transition coaches will support these teams in implementing their plans throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.

Tier Three:

Tier three is currently in early development and will build upon the foundation established through tiers one and two.

Order of Selection (OOS) Update:

It was noted that all four categories remain closed. There are 1,994 individuals currently on the waitlist as of July 21, 2025. It was explained that Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) funds are still available. However, it was explained that individuals who received Pre-ETS prior to being placed on the waitlist are eligible to continue receiving those services. However, individuals who did not receive Pre-ETS before being placed on the waitlist are not eligible to receive Pre-ETS until they are removed from the waitlist.

DBHDID and Medicaid Waivers:

Employment First Committee Member, Jeff White from the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) provided an update on Medicaid waivers and their implications for employment services.

Kentucky currently operates six Medicaid waivers, four of which include Supported Employment services:

- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver
- Acquired Brain Injury Long-Term Care (ABI-LTC) Waiver
- Michelle P. Waiver
- Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waiver

In addition, three new waivers are currently in development:

RISE Initiative Waiver:

State Plan Amendment) - Based on 1915(l) regulations, this initiative will provide long-term employment support funding for individuals receiving Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services. It will also support education opportunities for individuals with Severe Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders. Staff are currently being hired, and the waiver is expected to launch in Fall 2025.

Children's Waiver:

A waiver designed to serve youth in crisis transitioning from the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) system. It will provide 100 in-state service slots.

Community Integration Waiver:

This waiver is currently in development and aims to provide enhanced wraparound services to support community integration and positive employment outcomes. Further details are forthcoming.

Committee Questions and Answer:

What about work requirements in the community integration waiver?

Currently, the specific eligibility criteria for work requirements for the *Community Integration waiver* remain unclear. These details are expected to be clarified upon the release of the waiver application.

While many details remain unknown the committee emphasized that over 40% of individuals express a desire to work highlighting the continued importance of Employment First efforts.

Is the mental illness waiver offer more than 16 hours a day as work requirements...like the SCL waiver?

The waiver regulations need to be reviewed to determine the maximum number of hours of work requirements.

2025 Annual Report Recommendations:

It was recommended highlighting efforts to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification opportunities for students with disabilities. At the KYACTE Summer Conference, several sessions focused on inclusive practices, with special education teachers in attendance. The committee expressed support for this initiative, noted its alignment with Employment First goals, and recommended its inclusion in the 2025 Annual Report.

Additional Discussion:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing inclusive practices within Career and Technical Education (CTE). As part of this ongoing effort, KDE actively participated in the 2025 Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KYACTE) Summer Conference. The conference featured multiple sessions.

This year, KDE provided funding to support the participation of approximately 30 special education professionals, reinforcing efforts to integrate special education and CTE at the local level. KDE staff led several sessions focused on key topics, including decoding the Individualized Education Program (IEP), enhancing supports for students with disabilities, and building capacity within IEP teams. These included a counselor-specific session designed to strengthen collaboration and alignment between special education and CTE services.

The following website was shared as a resource to support case managers in understanding transition outcomes.

- [SETP Resources](#)

It includes various success stories and resources that could be helpful for case managers to review and utilize in their work with individuals and families.

Action Items:

- The Committee will follow-up with Jason Wheatley regarding KDE Transition website updates.
- The workgroup formed for the review of the IEP will continue.
- The Committee will continue updating the Transition Resource Sheet.
- The Committee will prepare for ongoing discussion and refinement of 2025 Annual Report recommendations.

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: September 25th, 2025

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

Administrator: Nanci Howard

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