

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council For Persons with Disabilities (KITC)

Quarterly Meeting
July 28, 2023

New Representatives

- Debbie Taub, Programmatic Transition Expert at KYPSO/HDI – will be working closely with Lou-Ann, taking on more responsibility as Lou-Ann phases out over the next year.
- Carla Jordan, Transition Coordinator at SESC.
- Lynn Lockard, Guidance and Support Branch Manager for IDEA Implementation and Preschool at KDE/OSEP – attending on Tania Sharp’s behalf.

KITC Updates

Student Representative (Lou-Ann):

- For the past year, we’ve been working to recruit KITC youth representatives. Information has been distributed, but we haven’t received any responses. Kalee from the HDI Evaluation team suggested we check out the [KY Student Voice Team](#). Another organization to check out is the [Kentucky Youth Advocates](#). Both groups have good information on their website, and they may be able to help us. You may hear from Lou-Ann soon if you’re on the youth representative sub-committee to set up a meeting to discuss next steps.

NTACT:C CBI (Lou-Ann):

- KY NTACT:C has been very active this year. Kentucky sent a team to the NTACT:C Capacity Building Institute in May to develop a transition plan. Within this plan, we have goals/activities. Will report more in October when we’ve had more time to finalize these goals.
 - One goal is data collection and we’ve been conducting focus groups at districts and OVR to gather information on how transition is working throughout KY.

Presentation (Disability Benefits - DB 101)

Carolyn Wheeler, Provider Development Specialist at the Human Development Institute

[Recording of Kentucky Disability Benefits 101 Presentation](#)

carolynb.wheeler@uky.edu

- Collaborated with Jeff White to create accessible information about the impact of work on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for students and their families.
- As professionals who care about students having good lives after they leave HS, we need to make sure SSA’s [What You Need To Know About SSI When you Turn 18](#) booklet is given to all

students. Social Security also mails it out between their 18 and 19th birthday. SSI is not guaranteed once you're an adult. This needs to be part of the transition planning process.

- [The Truth about Working and SSI](#) – please view and share this 12-minute video. This video is updated every year.
- [Kentucky DB 101](#) is a website funded by OVR. This site is crucial in understanding how work and benefits go together.
- SSI is always for students and parents with low resources. When a student turns 18, resources no longer count.
- You can [estimate how working may affect your income if on SSI](#). Click 'Try It'.
- \$914 per month is the maximum someone can receive in SSI and is intended for food/shelter. You CAN work and receive SSI.
- If a student does not earn over \$2,200 per month in high school, they can receive full SSI. When no longer a student (22 or older) – and making the same amount of money – there will be a reduction in SSI payment, but it doesn't go away. They will still have more per month if working and remain Medicaid-eligible.
- [KY STABLE](#) accounts are investment accounts (tax-free growth) that cost \$25 to open. It can be linked to a bank account and does not impact SSI. However, if your STABLE balance grows to \$100,000, SSI will reduce to \$0.
- Connect students with [Work Incentives Planning and Assistance](#) (WIPA) if they want to work after HS. WIPA offers free benefits planning/coaching.
- The [Kentucky Bank On Network](#) has 31 options to open a bank or credit union online. Some people who are experiencing homelessness don't have bank accounts and may end up with predatory companies.
- Please consider joining an upcoming [KY DB 101 Lunch & Learn](#) (every 4th Monday through October 23rd from 12:30-1:00 pm ET). The Community Work Transition Program will also host a [How a Paycheck Can Work with a Government Check](#) webinar on September 21st, October 19th, and November 16th from 9:30-10 am ET.
- Check out [additional Social Security Resources](#) on the Supported Employment Training Project website.

Agency Updates

OVR (Jonathan White):

- We attended the NACT:C Capacity Building Institute in North Carolina in May and worked on an existing plan. We're conducting focus groups at KY school districts and within OVR. So far, we've completed eight focus groups with districts and two focus groups with OVR to get a feel for how transition services are implemented. We will be compiling findings into a report and figuring out what barriers to address to provide better transition services.
 - Another goal is related to data sharing. Also hope to do smaller-scale projects, such as infographics, videos, etc. to help explain OVR services.
- Beth McDaniel can't be here today – conducting Community Work Transition Program (CWTP) training across the state. Approximately 90 school districts have a CWTP. The focus is assisting students who want to be employed when they exit high school. Primarily for students with more significant disabilities.

