

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council For Persons with Disabilities

**Quarterly Meeting
April 29, 2022**



Minutes

9:30 – 9:50

Welcome and Introductions

- Nick Carpenter, Youth Educator (KY-SPIN). Works with youth with disabilities (young children up through age 26). Offers advice and shares personal experiences to older youth who may be transitioning to college.
- Emily Borchers, Special Education Consultant (NKCES). Works with MS/HS students and their post-secondary transition.
- Beth Metzger, Program Coordinator for Beneficiaries of Social Security Grant (P&A). Has been with P&A for almost 21 years. Started current position on March 1, 2022. Grant works with Ticket to Work. Also serve as the new Client Assistance Program Coordinator (CAP) for the state. Previously the Community Action Kentucky (CAP) advocacy program helped when it came to issues with VR or Centers for Independent Living. CAP used to be within VR. CAP was redesignated to P&A by Governor Andy Beshear as of October 2021.
- Natasha Menifee, Branch Manager/Guidance and Support Branch (KDE). Handles guidance documents and resources related to IDEA. Sitting in today for Allison Johnson.

Agency Introduction – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Jonathan White, Assistant Director of Field Services with OVR

- Has been with OVR for almost 19 years. Started as a VR Counselor for 5 years in Lexington and then worked as Branch Manager for 10.5 years. Currently working as Assistant Director of Field Services at the central office in Frankfort.
- VR exists to help people with disabilities get jobs. We help them obtain, maintain, and advance in employment. Work with adults, youth, and students.
- VR is funded through federal (80%) and state (20%) funds.
- Governed by the Rehabilitation Act and now by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) as of 2014.
- To be eligible for services a person must have a disability that impacts ability to obtain and maintain employment. Our employees review medical records, eligibility, and work with clients to help them decide what is an appropriate job for them and provide services to help achieve job goal.
- Up until 2014, 20-25% of our clients were students and we primarily worked with students when they were juniors providing transition services. Senior year they engage in work experiences.

- 2014 WIOA mandated that VR set aside 15% of federal funding to dedicate only to pre-ETS services. We started working with students at a younger age, 14-21. Now, a little more than half of our overall clients are students with disabilities.
- Transition Services Branch (created in 2020):
 - Pre-ETS Administrator: Dorothy Jenkins (pre-ETS)
 - Dorothy works with coops, JAG and other pre-ETS providers helping them set up contracts, monitoring, and providing TA, etc.
 - Veronica Dale is Branch Manager for transition services branch.
 - 6 pre-ETS Coordinator positions were created, one for each region. All but one has been hired. They take large portions of the state and work with potentially eligible students. They make sure referrals are uploaded into the system and that we have all the information we need to make sure student is potentially eligible. They approve providers to begin providing service and then track those services as students go through program. They help students decide when they've had enough pre-ETS and at that point they should be applying for services to move into transition to help them get job. Or maybe they've learned enough, and they feel they don't need to apply for services.
 - CWTP Administrator: Beth McDaniel
 - Transition Services Administrator: Janelle Turner
- Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) Branch:
 - CRP Branch Manager: Ron O'Hair
 - Supported Employment falls under the CRP Branch.
- Assistive Technology Branch:
 - AT Branch Manager: Carol Weber
 - Provides different technology to consumers (students and adults) so that they can perform their job duties.

Agency Introduction - Q&A

- Beth Metzger (P&A) – Do pre-ETS Coordinators track who goes into 14C? My understanding is that KDE doesn't track this.
 - Jonathan White (OVR) - Not sure there's anything currently set up to track this but seems like something we could do. Generally, these are students not applying for VR services. Pre-ETS Coordinators are not able to spend much time one-on-one because they work with thousands of students. VR Counselors do more one-on-one but that's when they're applying for VR services.
- Tony LoBianco (KYPSSO) – Might be good for KITC to have agencies display who's who and who's responsible for what.
 - Shasta Hensley (OSEEL/KDE) - It would be helpful to see "who" is on KITC and what everyone provides.
- Lou-Ann Land (KYPSSO) - When students are asked about VR services in the YOYO, some mention help with tuition and employment training, transportation, etc. Where do those things fall?
 - Jonathan White (OVR) - Pre-ETS are meant to be the introduction to the idea of working. Should be explorative – what kinds of jobs are they interested in? What does it take to get a job and what does it mean to have a job and go every day? What's available to me? If you're potentially eligible you're only getting pre-ETS services. Once you get to the point where you need help with work clothes, transportation, etc. then you open a

