

# Kentucky Interagency Transition Council For Persons with Disabilities (KITC)

Quarterly Meeting  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Welcome & Introductions

### New Representatives

- Brock Mitchum – is our very first Youth Representative. He is currently a high school senior and has applied to four in-state colleges and one in Illinois. He has been accepted to Bellarmine University, WKU, UofL, and UK, and is waiting to hear back from Illinois.
- Kacy Midkiff – works at Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC) within the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS).
- Marissa Duarte – is back but in a new role as the Transition Training Coordinator with the Kentucky Department of Education/Office of Special Education and Early Learning (KDE/OSEEL). Working with the newly formed Transition Education Unit to provide services throughout Kentucky with various agencies to promote better student post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Jacqueline Alexander – new Transition Coordinator with the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES). Works with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant.
- Holly Tracy – Data Manager with the KDE/Career and Technical Education (CTE). Has been in this role for 8 months.

## Presentation

**Title: Improving Post-School Outcomes for Students with Disabilities**

**Presenter: Jason Wheatley (KDE/OSEEL)**

[Presentation Recording \(Vimeo\)](#)

- Transition Education - we embrace this term as transition is why students are in school.
- Developed a Transition Education Unit within OSEEL: Jason Wheatley, Marissa Duarte, Stephanie Miller, Allison Johnson, and Bill Bates.
- Since 2021, through the ARP, we have implemented a Post School Predictor Implementation Project:
  - 34 districts and 272 Local Education Agency (LEA) leaders have been engaged
  - Set up cross-agency/cross-department district team (internal & external) to use the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C) self-assessment and develop an action plan
  - Created a dashboard to view self-assessment results
  - Action plans addressed: student skills, career development, collaborative systems, & policy
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) has been a focus of the ARP. Some initiatives:

- Kentucky CTE Summer Program – professional development for teachers
- Area Technology Center (ATC) - 6 Special Education Outreach Coordinators
- Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) to increase access and experiences
- New Opportunities
  - United We Learn: Purpose in Action design competition
  - Powered by Inclusion Scholarship Program – 306 students awarded in 2023 for a total of \$765,000
  - State Personnel Development Grant – Kentucky Educators Maximizing Postsecondary Outcomes for Workforce and Education Results for Students (KY EMPOWERS)
  - Disability Innovation Fund, Pathways to Partnership Grant (KY Transition360)

## Agency Updates

### Human Development Institute/Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (HDI/KYPSO) - Tony LoBianco

- Gathering data from KDE to populate the Youth One Year Out (YOYO) former student interview.
- People who exited high school last year will be contacted to complete the YOYO interview starting April 1, 2024. The survey looks at post-school outcomes.
  - What are former students doing one year after high school?
  - Are they going to college or a training program?
  - Are they working?
- The YOYO tells us how well we're doing transitioning our senior to post school outcomes.
- The YOYO will take place April 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024.
- YOYO trainings will take place in March – for new and returning interviewers
- Getting close to having other data to link programmatically (Homelessness, Least Restrictive Environment, etc.)
- KYPSO has developed [new YOYO flyers](#). One is geared toward students, and one toward professionals/parents. Help us spread the word.
- [Maurice Dawson Jr. Technology Training Initiative](#) – the deadline to apply is February 9, 2024
  - This is a part-time internship for a high school senior or recent graduate interested in technology.
- Debbie Taub will be taking over as chairperson for KITC effective July 1, 2024.

### HDI - Teresa Belluscio

#### [2024 Summer Leadership Experience](#)

- The Summer Leadership Experience Camp will take place on the University of Kentucky (UK) campus July 16-20, 2024.
- The camp is sponsored by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).
- The [Summer Leadership Experience Camp application](#) deadline is April 30, 2024.
- Kentucky high school students who are starting their junior or senior year in the fall of 2024, and those who will exit high school in the Spring of 2024 and will continue their education starting no later than the fall after high school are invited to apply.

- This camp is also offered virtually.
- Family members of campers are welcome to join virtual informational sessions.
- Brock – had a good time at the camp last year and enjoyed the speaker. He inspired me to advocate and not give up. Can use this to help other people who may have challenges.