OVR (Veronica Dale):

- Gearing up for another school year. Making sure we have forms and providers in place.

KDE (Bill Bates):

- Two weeks ago, we had the KY Career and Technical Education Summer Program along with the Association of Career & Technical Education. At this conference, special education was included for the first time. Special education instructors led five sessions.
- Also, for the first time, we had twelve special education teachers who accepted scholarships to participate in the conference alongside CTE teachers.

KDE (Zach Stumbo):

- Focusing heavily on the homeless education realm on transitions this coming year.
 - McKinney-Vento doesn't provide funding for post-high school. Currently looking at ways other states are supporting students after high school graduation. So many of our homeless students go on to be homeless adults. If we gave them support, we would see better outcomes.

KY-SPIN (Nick Carpenter):

- Upcoming KY-SPIN events:
 - [Stress Management \(for the Caregiver\)](#) on October 18th from 12-1 pm ET.
- Videos:
 - [Successful Employee Worksheet](#)
 - [Youth Talks: Nick on Employment](#)
 - [Equity & Inclusion for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
 - [Supporting and Serving Individuals](#)
- Infographics:
 - [Equity and Inclusion for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
 - [Supporting and Serving Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- KY-SPIN is launching a monthly virtual parent support group. These meetings will be 1.5 hours in duration. The first half of the meeting would be a short informational/training session. The remaining half of the meeting would be a time for discussion with other families with disabilities.

P&A (Beth Metzger):

- In charge of two grants – one for social security beneficiaries and the other is a client assistance program. The client assistance program gets involved when there are issues getting services through vocational rehabilitation or a center for independent living.
- According to WIOA, when looking at pre-ETS, it applies to kids who have IEPs and 504s and kids without a plan but with a diagnosis. 504 usually gets overlooked.

BHDID (Jeff White):

- The Employment First Council is looking at various policies in KY regarding employment and trying to identify barriers. Make recommendations to the governor.
 - Serving as the chairperson of the Provider Capacity subcommittee. In KY, we don't have the capacity to address the demand for employment services for people with disabilities. Looking at existing policies and determining how we can do better at recruiting/retaining/expanding provider bases.
- The Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DDID) is in the middle of the National Employment and Day Services Employment Survey, which determines how each state invests in employment and day training. Trying to draw conclusions from a national standpoint on how we might make changes.
- Carolyn Wheeler and I are hosting monthly Lunch & Learn sessions about the use of [Kentucky Disability Benefits 101](#). About 30 different people show up for this Lunch & Learn each month.
 - The impact of wages on benefits and myths surrounding this are still a significant barrier to employment and needlessly so in many cases.
 - CWTP will do the same thing this fall with school transition staff nationwide. Will be highlighting the [Student-Earned Income Exclusion](#).

GRREC (Katrinka Wagoner and Stacie Hutchinson):

- This school year, we're working on increasing participation within RIIT and trying to get representation from every district within the region.
- This summer, we've done a lot of professional development. For one session, we partnered with Monroe County high school to discuss meaningful transition services in addition to indicator 13 compliance.
- Conducting a person-centered planning training program for secondary special education teachers in October.
- Partnering with KSB/KSD Outreach Coordinators in our region to host transition events for middle and high school students/parents in November.
- Planning virtual indicator 13 trainings for November. We had good participation last year.

WKEC (Tara Harmon):

- Attended the KY NTACT:C Capacity Building Institute.
- Rachel Johnson is WKEC's new director.
- Reestablishing RIIT and networking with directors in the area.
- Hosting a hearing/visually impaired transition fair on November 9th in one of our districts.
- Providing half-day indicator 13 trainings in August.
- Attending the SERTAC kick-off in August for Transition Coordinators. Staci Hutchinson and I are co-leading this.
- Meeting with Tony and Chelsea at KYPSO to create an infographic to distribute through SERTACs for transition fairs.

