

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council For Persons with Disabilities

**Quarterly Meeting
January 28, 2022**

Minutes



9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and Introductions

9:45 – 10:45 Presentation: Alternatives to Guardianship for Transitioning Students
Laura Butler (HDI)
<https://youtu.be/9j4HI9uKOVl>

- The plain language definition of Supported Decision Making (SDM) is the practice of working with people you trust to get the information you need to help you make decisions.
- Everyone uses SDM and no one does everything independently. It's important to use SDM from a young age. Let youth make age-appropriate decisions and experience the consequences, redirect questions, be on the same page about goals, and discuss what guardianship or alternatives will mean for them.
- Use the social model (society is the problem that must be fixed) rather than the medical model (the person has a problem that must be fixed).
- The basis of SDM is self-determination. When people use more self-determination, they are healthier, happier, and have a higher level of functioning. When they can't make decisions on their own, they start to have a lower level of functioning and may become passive.
- Women with intellectual disabilities are less likely to be abused if they use more self-determination.
- National data shows that people without guardianship are most likely to live in their own homes or apartments and be included in their community, just to name a few.
- There is not a lot of good data on guardianship in Kentucky and many other states, but what we do know is that KY has a high rate of guardianship compared to other states.
- The National Core Indicators (NCI) Family/Guardian survey is performed in Kentucky and 47 other states. The survey gathers data on family outcomes and is mailed to families who have an adult family member who does not live with the respondent and receives at least one service other than case management from the state DD agency. NCI data can be compared state to state.
- Alternatives to guardianship include limited guardianship, Power of Attorney, representative payee, trusts and other financial options ([STABLE](#) accounts for example), and circles of support (SDM for example).
- In KY, limited guardianship is an option and expires after five years. Full guardianship never expires unless legal action is taken.
- It is important that a person leads their meetings/appointments and that questions are directed to that person and they have a reliable form of communication to use at all times.
- View the [SDM Resource Guide](#) developed by [My Choice Kentucky](#). Hard copies are also available if needed. Please reach out to laura.smith2@uky.edu.

- My Choice Kentucky is a partnership between the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute and Kentucky Protection & Advocacy. P&A provides legal/technical assistance. HDI's role is more education and technical assistance. The project is funded by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (CCDD).
- Other My Choice Kentucky Resources and Tools:
 - [PRACTICAL Tool](#) - helps people determine if guardianship is needed.
 - [The Arc-Guardianship Myths](#)
 - [Finding the Right Fit web tool](#)
 - [National Resource Center on SDM](#)
 - [Center on Youth Voice/Youth Choice](#) – focused on using alternative guardianship for transition age youth (WIOA definition). They are accepting applications for states to become part of the community practice and if selected would work together and discuss what they're doing for alternative guardianship within that age range. HDI will be applying soon. If you're interested in being part of this team email laura.smith2@uky.edu.
- First textbook on SDM: Supported Decision-Making (Theory, Research, and Practice to Enhance Self-Determination and Quality of Life). Written by pioneers of self-determination.
- A plain language version of this book: Supported Decision-Making: From Justice for Jenny to Justice for All! The forward was written by Jenny Hatch and she was the first person to have her rights restored in the U.S. using SDM.
- Rights have been restored in counties across the state: Adair, Fayette, Jefferson, Jessamine, Mercer, Pulaski, and Todd. We're making impact across the state – educating the court and other systems on SDM and alternatives to guardianship.
 - Susie was the first person in Kentucky to have her rights restored. Susie made a vision board and brought it to court to help show the judge that she's able to think through things and make plans/goals. Her appointed attorney took the time to meet with her team and learn how Susie uses SDM and was able to argue that point in court. Most appointed attorneys do not take this step.
 - Judith is another person we worked with. She had her rights restored and ran through the court fountain with her supporter to celebrate. She had a great relationship with her guardian, but it wasn't what she wanted.
- Videos:
 - [Dawn: used SDM to avoid guardianship](#)
 - [Clayton: had rights restored](#)
 - [Stella: parent/former guardian](#)
- Questions/discussion:
 - Lou-Ann/Veronica - teachers and parents need to know that guardianship isn't something you have to do immediately at the age of 18 and need to be informed of alternatives. Guardianship is forever and can also be a barrier to getting a driver's license or getting a job.
 - Merissa - the annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference would be a great place to spread information about guardianship and alternatives.
 - Robbin – we should investigate adding this information in the transition section of the IEP guidance document that KDE puts out.
 - Laura - may be able to mention guardianship alternatives in the transfer of rights letters.
 - Laura/Tony - transition age youth is group we would like to focus on more. If we can keep them out of guardianship, then the work of having rights restored doesn't have to

be done. Guardians will tell you that they have people on their caseload that don't need to be there. The system is overburdened and can't work the way it's supposed to. People are pushing on the federal legislation side to get more funding to do better tracking with guardianship. Right now, the data isn't there because everything is so fragmented with a state. NCI is not perfect because it's only a subgroup of people. Some people know they're in a guardianship and others don't.

