

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council For Persons with Disabilities (KITC)

Quarterly Meeting
October 27th, 2023

Welcome & Introductions

Ellen Hoffman is a new KITC member from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Ellen started with DJJ on September 1st and will provide quality education services in day treatment, youth development, group, and detention centers. Also, taking on Medicaid monitoring visits.

Presentation

KVEC Transition Inventory and Student Engagement Survey (Will Kayatin & Tony LoBianco)
[Presentation recording \(Vimeo\)](#)

Student Engagement Survey:

- A 15-question survey was administered in the spring of 2023.
- The survey asked students what they know now that they did not know in August of 2022. Answers based on workshop experiences with Will and discussions with teachers.
- Grades 9-11 were represented; approximately 100 students participated.
- Found that students had six in-person (in-school) transition experiences over 1 year (transition conferences, job corps, VR experiences, Perkins, career exploration presentations, etc.)
- The survey will be administered again in the spring of 2024 with slight changes.
- Partnered with KYPSO to evaluate the data.
- In September 2025, we can evaluate the cohort with the YOYO data.

Transition Conference:

- KVEC started a transition pilot project focusing on dual credit participation in the fall of 2021.
- Four high schools were selected (Floyd Centra, Breathitt, Pikeville Ind., and East Ridge).
- The project now includes grades 9-12, and over 200 students have participated in the program.
- Held a [2023 Transition Conference](#) and had sessions for students and teachers; over 700 students attended, and there were over 30 presenters.
- Excited to see the trajectory of these students who started fall 2021 as sophomores.
- Leading [ARP Transition Teacher Leader Work](#). Invest resources in teachers. A dozen districts and 28 teachers are leading the work, creating practice models that will be implemented in spring 2024 and then creating sustainability plans.
 - Teachers will present at a region-wide spring conference/expo hosted at Big Sandy Community & Technical College.

Q&A/Comments:

- Ellen – all HS ed teachers need to focus on activities for students to make them successful when they get out of school. Give them experiences.

- Beth Metzger – liked the teacher roleplay of interactions in the workplace (personal space, etc.). I think everybody needs to be educated in this area. Like the fact that it's having them utilize the information.

KITC Updates

KITC Protocol – Mission, Goals, Membership

- KDE has asked for a KITC protocol.
- The KITC mission is to create a seamless support system for persons with disabilities moving successfully through school into community living. This can be accomplished through interagency cooperative planning, information sharing, and the collaborative use of resources on a statewide level.
 - Up-to-date information sharing
 - Resource sharing
 - Support Regional Interagency Transition teams.
 - Support the development and implementation of the annual state transition plan.
- Is there anything missing from our mission?
 - Tony - we used to have representation from the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN)
 - Primarily, KITC focuses on students with disabilities between the ages of 14-21
 - Jill – we're not talking to parents enough about success at a younger age.
 - Tara – how has KITC supported RITTs in the past? Some are being re-established.
 - Lou-Ann – we have a template from KDE. Will send it to Tara.
 - Carrie – will send what she has to Tara, too.
- KITC membership consists of representation from KYPSO, KDE, OVR, HDI, and Member Organizations (SERTACs, P&A, KY-SPIN, DJJ, DBHDID, OAE).
 - We would like to recruit representation from several of the agencies that have stopped attending, specifically higher education and OCSHCN, but also ARC of KY, KY Partnership for Families/Children, Independent Living, and KCSAC.
 - Jonathan knows someone to reach out to at OCSHCN and will do so.
 - Luv'Tesha – recommends having a representative from the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS)
 - Ellen – could try contacting the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). they may know someone suited to serve on KITC.
 - Luv'Tesha - also suggested we reach out to a point of contact for the agency, who will be able to coordinate any meetings with the CPE staff.
 - Lou-Ann – We can start by reaching out to KCTCS and to universities that participate in the Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP). If that does not pan out, then we can reach out to the CPE.

Subcommittee on Youth Representative

- Received one application to date.
- Seeking ages 16-24

- Will gather the sub-committee to review the application.
- Need assistance from everyone in disseminating the information. Ideally, we would like two student representatives. Ideas for who to reach out to:
 - Transition consultants, OVR counselors, and CWTP consultants can talk to students and share the flyer.
 - Contact higher education Disability Service Coordinators and ask them to disseminate to their students.
 - Utilize social media (LinkedIn)

2024 Meeting date/times

- **Next meeting:** Friday, January 26, 2024, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ET
- Will schedule the remaining meetings in January.