### **KY Supported Higher Education Partnership – Technical Assistance Center (KSHEP-TAC)**

- Provides Technical Assistance (TA) and guidance to [Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary \(CTP\)](#) programs.
- Western Kentucky University (WKU) has now been approved for a CTP program.
  - Check out the [WKU News Release](#).
- Kentucky now has six CTP programs.
  - Along with WKU, the CTPs include Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, Bluegrass Community & Technical College, University of Kentucky, and Owensboro Community & Technical College

### **Pre-Employment Transition Services (pre-ETS) Research Study at HDI**

- The pre-ETS research study has been a 5-year study.
- In Phase 2, researchers taught pre-ETS lessons in 5 school districts in Kentucky. We had some great results. We have tweaked our pre-ETS toolkit with lessons and added more resources.
- In Phase 3, we are giving out all our tools to participants who provided/delivered pre-ETS services in KY. Study participants will have access to all the lessons, instructional guides, videos, PowerPoints, and Google documents that pertain to each lesson. There are lessons in job exploration and workplace skills.
- We are asking for participants to enroll in Phase 3.
  - To become a participant, complete the [Effects of Knowledge Translation Methods on Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Providing Pre-ETS to Youth with Significant Disabilities 14-15 years of age: Interest and Referral Form](#).

### **OVR - Jonathan White**

- The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) serves individuals with disabilities and helps them get jobs.
- In 2023, OVR served 45,277 individuals with disabilities (adults and students) and served 18,642 potentially eligible students. Potentially eligible students are students with disabilities who have not yet applied for OVR services but are eligible to receive pre-ETS.
- The average caseload size served for an OVR Counselor is 304. Trying to get that number down.
- Took 11,521 new applications for services.
- Had 3,209 successful closures (get/keep a job for at least 90 days)

### **HDI/Community Work Transition Program (CWTP) - Jill Griffiths**

- The CWTP continues to train new Employment Specialists and provide TA.

- The beginning of year training will be focused on what Employment Specialists need to know. To offset that, we started doing deeper dive webinars. We've held 4-5 so far on different topics (comprehensive vocational assessment, job carving, job networking, disability benefits).
- Started Regional Employment Specialist Networks (RESN) to build a professional learning community (PLC).
  - Pulling in Employment Specialists.
  - This is optional.
  - Chance to build a PLC and learn/share from each other.
- Working on budgets and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). CWTP has stabilized in the last 2-3 years. People are starting to understand the purpose of the program.

## **Kentucky Office of Adult Education (KYAE) - Luv'Tesha Robertson**

### **Strategic Plan Lunch and Learn**

- The Kentucky Office of Adult Education (KYAE) provided a Strategic Planning Lunch and Learn session on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for local providers to review and provide public comment. This training outlined our agency's efforts to promote the Governor's strategic theme of investing in education and workforce, eliminating barriers to employment, improving connections amongst families through family literacy programs, increase education, training and employment opportunities for Kentuckians through Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Workplace Literacy Program (WPL) opportunities, and how our agency is currently support cabinet-led initiatives and priorities around Putting Kentuckians First (PKF), Jobs on Day 1, transition services, and Behavioral health dismissal initiatives.

### **FY23 Audits**

- The Auditor of Public Accounts Office has begun conducting FY23 audits. 31 counties and 7 programs were identified for review. Per the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), we are required to audit 25% of our adult education programs annually.

### **Mobile Response Team Visits**

- Our mobile response team is preparing to visit local programs currently placed on a performance improvement or technical assistance plan for Quarter 3.

### **National Support**

- At the national level, we currently participate in the Digital Resilience in the American Workforce (DRAW) Landscape Scan. This community of practice will help our state identify existing resources and effective approaches for digital skills development required for employers and increase digital literacy skills across Kentucky.

### **KYAE State Performance Summary W/E 1/26/24**

- Total enrollment – 7,688

- Measurable Skills Gains (MSG) – 46%
- General Education Diploma (GED) – 1,476
- Post Test Rate – 40%

### **KDE/Office of Continuous Improvement and Support - Zach Stumbo**

- We're at the end of the three-year grant cycle for the McKinney-Vento sub-grant.
- Recently worked on small updates to the homeless education portion of the [Perkins V State Plan](#). Available for public review/comment until February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be traveling at the end of February to meet with other State Coordinators and folks at the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC) - Merissa Waddey & Katrinka Wagoner**

- In December, GRREC held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ninja STEM-A-thon. Hundreds of K-12 students participated over the course of two days. All students were invited. Worked on engineering, coding, and robotics. Already planning the 2024 event.
- Held two indicator 13 trainings. Directors gather their teachers to discuss district policies.
- Hosted a Regional Interagency Transition Team (RITT) meeting in December.
- Working on a 'Services at a Glance' document to share with stakeholders.