- Jonathan - fits neatly into the curriculum for self-advocacy which is one of the five required services for pre-ETS services. Not every student who receives pre-ETS will need this information. Can give them information to take home to their parents so they know their options.
- Kelly – huge for kids to understand this and get it to their level.
- Lou Ann - self advocacy can start at IEP meeting level. Students should be taught why they're being involved in their IEP meetings. Help them learn how to be better decision makers.
- Carrie – involve the student by asking them if they know what guardianship is. Put the words out there for them to hear.
- Dorothy – we're happy to add a pamphlet in the information we send to our teachers already. Good idea to spread this information to VR counselors so that they can share with students individually.

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:50 Agency Updates

OVR (Jonathan White)

- We continue to fill out the transition services branch. Veronica is putting together a great team. We've added three staff since the last KITC meeting. We have one pre-ETS coordinator in each of the five regions. We now have an administrative specialist for the branch and are looking to hire a sixth pre-ETS coordinator to be placed where they're needed most. Pre-ETS coordinators are working with potentially eligible students, and they determine when it's appropriate for student to apply for VR services.
- OVR is getting closer to fully implementing a new pre-VR system which will help us track students and link with our case management system. Referrals will be put in the system by providers so that we will be able to track services and payments. We have some providers piloting this in each region. Hoping for a full rollout before the next school year.
- KCTCS has terminated their contract with OVR for providing pre-ETS. Monday (January 31, 2022) is their final day. People that were working for KCTCS have applied to provide pre-ETS in their area outside of the KCTCS umbrella. Hoping we can continue providing service to those students that were already receiving services.
 - (Dorothy Jenkins) Owensboro Community College will be the only college out of KCTCS providing pre-ETS services. Coops are in some of these schools as well and we're happy to have those services.
- It's been challenging figuring out how to provide outstanding services while following the WIOA regulations with a limited number of staff. We keep losing staff every week.
- Excited about our progress; we have good things on horizon.

KDE - Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool Guidance and Support Branch (Allison Johnson)

- American Rescue Plan transition team continues to work on all of transition.
- Entering monitoring season. Focused on that right now.

KDE – American Rescue Plan- OSEEL (Lynn Petrey)

- Added Traci Sharp to our team. Traci is a former DOSE and a great addition to our team.
- Not much new on transition side. Waiting on projects we have in development to get approval to move forward.

KDE – Office of Career and Technical Education (Luv-Tesha Robertson)

- Per Sherri Craig: new supplemental guidance has been released regarding work-based learning for the career work experience certification. Guidance is available [here](#). Gives additional guidance for students to meet minimum 40-hour work-based learning if pursuing career readiness in a HS alternative diploma course of study.

P&A (Robbin Richie)

- Following 87 bills during this legislative season. [Updates](#) are posted weekly.

KY-SPIN (Kellie Smith)

- Hired two new staff: Amber Ham (Transition Age Parent Educator) and Nick Carpenter (Youth Educator).
- Will hold a transition conference in March and there will be two tracks – one for parents and one for young adults. The parent track will focus on different diploma types, guardianship, and the IEP transition plan. Nick will focus on student input in their transition plan and transition into adulthood.

CWTP/HDI (Jill Griffiths)

- Districts are still hiring Employment Specialists and we're conducting their training.
- Quarterly call ins are not mandatory. We discuss comprehensive vocational assessments and we're continually trying to improve those. Next training is about exit meetings and job placement. Will go over general things we find out of compliance as we conduct reviews.
- Finishing the 20-21 school year program reviews.
- Providing field technical assistance on a daily basis.

HDI Summer Leadership Camp; Support Higher Education Project (Teresa Belluscio)

- Kudos to everyone we work with at OVR. OVR keeps moving forward and working hard despite barriers.
- Pre-ETS study update: looking at students ages 14-16 with significant disabilities. We go into schools to do the study. Teaching nine 1-hour lessons and providing community-based experience. Five counties are interested (Madison, Jessamine, Boone, Floyd, Breathitt). We'll be

getting started at Madison Co. soon. We need 10 groups of 5 for the whole study. End goal is a pre-ETS tool kit that everyone can use.

- Summer leadership experience camp update: working on this right now.

GRREC (Katrinka Wagoner)

- Marisa Duarte is facilitating RIT in our region. She took job as Assistant Director in one of our districts.

