

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council (KITC)

Quarterly Meeting

April 25th, 2025

Presentations:

University of Kentucky Summer Leadership Experience Camp

Teresa Belluscio – Human Development Institute (HDI)

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

- The [Summer Leadership Experience Camp](#) is sponsored by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and has been at the University of Kentucky (UK) since 2017.
- The camp will take place from July 6-10 and be in-person and virtual.
- The registration deadline has been extended to May 15.
- Parents and OVR counselors can join information sessions virtually.
- The camp is for upperclassmen high school students with disabilities interested in post-secondary education (doesn't have to be UK).
- Campers are approved by OVR and could also be potentially eligible.
- There are only 20 slots available, and we ask families to hold their spot via a \$50 application fee.
- If a family cannot afford the \$50 application fee, we can reduce or waive it. Typically, the \$50 application fee is not refunded.
- The camp includes skill-building sessions, activities, and focused informational sessions.
- Campers complete an evaluation at the end. Last year:
 - 4.8/5.0 campers enjoyed the camp
 - 4.5/5.0 campers reported that the camp helped them understand skills needed for post-high school education
 - The top three activities at camp included Cody Clark, The Main Event venue, and the movie 23 Blast, based on speaker Travis Freeman.

Person-Centered Planning (PCP)/Charting the LifeCourse Tools (CtLC)

Stacie Hutchison – Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

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

- What's important for and to an individual.
- Using the [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition \(NTACT\) predictors](#). What activities support successful transitions?
- [Charting the LifeCourse](#) tools are free, editable, versatile, and have lots of structure.
- The CtLC core belief is that all people have the right to live, love, work, play, and pursue their own life aspirations.
- Exploring life domains: daily life and employment, community living, advocacy & engagement, safety & security, social & spirituality, and healthy living.

- Since November 2023, we've had eight professional learning sessions in 5 SERTACs, 3 conferences, and a 1-month-long training for students, parents, and teacher triads.
- The Office of Special Education & Early Learning (OSEEL) American Rescue Plan (ARP) has funded triads of stakeholders, intentional and scaffolded self-determination skill development, networking and resource discovery, and autistic college student interns.
- We've done some in-person trainings on PCP practices and offered ongoing support.
- We're embedding these practices into our Regional Interagency Transition Team (RITT) and Indicator 13 training. Looking at compliance (there's a box that says PCP).

Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI)

Jacki Alexander – (NKCES)

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

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) defines self-determination through language around choice and autonomy.
- We have partnered with the [University of Kansas on a Self-Determination research project](#).
- Three pillars for a successful life: decide, act, and believe. The three pillars are interdependent, and they fluctuate. Skills can be taught and developed.
- Three inventory systems: student report (3-22), parent/teacher report, and the adult report (18+).
- The survey is on a sliding scale (from disagree to agree or can click anywhere in between). The inventories are accessible. Text, text-to-speech, or sign language videos. Scores are graphed according to decide, act, and believe. Gives suggestions for actions to take and the skills that may be needed.
- Then, set a goal, take action, and adjust the goal or plan. These goals can be repeated. However, if completing for a second or third time, beginning lessons may fall off and can go directly into phase 1.
- Within each phase, student questions lead students through problem-solving. There are also teacher objectives.
- Three high schools and one Employment Specialist (ES) are implementing this framework. Looking at academic, behavioral, and employment goals.
- Students make the decisions. This is coaching, not instruction.
- Have had success with freshmen, but some pushback from upperclassmen. Mostly implemented in resource classes; not as much success in co-teaching classes.
- Fifteen teachers have been trained, but not all have continued due to challenges they have faced. We will go back in and support and try to do it next year.
 - Tony - would be happy to link to YOYO outcomes
 - Will – this is a great resource for transition. We are using these tools with success.
 - Jonathan – both are great tools to help students be more intentional about their paths and to help educators help students be more intentional.
 - Emily – gives general education teachers an inside perspective.
- [Check out the SDLMI website inventories.](#)

