



**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

**Jaime Link**  
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

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## **Provider Capacity Committee** **Minutes**

March 12, 2024  
2:00pm – 3:00pm  
Zoom  
Meeting ID: 857 3674 3195

**Members Present:** Chair, Jeff White, Todd Coffey, Katie Wolf Whaley and Lori Norton

**Members Absent:** Staci Cain, Annette Jett, Cora McNabb and Leslie Hoffman

**Staff Present:** Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill, KYOVR Manager, Ron O’Hair

**Guest(s) Present:** Cathy Anderson, Johnathan Carr and Heather Wood

### **Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:**

Chair, Jeff White welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided time for introductions of meeting attendees.

### **Project NEON:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard stated that there is a meeting scheduled for this upcoming Friday to further develop plans for moving forward in the 2024 year through Project NEON. She also explained that there would be Subject Matter Experts (SME) to provide direct support to each committee and turned the discussion over to KYOVR Manager, Ron O’Hair for further updates. Ron explained that he and Karen Lee had recently met to go over restructuring rates and the feedback was very positive. Member, Katie Wolf Whaley explained that there had been discussions with Karen Lee regarding provider capacity and how to increase the number of agencies that provide service, agencies broadening their services as well as improving quality of the services provided by those agencies.

### **Provider Capacity Data Collection:**

There was discussion regarding the provider capacity issues that are experienced by Individual Placement Services (IPS) and Member, Lori Norton provided additional information regarding this matter utilizing a [pdf map](#) that was screen shared with the group. Lori stated that she had a list of overall barriers and challenges that IPS faces which she would share with the group after the meeting due to time constraints. Chair, Jeff White provided additional information regarding the provider capacity issues as they pertain to traditional supported employment and customized employment using a [power point presentation](#) that was screen shared with the group. There was discussion

regarding an active customized employment opportunity and Member, Katie Wolf Whaley provided additional information regarding training for the customized employment fee service memo. KYOVR, Ron O'Hair also provided information regarding this training program and the present struggles therein. There was discussion regarding traditional supported employment services, counties where there is critical need for these services and how this data is being collected and processed. There was discussion regarding the potential income and demand for supported employment services. There was discussion regarding KYOVR, Supports for Community Living (SCL) and Michelle P employment providers offering waiver services, not offering supported employment services in Franklin and contiguous counties. A [pdf](#) titled KYStats Occupational Outlook (2021-2031) was screen shared with the group. Jeff explained that this document has been sent as a recruitment tool to employers throughout the state to help them to determine the financial feasibility of providing services and identify the potential for earnings through providing the services. There was discussion amongst the group regarding this matter.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation Services & Participant Interest:**

Discussion was held regarding the length of time it can take to establish employment services and how to keep participants interested in employment while they are awaiting services to be initiated. There was discussion regarding how self-advocacy pertains to this matter. There was discussion regarding how workplace readiness training pertains to this matter. There was discussion regarding how work case learning experiences pertains to this matter. There was discussion of how providers could bill through day training for these types of services. There was discussion of partnering with other groups that are already engaged in creating these types of documents for waiver providers. There was discussion of proactively meeting with counselors at beginning of the process to talk thorough a complete strategy so that the time spent awaiting employment services is not wasted.

### **Committee Contributions towards Strategic Plan:**

There was discussion of the intersection of Provider Capacity Committee activities with the Employment First Council Strategic Plan. It was determined that intersections for this committee lie in Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan.

### **Final thoughts:**

Administrator, Nanci Howard reminded the group of the Statewide Vocational Rehabilitation Council that would be meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. She encouraged members of this committee to attend that meeting and feel free to make suggestions during public comment, regarding matters pertaining to vocational rehabilitation services. The meeting ended.

### **Future areas of focus:**

- Lori stated that she had a list of overall barriers and challenges that IPS faces which she would share with the group after the meeting due to time constraints.

### **Next Meeting Date(s):**

#### Provider Capacity Committee:

Tuesday, May 14th, 2024

2:00 – 3:00pm EST

Join Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting ID: 857 3674 3195

Passcode: 694459

#### Employment First Council:

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

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Hybrid Format

Location: TBD

**500 Mero Street • 4<sup>th</sup> Floor NE • Frankfort, KY • 40601**

Toll Free: (800) 372 - 7172 • Direct: (502) 782-3421 • Email: [Nanci.Howard@ky.gov](mailto:Nanci.Howard@ky.gov)