NKCES (Merissa Waddey)

- Still attempting to run the transition professional learning network. Participation is low with teachers/administrators.
- We're growing our website. Encourage you to use and share. Helpful for post-secondary staff and parents. Need input to make sure we're representing full spectrum of students we're serving.
 - NKCES online training site: <http://bit.ly/nkcesonlinetraining>
 - NKCES transition services: <http://bit.ly/nkcestransition>

SESC (April Brock)

- Monthly RIT meetings.
- Quarterly transition cadre with HS teachers. Several DOSE's participate as well. Lou-Ann is scheduled to come in March and discuss YOYO data.
- Amber is doing pre-ETS. She sends out monthly pre-ETS activities and they're called "Transition Tuesdays" and are held the last Tuesday of each month. These are activities teachers can use with students.

GLEC (Kelly Dockery-Brooks)

- Providing pre-ETS for JCPS students. Getting into schools and building relationships. Meet with each school at least twice per month. A couple more schools interested in our services and we're hoping to get them started in February.
- GLEC and OVEC work together on a combined RIT and meet month. Book study right now.

OVEC (Carrie-Stith Webster)

- In five districts and meeting with students twice per week. Trying to increase presence in a couple of other districts.
- Not involved with RIT because when they meet, I'm in schools.
- Meeting in a couple of weeks to start working with districts to get more peer support group programs started.

KYPSO/HDI (Tony LoBianco)

- The YOYO will open April 1st.
- This is not a year that we're requiring returning interviews to be retrained. New interviews always need to be trained.

- Our system might look a little different on the interviewer end this year. Our IT folks are doing amazing work.
- Just received student data and will upload this soon. You'll have the opportunity to go through the information and encourage districts to make sure lists of students are accurate.
- Received CTE data; worked with Scott and Sherri at KDE. Linked that with last year's YOYO results. Preliminary analysis will tell us interesting things to tell us value of CTE courses and how far one progresses in a CTE track towards employment and postsecondary outcomes. Right now, it looks like it has a huge effect on low incidence disabilities, especially FMD and multiple disability groups. Is it really CTE course or the fact that they're taking any courses? Might need to do more digging. Will continue to look at that so that we can get information out to schools and VR about the value of CTE courses for students with disabilities.
- Laura's presentation was great, and this knowledge can make a huge difference. Hope the information gets down to the school level.

KYPSO/HDI (Lou-Ann Land)

- Looking at and analyzing YOYO data. The additional questions that students choose to answer provide lots of interesting information. Available to help districts/coops use the data to back up conclusions they're drawing and make instructional decisions.
- Working on a student contact form that districts can implement. The form will help ensure that districts have up to date contact information for the student. During YOYO interviews can use this for students they have trouble contacting which will hopefully get response rates up. We are currently getting feedback from districts on the usability of this form.
- TAALC is a communication project for students with complex communication needs. The Project is hosting 6 ECHO sessions focused on transition every two weeks on Mondays from 4-5pm ET. Based on discussions, it appears that students are continuing to leave school without a reliable communication system in place and without a robust transition plan. We need to get school teams and families to better develop a vision for the future for this population. TAALC would like to invite your transition cadres to join us.
 - A flyer if included with registration information and the schedule.
 - The next session is February 7th. Laura Butler will join us during the February 21st session and will talk about person centered planning/communication. Each session includes a 20-minute presentation on a topic, then a teacher will present a case on a student (no identifiable information) in transition who has complex communication needs.

CTE/KDE (Luv'Tesha Robertson)

- When we begin compiling ICA (part of NTACTION CBI state transition plan) it may be beneficial during these meetings for each of our teams to report out as well to make sure everyone is aware of work we're doing.

11:50-12:00 Wrap-Up

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 29th, 2022

Attendees:

Allison Johnson – OSEEL/KDE
Amber Absher – SESC
April Brock - SESC
Carrie Stith-Webster - OVEC
Chelsea Bocard – KYP SO/HDI
Dorothy Jenkins - OVR
Jill Griffiths – CWTP/HDI
Jonathan White – OVR
Katrinka Wagoner - GRREC
Kellie Smith - KY-SPIN
Kelly Dockery-Brooks – GLEC
Laura Butler - HDI
Lou-Ann Land – KYP SO/HDI
Luv'Tesha Robertson – CTE/KDE
Lynn Petrey – KDE
Merissa Waddey – NKCES
Robbin Richie - P&A
Sherri Craig – CTE/KDE
Stacey Hodges - GLEC
Teresa Belluscio – HDI
Tony Lobianco – KYP SO/HDI
Veronica Dale - OVR