case and work with a local VR counselor. Student would need to complete an application, be determined eligible, and the counselor would write a plan for employment. Services are based on the job goal and disability related needs.

9:50 – 10:15

Presentation: KY Leadership Experience Camp 2022

Teresa Beluscio (HDI)

<https://youtu.be/TsXK1o2O9c8>

- We're in our 6th year of the camp which is sponsored by OVR; it's a pre-ETS funded activity.
- Camp is geared towards HS students with disabilities and the focus is on upper classmen who are thinking about their next step that will lead to a career.
- The free camp is in a University of Kentucky (UK) residence hall and will be held July 6th-9th.
- To accommodate parents, we start on Wednesday evening. The camp ends on a Saturday at 12pm.
- Deadline to apply is May 15th. This gives HDI and VR time to process the paperwork. When applying online it will ask for a recommendation letter. This isn't required, but at some point, we do want one. This can come from a VR counselor or teacher.
- Offering a virtual option this year. Virtual campers must only be potentially eligible. In person camp limited to 20 students.
- Regardless of virtual or in-person, parents will be permitted to join the information session virtually this year.
- There is a registration fee for in person campers. However, if you know families who can't pay \$50 that's ok. Please contact me. I don't want this to be a barrier.
- Students can be approved for the camp fast if they're already a VR client.
- During the camp, campers hear from other colleges such as EKV, WKU, KCTCS, Carl D Perkins, Lex Building Institute, and Sullivan. Campers do not have to be interested in coming to UK.
- We also have guest speakers who are people with disabilities. VR also comes to speak about services.
- A favorite is college students with disabilities who are on a panel and come to talk about their experiences.
- We work on skill sets such as self-advocacy and self-determination.
- We develop a real college schedule with four classes and associate the classes with their textbooks. Campers are put into teams and are given the name of the class. They must visit the bookstore and locate the books and list them with their price. This activity teaches them a lot.

Presentation - Q&A

- Sallie Bolton (DJJ) – Could our extended day schools could use this?
 - Jonathan White (OVR) – To receive pre-ETS a student must be enrolled in an educational program and have a documented disability such as IEP or 504.
- Beth Metzger (P&A) - Are students taught about how to request accommodations?
 - Teresa Beluscio (HDI) – We have a panel of disability resource providers who come and talk about that piece.
- Tony LoBianco (KYPSSO) – We've seen through YOYO data that year after year student who go on to post-secondary education are less likely to contact their Disability Resource Center (DRC). When we started doing the YOYO it was a little above 50% and now, we're down to low 40%.

Students need to understand that it's not outing yourself, it's allowing you to get accommodations you need.

- Teresa Beluscio (HDI) - Students decide not to disclose for various reasons and some come back later. If they disclose later, it may be too late. We want them to understand that. Ideally, students will set up an appointment with DRC and get paperwork in as soon as they decide what school they want to attend.
- Jonathan White (OVR) - We encounter this a lot when we assist with tuition. Students are encouraged to contact DRC. We do require that they maintain certain GPA because we're spending taxpayer dollars. After first semester if grades aren't where they need to be we remind them to contact DRC.