OVEC (Carrie Stith-Webster):

- In the process of contacting schools to find out where I'll be this year and what students I'll be working with.

NKCES (Emily Borchers):

- Yesterday, we completed a transition road trip with eight teachers, which included integrating real-world experience with community-based employment agencies. This will help inform what we do in the classroom for readiness/post-secondary goals.
- Planning two student and parent-centered transition fairs (for students ages 14+). One will be on October 26th (LBD focused) and the other on November 2nd (MSD focused). OVR has been invited.
- Creating a transition cadre. Through this grant money, we plan a field trip to Carl D Perkins in the fall or spring.
- Planning transition PLN's. Four are currently scheduled. Two will be Lunch & Learn's, and two will be after school.
- Working on indicator 13 training for our district.

SESC (Carla Jordan):

- Planning two student-centered transition fairs for juniors and seniors. One will be on October 26th in the Corbin area and the other on November 1st in Somerset.
 - Have two open speaker sessions if anyone is interested in presenting (30 min). Email Carla if interested at Carla.jordan@sesccoop.org. Also looking for vendors.
 - Discussing adding 504 students.
- Offering MSD teachers mini grants (up to \$750) where they can design their own activities that meet the need of their classrooms. Must make the connection to pre-ETS activities.
- Transition cadre meeting monthly.
- Working on updating the RIIT team. First meeting is scheduled for the end of August.
- Met with directors, described grant, explained what it entails, and how funds are used.
- Surveyed RIIT, cadres, and DoSE's on how they'd like to see funds used.
- Hoping to do coaching with cadre members and provide stipends to attend trainings for coaching sessions.

***Lou-Ann Land - Please reach out to any of the Educational Cooperative SERTAC Transition Consultants if you/your agency can help support the transition fairs by sharing information with transition-aged youth, as either a session presenter and/or by hosting a booth.**

KYPSO/HDI (Tony LoBianco):

- Trying to get the YOYO response rate up. As of this morning, the completion rate is 48%. We are shooting for 60%. In communication with districts urging them to complete interviews.
- The YOYO ends August 31st and started April 1st.
- If SERTACs can help us reach out to districts that would be great. Email Chelsea at chelsea.bocard@uky.edu if you need help setting up a KYPSO account to monitor your districts.

- KYPSO is revising its MOU with KDE. Thanks to our work with Zach, we've included a request for McKinney Vento data to look at post-school outcomes for this population. Also, working with KYSTATS to track longer-term outcomes.
- We can only track a year out (by self-report), so this will be great for indicator 14 and for districts to learn what's going on but it also helps to link to other data sources.
- Also, requesting data on CTE experiences for students in our population. We've done this before, but with changes in staff, we lost that. This will give us information about how IEP students are included, to what extent they're completing CTE programs, and how that links to their outcomes.
- For years we've thought about getting data on Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and we may be able to get with the new MOU. This would give us information on how inclusion affects outcomes and preparing for those outcomes.
- KYPSO would like to have a presence at transition fairs by sharing information such as an infographic. Open to suggestions.

Next meeting: Friday, October 27, 2023, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ET
2024 Meeting dates will be set at the October meeting.

Attendees:

Beth Metzger – KY P&A
 Bill Bates – OSEEL/KDE
 Carla Jordan – SESC
 Carrie Stith-Webster - OVEC
 Chelsea Bocard - KYPSO/HDI
 Deborah Taub – KYPSO/HDI
 Dorothy Jenkins - OVR
 Emily Borchers - NKCES
 Jeff White – BHDID
 Jonathan White - OVR
 Katrinka Wagoner – GRREC
 Lou-Ann Land – KYPSO/HDI
 Lynn Lockard – OSEP/KDE
 Nick Carpenter – KY-SPIN
 Stacie Hutchinson – GRREC
 Tara Harmon – WKEC
 Teresa Belluscio - HDI
 Tony LoBianco - KYPSO/HDI
 Veronica Dale - OVR
 Zach Stumbo - KDE