



Andy Beshear
Governor

Jaime Link
Education and Labor Cabinet Secretary

Transition Subcommittee **Minutes**

April 3, 2023
01:00 pm – 02:00 pm
Zoom
Meeting ID: 864 1847 3851

Members Present: Jessica Beaven, Frankie Huffman, Veronica Dale, Diana Merzweiler, Tal Curry, Todd Coffey, Justin Jeter, Jason Wheatley

Members Absent: Gretta Hylton, Anette Jett, Robert ‘Larry’ Taylor

Staff Present: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (KYOVR) Administrator, Nanci Howard, KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill

Staff Absent: Jonathan White

Special Guest(s) Present: None

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review:

KYOVR Administrator, Nanci Howard welcomed everyone to meeting and began by introducing KYOVR Administrative Specialist, Pepper Caudill. Chair, Jessica Beaven opened meeting and began with holding introductions for all meeting attendees.

Chair Report:

Chair, Jessica Beaven requested a motion be brought forth to approve February 2023 minutes.

Member, Todd Coffey made motion to approve the February 2023 minutes and a second was provided by Co-Chair, Frank Huffman. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Jessica Beaven shared a video with the committee members via screenshare. The video was a FOX5 News clip from Las Vegas, Nevada which depicted an organization called “Ramped Up Café” which provides on the job training for adults with disabilities. After sharing the video clip, Jessica began explaining the goal of wanting to replicate a similar model in Kentucky. She showed a one pager form that depicted “Top 5 Benefits to your Business: Hire People with Disabilities”. She began discussions of how to get this information dispersed amongst employers or businesses in Kentucky. She also expressed her desire to accompany this information with a video or News broadcast, like the video she shared from the Nevada News Network.

Subcommittee Discussion:

Member, Diana Merzweiler shared her suggestion of collaborating with Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM). There was discussion amongst the committee regarding a possible news clip that may have been featured in the Kentucky local news channels. Member, Veronica Dale stated that a business called “McCloud coffee house” in Lexington, KY provides a similar on the job training for individuals with disabilities and they have been featured in local television broadcasts. Member, Diana Merzweiler commented on “multiple videos, that are already out there”. Committee discussed calendar months which recognize disabilities. There was discussion amongst committee members regarded integrated employment settings and whether “McCloud” falls under this category. Member, Diana Merzweiler provided historical background of an October 2020, planned Suppositum which apparently fell through due to COVID. There was discussion held regarding mock interviews or other helpful trainings that could be presented by this committee, during October 2023. Chair, Jessica Beaven brought forth Co-Chair Frank Huffman’s “Facebook Group” idea, that had been discussed in prior meeting and requested further discussion/feedback from committee of whether to move forward with this project being presented to Employment First Council. There was mention of a centralized job fair that could be hosted to assist the individuals with disabilities, in improving skills to get a job. This was tied back into the Facebook Page and the need for a platform that could help to get the information widely distributed. Member, Diana Merzweiler mentioned an APP that the Advocacy & Education Committee is working towards bringing to the Council for consideration. She also mentioned the idea of using a “training video” statewide and stated that these ideas would be discussed in further detail in the April 4th meeting. Chair, Jessica Beaven showed interest and support for the APP. Co-Chair, Frank Huffman shared a personal experience he had regarding “Indeed” and the lack of inclusion that he felt from that experience. He mentioned developing an APP where people with disabilities could post their resumes and companies could choose candidates from that portal. Chair, Jessica Beaven expressed her support for the idea as well as mentioned it could be individualized and used as a platform for businesses to advertise employment opportunities, as well. There was mention of reaching out to Indeed to inquire if they could include people with disabilities. Administrator, Nanci Howard mentioned that there is a Chamber of Commerce member (Zach Morgan) on the Employment First Council and offered for the committee to collaborate with him further if they so desired. Chair, Jessica Beaven shared a one pager depicting the number of unemployed persons with disabilities versus unemployed persons without disabilities. She shared her screen to show a “DRAFT form State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children Transition One-Pager for IEP Meetings Shared 2/14/23” created by Member, Tal Curry. There was discussion held about how to condense and specify this information for convenient distribution. Member, Tal Curry provided a goal summary of the “DRAFT” that was being shared as well as a narration of resources provided therein. There was discussion held amongst committee members regarding how to simplify the resources into a convenient form that students and parents could utilize sooner in the Transition process. There was discussion held regarding job skills or proper etiquette skills that need to be provided to the students and parents sooner, as well. Member, Diana Merzweiler recommended an OVR outreach team following up with transition students after school. Administrator, Nanci Howard mentioned that KYOVR presently has a Strategic Plan Public Awareness Committee that focuses on outreach for KYOVR services. Member, Veronica Dale provided information regarding the KY Transition team and the process of student outreach that is provided from that team. There was discussion regarding the roadblocks (specifically posed by parents) experienced when it comes to the KYOVR transition process and how to bridge the gaps therein. Transportation was mentioned as being a roadblock for this process. Financial burdens and the lengthy process to obtaining benefits was mentioned as being a roadblock. There was discussion held regarding educating the population on the process as being a solution to the roadblocks. There was further support and discussion held for the APP idea. **Member, Diana Merzweiler made a motion to request that the Employment First Council would consider endorsing an outreach campaign to be launched to the full**

public which would include media channels, social media, and written publications. Todd Coffey provided a second to the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Future areas of focus:

Gathering items for next meeting with full council on April 14, 2023

Action Items:

Member, Diana Merzweiler made a motion to request that the Employment First Council would consider endorsing an outreach campaign to be launched to the full public which would include media channels, social media, and written publications. Todd Coffey provided a second to the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: NONE

Next Meeting Date:

TBD

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