10:15-10:50

KITC Updates

NTACT-C

- The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C) holds an institute every year with all states to develop an annual transition plan. We have a team that will attend again this year (KDE, OVR, and other agencies).
- Jonathan White (OVR) - A year ago several KITC members attended virtually, and it will be virtual again next week. We've started developing transition goals and the first one is data sharing. Trying to develop a system that will allow all entities to get information/data they need while adhering to confidentiality laws. We all have information that could benefit others.
- The other goal is broader and pertains to developing more consistency in transition service opportunities across the state. VR is required to have pre-ETS available throughout state however I don't know if every student has the same opportunities. Some areas have lots of providers and others don't.
- Last month we got together at HDI and started working on mission/values for our NTACT-C CBvI team to make progress towards these goals and help prepare us for next week's NTACT:C institute. We're looking at ways we can measure levels of awareness for different providers/programs. We also talked about the need for a student representative.
- We'd like to know what effect pre-ETS has on outcomes. Are students getting and keeping jobs? We'd like to determine how data can be linked. What gaps are there? What information do we need? What's available and what's not and how can we access it? What training needs are there?
- Lou-Ann Land (KYPSO) – This will require the help of all KITC members. Will send out needs assessments to the group. We'll start creating sub committees to implement some of these items.

Recruitment of Student Representative

- Creating a draft flyer to help recruit students.
- Kelly Dockery-Brook (GLEC) - When will this start and how many representatives do we want?
 - Lou-Ann (KYPSO) - We hope to finalize this summer and make sure we have someone by the October KITC meeting.
 - Jonathan White (OVR) - Having more than 1 would be good. Multiple perspectives.
- Kelly Dockery-Brook (GLEC) – Some counties are bigger than others and have different needs. We can bring this into the schools and include this in our conversations with kids.

- Natasha Menifee (KDE) - A single student may feel isolated if they don't have other peers in the group to connect with.
- Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – Someone could start when they're a junior/senior and stay on when they exit HS. On both sides of transition. Who do we send this out to?
 - Jonathan White (OVR) – VR counselors could be good group to send to. Counselors are meeting with consumers and have a good feel for if a student would be interested.
 - Teresa Beluscio (HDI) – Could send to coops to discuss at DoSE meetings.
- Lou-Ann Land (KYP SO) – A small committee would be helpful to put this together. Students could submit a profile and application. What is it that we want students to submit for this position?
 - Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – Committee would also have responsibility of reviewing applicants. What happens if we get a lot? Could we offer them something? Could they have group with moderator and the moderator comes to KITC? We also don't want mom in the meeting. We want someone that's going to speak for themselves.
- Beth Metzger (P&A) – Kids with 504's need to be considered too. Traditional transitioning doesn't always happen for those kids.
- Jill Griffiths (HDI) – Could consider having representatives from different regions of the state. Different areas have different issues. Many DoSE's serve as the 504 Coordinator.
 - Lou-Ann Land (KYP SO) – Not sure if we'd go specifically with regions. There are 9 coop regions which may be too much. Thinking more East, West, North, South.
 - Jonathan White (OVR) – Good to have variety of students. Some from rural and urban areas.
- Robbin Richie (P&A) - KY Board of Education has a student representative. Once they determine term limit (one year for example) they don't allow next representative to be from same area. KDE has lots of advisory groups that are geared toward the disability community, and they may be able to disseminate this information.

KITC Presentation Topics – Ideas?

- Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – We'd like to schedule presentation topics in advance and need your input.
- Dorothy Jenkins (OVR) – What the Indicators are and how they relate to transition.
 - Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – Sharing the specific indicators each agency uses.
 - Emily Borchers (NKCES) – Indicator 13 would be useful to know more about. Could take this back to my region and share with teachers.
 - Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – There are 17 indicators. Some are related to transition (13 and 14). Indicators 1 and 2 are graduation and dropout rates. Wealth of information.
- Lou-Ann Land (KYP SO) - Contacted Lee Gordon with the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) about presenting on what it is OCSHCN do in relation to transition and how schools and families know about the services and how to access them. I thought each agency might present on that same concept. As a side note, Lee is retiring soon.
- Luv'Tesha Robertson (CTE/KDE) - Once we finish NTA CT work we can present on the findings.
- Robbin Richie (P&A) – Information on kids who are in state agency schools. Would be interested in a presentation on their transition services from KY Education Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC). Some kids in those groups are falling through the cracks.
 - Jonathan White (OVR) – This is an underserved population from the VR perspective. We're so focused on students in the schools.

- Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) – Under accounted for when we look at data. Tough to track down.
- Dorothy Jenkins (OVR) – Many kids in foster or group homes might have a disability and be eligible for services, but it is not disclosed to VR. VR must have documentation of disability.
- Robbin Richie (P&A) – Across the state there is no consistency when transitioning from facility to a school district. Some districts default to placement in an alternative school instead of allowing the student to attend the general education setting. This can impact services they might receive.
- Beth Metzger (P&A) – Special education documentation can be delayed from school to school and agency to school.
- Jill Griffiths (HDI) – Would like to see presentation on what the data tell us about KY. Maybe from the KY State Data Center (<http://ksdc.louisville.edu/>).
 - Lou-Ann Land (KYP SO) - Saw a presentation by KY Center for Statistics (<https://kystats.ky.gov/>) through NTA CT and was surprised at the amount of data they have.
- Dorothy Jenkins (OVR) - Homeschool is also overlooked.
 - Jill Griffiths (HDI) – We may need an overview from KDE of what homeschools are.
 - Tony LoBianco (KYP SO) - My understanding is there is no monitoring of homeschooling.

11:00-11:50

Agency Updates

BHDID (Jeff White)

- It's that time of year when we gather data about people in KY with developmental and intellectual disabilities who have joined the workforce. We have waiver, VR, state general, and school system funded people. There are also people with no funding. Putting together a comprehensive tally covering July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. We know numbers will be low because of COVID. Important for us to get good baseline to evaluate progress moving forward. Working with Cora at OVR. Have everything in place except school system numbers. If you have any suggestions get in touch with me.
- Waiver programming - we had significant change in protocol for employment services Oct 1st, 2020, and we're working to understand new service delivery system. We have a good collaboration with OVR in delivering supported employment services in KY. A lot of my time is spent helping Case Managers and VR Counselors understand each other. VR is very committed to not doing anything that creates further dependence for people. That perspective isn't necessarily there for Case Managers. Helping people meet in the middle has been an interesting process. Having good outcomes.
- By the end of June, the KY Employment First Council hopes to have a transition toolkit available for teachers, IEP team members, and families.
- KentuckyWorks website is no longer there, and the information has been distributed elsewhere. Our goal is to make sure that we have a toolkit to help people find those resources. Confident we can do that by the end of June.

GRREC (Katrinka Wagoner)

- Had a successful transition training in March. Worked with former GRREC employee Marisa Duarte who moved to the Allen Co. administrative position.
- Planning for how to present indicator 13 trainings in the fall. May do a portion of this virtually to reach more people.
- Next RITT is May 19th. Thanks to Lou-Ann Land for great YOYO information during the last meeting.

NKCES (Merissa Waddey and Emily Borchers)

- Supporting districts with indicator 13 trainings scheduled for summer/fall.
- Held last transition PLN (Professional Learning Network).
- Looking at lunch and learn time frame which has been successful at other coops.
- [Transition portion of NKCES website](#) provides resources that are mostly northern Kentucky specific.
- There are two planned trainings in person for summer. Will split into new teacher and experienced teacher so that we can dive a little deeper with new teachers.
- Planning a Transition Road Trip to allow our educators to tour and gain information about local community-based employment programs for our region.

CWTP/HDI (Jill Griffiths)

- Monitoring for this current year. We've selected 10 districts that will get reviewed for the 21-22 school year.
- Gearing up for end of year surveys.
- Looking at changes for next year including changes to application and MOUs with districts. Changes to policies/procedures, forms.
- Continuing with TA.