Agency Updates

OVR (Jonathan White)

- OVR continues to serve eligible and potentially eligible students for OVR services.
- We are focusing on building and maintaining relationships with local school districts to facilitate the provision of services to students with disabilities.
- OVR staff in the Transition Services Branch are working on multiple handouts that can be provided to school staff and/or parents that will provide information regarding Pre-Employment Transition Services, Transition services, understanding the difference between Potentially Eligible and Eligible students, and a handout explaining the role of Community Rehabilitation Providers.
- We look forward to partnering with KDE on the transition grant they recently received.

Employment First Council (Jeff White)

- I'm the Provider Capacity Chairperson for the council.
- The collaboration we have with OVR is very important – thank you!
- We're working on addressing goals with the Employment First Council. Created a strategic plan during the first year and recognized that committee construction does not include enough provider input. Expanded this sub-committee to bring other contacts into the process.
- Every Thursday, I hold an Employment Spotlight discussion with providers interested in providing information about barriers to employment and what we can do to address that.
 - Met with Maria Kemplin recently to discuss transportation.
- Created products to communicate what Supported Employment is, myths, etc.
- Holding monthly webinars to promote DB 101 (how working and benefits go together).
- So far, we have provided extended orientations to three case management agencies in KY, and in each case, we've seen an increase in the number of folks accessing employment services.
- Presented at the KY Association of Private Providers. Discussed pre-ETS and how that could be offered to adults in an appropriate fashion.

- We're hearing from school districts that they can't work in pre-ETS because of their other time commitments. Sending this to the transition sub-committee and hoping they can come up with ways to address that issue.
- The biggest concern right now is those individuals with more significant disabilities and the fact that they do not have equitable services.

WKEC (Tara Harmon)

- Getting ready to do a transition fair with our deaf/hard of hearing and visually impaired population on November 9th.
 - Currently, 17 transition-aged students have signed up.
 - Will provide reimbursement for transportation.
 - Parent engagement piece.
- Participated in the Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) national conference last week and presented.
- Re-establishing RITT; will meet in December. Sent email communications to directors.
- Partnered with a doctoral fellow at UofL and Tony and Chelsea from KYPSO have provided us with information about some of our rural and urban areas pertaining to the Parent involvement survey.
- Partnering with KY-SPIN and using parent engagement funds/transition money.
- Here to provide training and transition and work with parent engagement.
- Providing training/compliance in our districts.
- Meeting with other professional learning coaches next week to plan two spring fairs incorporating all students with learning disabilities.
 - Hope to bring in vendors from universities, trade schools, employers, OVR, etc.

OVEC (Carrie Stith-Webster)

- Not personally involved in the ARP grant, but my co-worker Holly is.
 - Teacher cohorts meet every month virtually for training
 - Doing a lot of in-school visits/consulting.
 - Our grant is focused on transition starting with Kindergarten.
- Holly is getting grant proposals from high schools for school-based learning projects.
 - Several applications.
 - Small grants have been approved for the classrooms.
- We'll be collaborating on two transition fairs. One in spring and one in fall.
- OVEC has a huge head start grant. Have grown from one building in Shelbyville to three offices (Shelbyville, Middletown, downtown Louisville).
- I'm starting three new high schools next month, which will put me up to 9 high schools (pre-ETS)
- I now have access to a company vehicle so I can take students out for job exploration. Can take four students at a time. Have gone to restaurants, a hair salon, etc. Will be going to an alpaca farm next week.

- Required to take a staff member with us. Sometimes they can't attend and the outing is cancelled.
- Will try to counteract that - OVC will apply for a small grant from Nordstrom, which may provide equipment for virtual job exploration.

NKCES (Emily Borchers)

- We had our 1st career fair to target students who receive services for MSD this past Monday.
- This coming Monday, we will have another career fair focusing on students who receive services for LBD.
- We are scheduling and completing Indicator 13 trainings region-wide. The focus is on developing PLAAF for transitions.
- All Transition PLNs scheduled for the year!
- Establishing our Transition Cadre from each school.

KYPSO/HDI (Tony LoBianco & Chelsea Bocard)

- The 2023 YOYO had the highest response rate yet - 66%. We saw an increase in competitive employment and higher ed.
- Please share the [YOYO student flyer](#) at upcoming transition fairs.

