



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jaime Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Transition Committee **Minutes**

February 1, 2024
9:30am – 10:30am
Zoom
Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

Members Present: Chair, Jessica Beaven, Vice-Chair, Frankie Huffman, Diana Merzweiler, Todd Coffey and Johnny Callebs

Members Absent: Tal Curry, Gretta Hylton and Larry Taylor

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill, KYOVR Transition Services Branch Manager, Veronica Dale and KYOVR Assistant Director of Field Services, Jonathan White

Guest(s) Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Pre-ETS Coordinator, Audra Shutt and Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

Administrator, Nanci Howard began the meeting by screen sharing the agenda with the group. She provided a brief update of Project NEON to the group and turned the meeting over to Chair, Jessica Beaven.

Chair Report:

Chair, Jessica Beaven screen shared a power point presentation to the group, which set out the committee's focus to partner with the Kentucky Chamber. She read the definition of the Employment First Council to the group. Jessica then asked the question, "[When does the Transition process begin, when should it begin and how to provide proper training and guidance to individuals, to point them in the right direction?]" and called on individuals in attendance to share their answers with the group.

Committee Discussion:

There was extensive discussion held amongst the group regarding when the transition process begins, when the process should begin and what could be done to provide resources to individuals to help them succeed. It was agreed amongst the group that transition services should begin as early as possible. Employment First Council Chair, Katie Wolf Whaley shared <https://hdi.uky.edu/employment-checklists> in the chat. There was a brief discussion about whether this committee is duplicating efforts

that other Employment First Committees may already be working on. It was recommended that the Committee should attend the Kentucky Chamber Inclusive Workforce Event to aid in building a partnership with the Kentucky Chamber. It was also discussed the importance of the Employment First Council only affiliating with businesses that uphold the definition of competitive, integrated employment as it is part of the legislation. Katie also shared [https://kcc.ky.gov/Vocational-Rehabilitation/Documents/KRS%20151B.211-214%20\(Employment%20First\).pdf](https://kcc.ky.gov/Vocational-Rehabilitation/Documents/KRS%20151B.211-214%20(Employment%20First).pdf) in the chat.

Future areas of focus:

- **Chair, Jessica Beaven to add to the Employment First Council Dropbox and advise KYOVR Staff once this is done, information regarding Kentucky Department of Human Development Institute statistics relating to untapped workforce.**
- **Chair, Jessica Beaven to add to the Employment First Council Dropbox and advise KYOVR Staff once this is done, a link to view the Bowling Green, Meltdown Ice Cream and Soda news video.**

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting ended on time and was informally adjourned.

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, March 28, 2024
9:30am – 10:30am
Zoom
Meeting ID: 899 3292 9358

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