CKEC (Christina Krantz)

- Planning fall training sessions. [Summer sessions](#) have been planned and registration went live May 1st.
- Getting [new website](#) – which was set to go live at the end of April/start of May.
- Started doing transition snapshots. These are resources that present quick overviews on specific topics. We currently have one on assessment. Working on one for each sub indicator of indicator 13.
- In process of developing on demand module for educators on helping students with self-determination.

CTE/KDE (Scott U'Sellis and Luv'Tesha Robertson)

- Recently completed end of program and track assessments. Testing window closed April 29th. Getting state assessment report approved. Once that happens, the report will be posted to KDE website and additional updates on those results will be provided at the next KITC meeting.
- It's testing season. For alternate assessment there is a career readiness measure: Employability Skills and Attainment Record (ESAR) and Career Work Experience Certification (CWEC). Currently collecting that data and making sure districts are uploading that properly.

OSEEL/KDE (Shasta Hensley and Natasha Meniffee)

- [Office of English Language Acquisition](#) (OELA) – national infographic around CTE for Multilingual learners. About 4% of students with disabilities are English language learners.
- Natasha – wrapping up our final week of monitoring, so nothing to share right now.

P&A (Robbin Richie and Beth Metzger)

- Biggest news is our new CAP (Client Assistance Program) Coordinator. We would like to talk more about who we are and what we do during the next agency intro.
- Legislative session is over. P&A follows certain bills throughout the session and have people in office that monitor those. Bills followed and where they landed are posted on our [website](#).
- CAP was redesignated to P&A October 1st. Had agreement with the Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development to perform the information and referral calls/representation during transition. From August to the end of March, closed 25 CAP calls providing general information about VR and facilitating communication between the individual and VR.
- Created new CAP brochure – that includes one page of information on employment rights.
- Working on visiting tour for different CAP offices, for example next week will go to Carl Perkins and McDowell Center.

SESC (Amber Absher)

- Recently worked in Madison Co. helping with indicator 13 training.
- Had RITT meeting in April and the next is May 11th.
- Performing record reviews for districts.
- Had trainings in Jackson Co. to address EIS (Employment Information Services) and eligibility.
- Working on coteaching trainings for upcoming year. Working on peer support network initiative and an option 6 teacher bootcamp. Inviting districts to be part of peer support network initiative.
- Working on dates/times/assignments for summer institute.

OVR (Jonathan White)

- Pre VR system will be up and running by July 1st. Will help providers and VR staff get potentially eligible students into the system and tracking their pre-ETS hours.
- Working to provide consistency among how pre-ETS are provided by different entities: CRP's, coops, JAG, etc.

KYPSO/HDI (Tony LoBianco)

- The YOYO window has been open for almost a month.
- KYPSO had major overhaul of data collection system and it looks great. All users were migrated to the new system on February 28th.
- Chelsea is working on short how-to videos for DoSE's to use the new system.
- Lou-Ann put together a YOYO Student Contact Information form on Google. This form is for district use – to help them collect up-to-date contact information on students with IEPs before

they exit high school. Information collected is to be used for next year's YOYO to increase completion rates.

11:50-12:00

Wrap Up

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 29, 2022

Attendees:

Amber Absher – SESC
Beth Metzger – P&A
Chelsea Bocard – KYP SO/HDI
Christina Krantz - CKEC
Dorothy Jenkins – OVR
Emily Borchers – NKCES
Jeff White - BHDID
Jill Griffiths – CWTP/HDI
Jonathan White – OVR
Katrinka Wagoner - GRREC
Kelly Dockery-Brooks – GLEC
Lou-Ann Land – KYP SO/HDI
Luv'Tesha Robertson – CTE/KDE
Merissa Waddey – NKCES
Natasha Meniffee – KDE
Nick Carpenter – KY-SPIN
Robbin Richie - P&A
Sallie Bolton – DJJ
Scott U'Sellis – KDE
Shasta Hensley – OSEEL/KDE
Teresa Belluscio – HDI
Tony Lobianco – KYP SO/HDI