

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council (KITC)

Quarterly Meeting
January 24th, 2025

Welcome & Introduction:

- Newest member: Zac Sappenfield is the Training Facilitator with the [Supported Employment Training Project \(SETP\)](#).

Presentations:

Navigating the College System for Students with Disabilities

Kacy Midkiff – Comprehensive Transition & Post-Secondary Program (CTP) Coordinator/Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC)

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

- Works with high school juniors (up to 30-year-olds) with intellectual disabilities.
- Students come to BCTC for four semesters and eight courses. They end the program with a certificate (half of an associate's degree) regardless of whether they audit or take courses for credit.
- Most of the courses are general education. If a student wishes to continue their education, they may do so.
- The end goal is Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).
- Students attend classes 1-2 days per week and receive 5-8 hours of tutor support. They go to class with a peer mentor. They receive help with assignments/internships.
- Tips for steps to enrollment:
 1. Take a tour and meet support staff.
 2. Complete the application (there may be a fee).
 3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have previous tax information handy.
 4. Gather transcripts from the high school registrar.
 5. Meet the Accessibility or Disability Department (student needs to gather documentation).
 6. Attend an Accommodations Determination Meeting (the college will inform students what they qualify for).
 7. Schedule classes.
 8. Prepare for the semester (books, Learning Management System, tutoring center, computer, etc.).
 9. Start school!
- Parents can see student records in high school. However, according to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA), students are the only ones with access to their records in college. Guardians must be filed with the college.
- While content can be modified to fit needs in high school, in college, the student must meet course standards without modifications.

- Transitioning out of public schools is a big change. We often see a rise in student depression and a struggle to find employment.
- We must build trust with parents; they may overstep because they've been advocates for years. In college, students are expected to advocate.
- About 8 weeks into the semester, many students become overwhelmed.
- When students are treated as adults, their confidence soars. We need to expect them to work hard. They have a lot to give.

How a Paycheck Can Work with a Government Check

Carolyn Wheeler - Provider Development Specialist/Human Development Institute (HDI)

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

- Upon turning 18, Social Security will review eligibility for continued Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments based on the disability rules for adults. Please teach students that this age 18 redetermination will happen. About one-third of children will lose their SSI eligibility.
 - [What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) When You Turn 18](#)
- As Erik W. Carter's (Baylor University) research shows, if students have a job in high school, they're much more likely to be successful after high school.
- We also want to educate students under 22 who are regularly attending school about the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE).
 - [SEIE Infographic](#)
 - The SEIE allows the student to establish funds to get started in life. Combined with a [STABLE Kentucky account](#), a student could save up to \$9,460 per year if they have the income to support that kind of savings for qualified disability expenses.
 - [STABLE Kentucky infographic](#)
 - STABLE Kentucky is Kentucky's Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program. It allows people with disabilities to save money for qualified disability expenses while working and not lose benefit eligibility.
- [Kentucky Disability Benefits 101](#) is a great resource for understanding how work and benefits work together. This website is accessible and smartphone-friendly. Use the School and Work Estimator and determine whether they are only receiving SSI.
 - Example 1: They're receiving the full monthly SSI benefit of \$967. They attend school and work 10 hours weekly, making \$10 per hour. The student would maintain their SSI, and because of the SEIE, they would maintain all SSI AND income from work. So, you can work AND receive benefits.
 - Example 2: They're not attending school. They're still working 10 hours per week, making \$10 per hour. They will receive less SSI, but it's still more than \$967 per month.
 - You can save these reports and/or generate a PDF. This is powerful for showing students and families.
- Let's connect students to the [Kentucky Work Incentives Planning and Assistance \(WIPA\)](#) program. WIPA provides personal counseling on how work can impact benefits. This could be the beginning of a student's career trajectory.
 - [WIPA Infographic](#)

- Carolyn and/or Jeff White are available to do presentations.
 - carolynb.wheeler@uky.edu; jeff.white@ky.gov

Agency Updates:

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

Beth McDaniel – Administrator/Community Work Transition Program (CWTP)

- We have five additional HDI people who will cover each OVR region. They will help coordinate services, support school districts participating in CWTP, and conduct additional outreach to help districts understand the value of the CWTP and OVR services.

Veronica Dale – Branch Manager/Transition Services Branch

- Preparing for summer. Students will gain growth by being in the community during summer (hands-on), and they will see what it's like to be in a workplace.
- Continuing to work with Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG); they continue to grow.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) in Kentucky will eventually become successful, but it will take work. I'm seeing growth in Pre-ETS.

Dorothy Jenkins – Administrator/Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- The agency has purchased a software program called Pathful, which allows providers to provide pre-ETS. We have done demos with contract providers. On February 4th and 5th, we will hold trainings/demos for our Community Rehab Program providers (CRPs), who also provide pre-ETS.

Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

Michelle Blick – Assistant Director of Special Education

- Stacie did a Person Centered Planning (PCP) training at Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) on November 14th
- Held a Post-Secondary Compliance and Impact Training emphasizing tools/resources for compliance indicators and meaningful transitions on November 15th. Seventeen participants (including three Directors of Special Education). Participants walked away with a third-edition transition planning inventory to use with their students.
- Stacie participated in a Transition Panel by the Western Kentucky University Special Education Master's Program on November 20th.
- In November, Stacie presented at the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children conference on PCP.
- Held a Regional Interagency Transition Team (RITT) meeting on December 10th to talk more about PCP
 - The next two RITT meetings will be on February 13th and April 29th.
- This week, Stacie is at the DADD Conference learning about students with autism and Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Zach Stumbo - State Homeless Coordinator/Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

- Working with 14 districts that have sub-grants for the next 3 years.
- Planning our yearly training. This year, we are doing a series of 5 regional trainings with 171 liaisons in September/October. If you are near Ashland, Frankfort, Paducah, Bowling Green, or Northern Kentucky and might be interested in speaking to the homeless liaisons for that region, please email me, and we can put aside 30 minutes.
 - zachary.stumbo@education.ky.gov
- Yesterday, we had a quarterly meeting with the housing council for Kentucky.

Marisa Duarte - Transition Training Coordinator/Office of Special Education and Early Learning

- We've released Kentucky Fast Facts for specific learning disabilities ages 5-21 served under IDEA Part B.
 - Infographics are on the [Special Education Data Visualization web page](#).
 - Directors of Special Education (DoSE's) can also access this information at the [Child Count Dashboard](#)
- The Early Learning Unit has released the non-regulatory guidance [Questions and Answers Related to Kentucky State Funded Preschool All STARS](#)
- The Transition Unit's Transition 360 for Educators Program is now accepting applications. The goal is to enhance the quality of transition programs throughout Kentucky and is focused on key areas that support students with disabilities. Educators are selected and receive a \$750 stipend upon successful completion. Tier 1 is self-paced (online). The application is open to general and special education, counselors, job coaches, employment specialists, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and school/district administrators. Within the next week, the first cohort will be notified. Other people will be placed on a waiting list. We've had an overwhelming response to this opportunity.

Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN)

Kellie Smith - Assistant Director

- [Transition Tuesday Flyer](#). These online webinars are open to everyone but are specially designed for educators and students to attend virtually. [Register](#).
 - Jan 28, 2025: Hey, Where's My Transition Plan?
Transition planning is essential to success after high school. Join Nick as he explains to you what to consider in your transition plan and how to get the support you need.
 - Feb 25, 2025: Identifying Healthy Relationships
You will have many different types of relationships as you enter adulthood. In this session, Nick will explain different types of relationships you will need and how to recognize relationship red flags.
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- Mar 25, 2025: Disability Disclosure
What is Disclosure? When and why would you disclose? How should you disclose your disability? Nick will be explaining all of this and offering you great resources to help you learn what, when and how to disclose your disability to those around you.

Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (KYP SO)

Tony LoBianco - Project Director

- Analyzing last year's YOYO data.
 - Last year, we found that we're doing a little bit better in terms of education and a little bit worse in terms of employment. These are small differences around the margins.
 - It is interesting to look at individual regions/districts. Seeing big gender gaps or disability types in some.
- Reports available online.
 - Hopefully, those of you with school systems are accessing your [individual reports](#).
 - This can be the start of a conversation to see how you can improve post-school outcomes, and we would like to be a part of that conversation.
- We'll announce the upcoming YOYO interviewer trainings within the next few weeks. No major differences this year.
- We'd love to partner with Jacki.

Debbie Taub - Programmatic Transition Expert

- Sharing information from the U.S. Department of Education:
 - [DOE Transition info](#)
 - [DOE inclusive education guidance](#)
 - [DOE Dear Colleague Letter on Inclusive Education](#)

Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC)

Carrie Stith-Webster - ECS College and Career Readiness Consultant

- We would love to expand our program into the summer.
- We are gradually building our Pre-ETS program. Two new counties, Henry and Grant counties, and three more districts are in the pipeline.
- Hired another person to help focus on Bullitt County schools - there is a high level of need there.
- OVEC/Greater Louisville Education Cooperative (GLEC) got our RITT going again. Had a meeting last week with good representation and ideas in place. We will have a student conference focusing on transition next year.
 - Zach Stumbo may be able to help with this conference if we can mention McKinney-Vento.

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)

Will Kayatin – Transition Specialist

- Attended the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) training on The Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI) in September. Moving forward, I

have a partnership with Dr. Lauren Bruno at the University of Kansas to pilot at high schools. Dr. Bruno and her team will visit the KVEC region (virtually) to do formal training. Purchased student workbooks and teacher guides. At its core, SDLMI is a goal-setting process.

