



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jaime Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Employer Education and Engagement Committee **Minutes**

March 13, 2024
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Zoom
Meeting ID: 863 9806 2295

Members Present: Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer

Members Absent: Jessica Beaven, Rebecca Wilson, Todd Coffey, Zach Morgan and Dawn Gardner

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

Staff Absent: KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble

Guest(s) Present: Kimberly Wickert and Katie Wolf Whaley

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Project NEON Update:

Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update of Project NEON. She explained that she and Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley had been meeting with Karen Lee to determine utilization of the awarded hours. It was discussed that through Project NEON, Subject Matter Experts (SME) would be working with the committees to accomplish goals that align with the Strategic Plan.

Update on South ADA Meeting & Partnership with RETAIN:

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer explained that she had met with South ADA Center, Barry Whaley and RETAIN Kentucky, Kimberly Wickert regarding a partnership and collaboration of a webinar series that is due to launch in April 2024. Merry stated that the committee's plan to create an entire webinar series was now evolving. She explained that the committee should shift its focus towards facilitating the connection of affiliates with RETAIN Kentucky so that they could create specific webinar series which will target relevant issues. Kimberly Wickert provided information of the upcoming RETAIN webinar series and preparations she has been working on to collaborate with other groups to create additional webinar content. There was discussion of what could be done to interest employers in participating or engaging in the series. There was discussion of reaching out to KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble as her staff may have employers that are interested in participating in the webinar series. There was discussion of the RETAIN Kentucky April webinar information being disseminated to the entire Council. Kimberly stated that any contact wishing to be added to RETAIN

Kentucky's distribution list should reach out to Campaign Monitor or Betty Whittaker as she is the KYOVR RETAIN Kentucky liaison.

Final Thoughts:

Chair, Merry Reid Sheffer stated that she would continue the meeting via email and the meeting was informally ended.

Future areas of focus:

- RETAIN Kentucky April Employer Seminar Series - RETAIN Kentucky and Employment First Kentucky Presents: Navigating Employer Responsibilities under ADA Title 1.
April 23, 2024, 12:00-12:45 EST
Participant registration: [Link](#)
Barry Whaley and Pam Williamson from Southeast ADA will share their expertise and field questions about trending topics like ADA protections for individuals with substance use disorder and how ADA impacts collective bargaining agreements.
- Merry stated that the committee's plan to create an entire webinar series was now evolving. She explained that the committee should shift its focus towards facilitating the connection of affiliates with RETAIN Kentucky so that they could create specific webinar series which will target relevant issues.
- There was discussion of reaching out to KYOVR Manager, Deana Wilson-Kimble as her staff may have employers that are interested in participating in the webinar series.

Next Meeting Date:

Employer Education & Engagement Committee:

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Employment First Council:

Friday, April 12th, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

[Zoom Link](#)

Hybrid Format

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

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