### **Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) - Jenny Hogg**

- Held a two-day student transition fair in December.
  - 270 students, 90 district staff, 20 vendors.
- We have an ongoing transition cadre that meets quarterly (transition compliance).
- Planning four reverse career fairs for March and April.

### **Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) - Will Kayatin**

- Busy with ARP Transition Teacher Leadership Project work.
  - Funded through September through OSEEL.
  - 21 teachers from 14 high schools.
  - Completed logic model process using part of their action planning, creating a model of process. Moving to the implementation phase.
- In 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Transition Pilot Project, which is a longitudinal study over five years.
  - We collaborate with KYPSO on this.
- Attended September 1<sup>st</sup> Transition Teacher Leader Training
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> year of peer support network. We have five high schools and teachers on board.
- The Regional Low Incidence Conference took place on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Eight high schools, 150 teachers/students
  - Five schools are part of a peer support network. Growing that program.
- Continuing pre-ETS work.

- Save the date: Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) Region-Wide Conference on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Over 100 special educators and their special innovative projects will be highlighted. Best practices will be shared.
  - Will take place at Big Sandy Community & Technical College in Prestonsburg, Kentucky.
  - Invites will be sent soon; lunch will be provided.

### **West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC) - Tara Harmon**

- WKEC hosted a transition fair for vision impaired/Deaf and Hard of Hearing students
- 40 participants (parents/students/partners).
- Planning to have a bigger transition fair in the fall for all students with disabilities.
- Kicking off a Transition Academy in February.
  - 16 of 24 districts participating with 36 certified staff (special education teachers, school psychologists, directors, employment specialists.)
  - ARP is funding this
  - Will review indicators 13 & 14, person-centered planning, community waivers, and postsecondary planning.
- We reestablished the RITT and will keep bringing in participants.

### **Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative (SESCC) - Carla Jordan**

- Completed two transition fairs in October and November.
  - Just under 500 participants.
- Holding monthly Transition Cadres
- Continuing RITT meetings
- Offered teachers stipends. Completed 5 coaching sessions. The first part focused on transition fairs, then started coaching sessions with teachers. Offered \$750 mini-grants so they can design something they need specifically. Approved 25 mini-grants so far. Teachers are taking trips to Carl Perkins, etc. An Employment Specialist in Madison County received a mini-grant for two high schools and took approximately 50 students to a business luncheon at Boone Tavern. Several districts are planning transition fairs. A teacher is taking her students to get state IDs made.
- SESCO is planning its summer institute. May contact KITC members to come present. Dates are not set yet.

### **Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) - Emily Borchers**

- Planning Transition Road Trip
- Planning Reverse Transition Fair
- Upcoming trainings on person-centered planning, self-advocacy
- 3-day Transition Institute over the summer

## **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) - Ellen Hoffman**

- Treatment centers have had their special education audits. Getting those reports back
- Attending KEDC trainings on transition
- Having a Title I transition Summit on June 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The focus is on VR technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and community partner sessions.

## **HDI/Teaching Age-Appropriate Learning Through Communication (TAALC) - Lou-Ann Land**

- TAALC is creating a resource for Job Coaches and Employment Specialists on communication for non-speaking students and how to use Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) in the workplace.
- When we look at YOYO data, this population has very low transition outcomes.

## **2024 Meeting Dates**

- Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm ET
- Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm ET
- Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm ET

## **Attendees:**

1. Brock Mitchum (Youth Representative)
2. Carla Jordan (SESC)
3. Deborah Taub (HDI/KYSO)
4. Dorothy Jenkins (OVR)
5. Ellen Hoffman (DJJ)
6. Emily Borchers (NKCES)
7. Holly Tracy (KDE/CTE)
8. Jacqueline Alexander (NKEC)
9. Jason Wheatley (KDE/OSEEL)
10. Jenny Hogg (KEDC)
11. Jill Griffiths (HDI/CWTP)
12. Jonathan White (OVR)
13. Kacy Midkiff (BCTC)
14. Katrinka Wagoner (GRREC)
15. Lou-Ann Land (HDI/KYPSO)
16. Luv'Tesha Robertston (KYAE)
17. Marissa Duarte (KDE/OSEEL)
18. Merissa Waddey (GRREC)
19. Tara Harmon (WKEC)
20. Teresa Belluscio (HDI)
21. Tony LoBianco (HDI/KYPSO)

22. Veronica Dale (OVR)
23. Will Kayatin (KVEC)
24. Zach Stumbo (KDE)