- I am looking forward to getting back into the schools and working with my teacher leaders on transition fellowships across three different transition projects, including the peer support network and working with low-incidence students.
- Held a low-incidence region-wide conference on December 13th. Peer mentors led two of the three sessions.
- Planning a region-wide transition conference on March 28th.
- The spring version of the low-incidence region-wide conference is on the 1st or 2nd Friday of May. On one of those Fridays, we will invite middle school students.
- Dates have been set for fall conferences (for students and teachers) and the college campus is booked.
- A para educator conference will be held on August 1st at a local high school. More than 300 para educators will attend.

Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID)

Jeff White – Quality Assurance Coordinator for Employment Service

- Collaborating with OVR to build the capacity of our Supported Employment (SE) system in Kentucky.
- Working with Medicaid to standardize/consolidate Medicaid regulations for SE and day training and make changes to case management regulations to embed career development (and address the fact that 45% of waiver participants want to work in the community and only 15% have that on their plan of care).
- Working on 1915i waiver designed to provide services for people with severe mental illness and substance use disorder. This will include supported education and employment.
- We need to work with providers to ensure they have systems in place to address issues and explore means of helping individuals achieve outcomes that reflect the intent of those regulations.
- Working since 2014 on a comprehensive quality indicators project. Being used by providers right now, field testing our residential service quality indicators, and in 2025, we will move forward with adult day training and case management quality indicators. By 2028, we'll have quality indicators in place for every service provided through waivers.

HDI

Zac Sappenfield – Training Facilitator/Supported Employment Training Project (SETP)

- We're preparing and supporting agencies to work with people coming out of high school (in many instances). We're looking at their vocational skills and other options, such as post-secondary education.

Carolyn Wheeler - Provider Development Specialist/SETP

- HDI is hosting a [webinar on Supported Higher Education](#) on February 14th, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm ET. Registration is required.

- School Psychologists may receive up to 2 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) clock hours. Continuing Education units are approved for Physical Therapy for a category 2 course. CRC credits are approved in Rehabilitation Counseling and are in conjunction with the Kentucky OVR.

NKCES

Jacki Alexander – Transition Coordinator

Emily Borchers - Special Education Consultant

- Working on a high school transition document that will be available for teachers and will highlight needs for certain ages/stages of career. Will follow students as they go through high school to help show progress.
- We hosted two of three Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with teachers. In January, we had Michelle Cobb, a guest speaker from OVR. It was great to have her talk directly with teachers, and there was a great discussion.
- We trained 20 teachers in September on SDLMI and half of them are sinking their teeth in. We will start with a data dashboard to begin collecting data.
- We are working on our reverse career fair. Last year, we had 50 students, and we're hoping for 100 this year.
- Had third RITT meeting. We've doubled membership (we're now up to 12 people).
 - Membership includes a couple of parents, employers, and community members.
 - Sent out a survey to gather feedback on the transition experiences of our graduates and their families so that we can improve moving forward.
- Finished training on adolescent literacy at the middle and high school levels. Trying to get them support at that level if they move on to college or work.

BCTC

Kacy Midkiff - CTP Coordinator

- The CTP program is opening the selection process again in March. Anyone interested can contact me:
 - Kacy.midkiff@kctcs.edu or text my Google Voice at 502-783-7314

Kentucky Protection & Advocacy (KY P&A)

Beth Metzger - Client Assistance Program (CAP) Coordinator

- Oversee two grants that focus on employment. One is for beneficiaries of Social Security and the other is CAP. Work closely with OVR and Independent Living.
- In December, I sent out two one-pagers on transition. One is a [FAQ on job accommodations](#) and the other is [tips for postsecondary education](#). Sent to the Kentucky DoSE listserv.
- Kentucky P&A has a new address: 11 Mill Creek Park, Suite 100; Frankfort, KY 40601. We are in the process of setting an open house date.
- An attorney and I can come speak about employment and postsecondary rights. Takes 1 hour. Did for three classes in Madison Co. Well received.

Attendees:

1. Abbie Morris - Murray State University (MSU)
2. Beth McDaniel – Kentucky OVR
3. Beth Metzger – Kentucky P&A
4. Carolyn Wheeler – HDI
5. Carrie Stith-Webster – OVEC
6. Chelsea Bocard – HDI/KYPSO
7. Debbie Taub – HDI/KYPSO
8. Dorothy Jenkins – Kentucky OVR
9. Ellen Hoffman – Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
10. Emily Borchers - NKCES
11. Jacki Alexander - NKCES
12. Jeff White – HDI/DBHDID
13. Kacy Midkiff- BCTC
14. Kellie Smith – KY-SPIN
15. Marisa Duarte – KDE
16. Martin Monson - Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB)
17. Michelle Blick – GRREC
18. Teresa Belluscio – HDI
19. Tony LoBianco – HDI/KYPSO
20. Veronica Dale – Kentucky OVR
21. Will Kayatin – KVEC
22. Zac Sappenfield – HDI/SETP
23. Zach Stumbo – KDE