



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jamie Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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

May 30, 2024  
9:30am – 10:30am  
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 Katie Wolf Whaley

**Members Absent:** Diana Merzweiler, Tom Hamilton, and Todd Coffey

**Staff Present:** Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard and KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Jonathan White

### **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 state 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 Befield, 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 woman's transition into the workforce.

#### **Final Thoughts:**

##### **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

#### **Next Meeting Date:**

##### Transition Committee:

Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:30am – 10:30am EST

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Passcode: 665133

##### Employment First Council:

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

1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 831 4350 9206

Passcode: 100392

Location:     Transportation Cabinet  
                  200 Mero Street  
                  Conference Room C107  
                  Frankfort, KY 40622

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