KEDC (Jenny Hogg)

- Continuing transition cadre formed by special education teachers and Employment Specialists.
 - Met in September and will meet again in November.
 - Identified need for regional indicator 13 training around IEPs. Had two trainings which were well attended.
- Planning a regional transition fair in December which is part of the ARP grant.
- Four dates have been set this spring for reverse career fairs. We did this last year, and it was a great experience.
 - Senior students with disabilities are invited to a regional community & technical college.
 - We want employers to be close geographically so that if a student gets a job offer, they can follow through with it.
 - Students put together PowerPoints to highlight themselves. Set up tables around the room.
 - Invite community employers/agencies. They circulate to each student to do a mini interview. Students prepare elevator pitches. The goal is for students to be offered jobs. Last year, many students walked away with job offers on the spot. Employers were impressed with how our students advocated for themselves.
- Also attended the DCDT conference, and it was great!

KVEC (Will)

- Working on spending time as a field officer at schools. Leading workshops and bringing in guest presenters, which include digital engineers. A lot of the work I do is STEM-based.

- I lead our peer support network. Would be nice to do a coaching session with our peer support network teacher leaders this fall.
- Busy with 12 districts and 28 teachers leading the ARP transition teacher leader work.
- Bi-annually, I lead two low-incidence conferences hosted at Knott Co. Sports Plex.
 - January 12 and May 3
 - Last spring, we had OVR, Perkins, and Job Corps represented.
- My SETAC colleagues are busy; they work with teachers most days in the schools.
- We had a successful fall conference for new and experienced teachers.

CWTP (Jill Griffiths)

- CWTP has completed the beginning of the year training sessions for new and returning Employment Specialists
 - Nine sites across the state
 - Chose to include in the content “need to know information” as opposed to “nice to know”
- Providing “Deeper Dive” sessions with the Employment Specialist via webinar format
 - Topics to date:
 - Introduction to the Electronic Forms
 - Comprehensive Vocational Assessment
 - The deeper dives are allowing us to engage more often with the Employment Specialists
- Continuing to emphasize the program's purpose, competitive integrated employment before high school exit.
 - We are happy to see the percentage of students achieving the goal moving upward.

OAE (Luv'Tesha Robertson)

- Our agency submitted our PY22 federal reports on October 2.
 - We are currently finalizing our Annual Narrative, State Plan submissions, and Financial Reports.
 - Our branch directors have been working closely with the Local Provider Network to fulfill targeted technical assistance requests for the first quarter of PY23.
 - We have created a Mobile Response Team (comprised of representatives from each branch within our agency) to address these inquiries in a timely manner.
- I attended the Advance CTE Fall Meeting October 16-18 in Baltimore, MD, where I served as a moderator for the Data Dashboards Confessionals Workshop.
 - The workshop related to promising practices for creating and using CTE data dashboards.
 - During the conference, we spoke with Dr. Amy Loyd, Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education. She encouraged states to focus on improving and modernizing workforce development, specifically around CTE. Several opportunities were provided for states to discuss current priorities in support of WIOA and Perkins V.

- Throughout the conference, it was highly recommended that states identify in their State Plans how we can best support non-traditional enrollment, career-connected learning, and closing gaps among the workforce (not currently addressed in Perkins V).
- Key priorities to support career-connected learning include:
 - Career-connected High Schools
 - Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities
 - Rural Communities
 - Postsecondary Education and Career Navigation System
 - Dual or Concurrent Enrollment
 - Work-Based Learning
 - Industry-Recognized Credentials
- Upcoming events:
 - Homeless Awareness Seminar on November 1, 2023, from 1-4:30 pm ET at the KY Transportation Cabinet First Floor – C117; 200 Merino St, Frankfort, KY 40601
 - Join the Lifelong Learning Branch as we welcome speakers from Kentucky's Homeless and Housing Coalition and The United Way of the Bluegrass.
 - Please RSVP to Laura Wolfrom at laura.wolfrom@ky.gov

Attendees:

1. Beth Metzger – Kentucky Protection & Advocacy (KY P&A)
2. Carrie Stith-Webster – Ohio Valley Educational Co-Op (OVEC)
3. Chelsea Bocard – Kentucky Post School Outcomes (KYPSO)/Human Development Institute (HDI)
4. Deborah Taub – KYPSO/HDI
5. Dorothy Jenkins – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
6. Ellen Hoffman – Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
7. Emily Borchers – Northern KY Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES)
8. Jeff White – Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID)
9. Jenny Hogg – Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC)
10. Jill Griffiths – Community Work Transition Program (CWTP)/HDI
11. Jonathan White - OVR
12. Lou-Ann Land – KYPSO/HDI
13. Luv'Tesha Robertston – Office of Adult Education (OAE)
14. Tara Harmon – Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC)
15. Tony LoBianco - KYPSO/HDI
16. Veronica Dale – OVR
17. Will Kayatin – Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)