Agency Updates:

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

Jonathan White – Assistant Director

- In the last few years, we've seen a significant increase in referrals. Now, we find ourselves in a difficult budget situation. Moving up in [order of selection](#), which means closing priority categories.
- Categories aren't closed yet. But I think they will be on May 1. Potentially a little sooner. Waiting for a response from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).
- We're directing people to the [OVR website](#) where you can access the PowerPoint presented at public hearings that explains the order of selection as well as a Q&A document.
- Working with Allison Johnson and Jason Wheatley at KDE on a pilot project focused on creating guidance for local collaboration for school districts. How local school districts can collaborate with the local OVR office. Met with a couple of schools so far, and it has been well received. We have a couple of other school districts coming up. Hopefully, if it goes well, we can build out to other districts across the state.
- Working with KDE on Transition 360 and putting together training for pre-Employment Transition Service (pre-ETS) providers.

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

- Thank you, Carrie, for your collaboration with CWTP. It shouldn't be territorial; we can all work together. We need more people to help us serve students.
 - Carrie – so many kids are unserved, which breaks my heart. Some of us are learning to collaborate.
- Right now, over 60 CWTP applications have come in, and MOAs are going out.

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

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

- Preparing for professional learning. Meeting regionally and transition is one part of the training we'll do. We'll have five regional meetings for 174 homeless liaisons. If someone has something they'd like to present, please email me.
- Once we send the registration, there will be a section for feedback. If we need to consider additional areas, please let us know. We have room for one additional date.
- No updates related to funding for next year but remain hopeful that it will be coming.

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

- On March 26 and 28, GRREC held a STEM-a-thon, and we participated by bringing immersive Virtual Reality (VR) headsets for middle and high school students to explore careers.

- OSEEL is excited to announce the Special Education Teacher Kentucky Career and Technical Education (KYCTE) [Summer Program Scholarship Opportunity](#). This scholarship opportunity is open to special education professionals dedicated to supporting students with disabilities in Career and Technical Education (CTE) environments, including but not limited to Directors of Special Education, Special Education teachers, and paraprofessionals. Scholarship recipients will receive an \$800 stipend to support their attendance at the 2025 KYCTE Summer Program. The deadline to apply is May 15. Additional information can be found within the scholarship application. The scholarship review committee will notify recipients no later than May 31 so that arrangements can be made prior to the Summer Program registration deadline of July 11. For questions, contact bill.bates@education.ky.gov.

Sheri Craig - Office of Career and Technical Education

- Completed end-of-program assessment training for students at the end of March, and Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) pre-apprenticeship assessment training will be at the end of April.
- The annual CTE summer program is July 28-31.
- Career Work Experience certification on employability skill attainment data will be reported to KDE by the end of May.

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Ellen Hoffman – Justice Program Administrator

- Still waiting on information from the U.S. Department of Justice. They are working in our detention centers, looking at detention issues.
- Working with the education branch and overseeing professional development (PD). I will refer them to SERTACs in their area for training. Asked all our principals to forward me their PD plans for next year when doing teacher evaluations.
- Our Transition Summit will be July 30-31. CKEC is doing Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) chairperson training. We'll be in Bowling Green next year, so we're contacting GRREC to provide services for us there.
- Touring across the state to make sure students are getting services.

Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC)

Jenny Hogg – Education Consultant

- KEDC just finished hosting four reverse career fairs around our region. Partnered with Community & Technical Colleges. Students get to see campuses, and campuses can recruit our students. Almost 100 students participated. Some landed jobs that day, or got an internship, or a second interview. Sixteen out of our 21 districts participated, which was an increase from last year. One student had 20 interviews in one day. Anyone who wants to come and observe is welcome.

Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN)

Nick Carpenter – Youth Educator

- April's theme was emergency preparedness for disabled youth. It's important to know the difference between an urgent situation and an emergency situation.
- A kitchen safety video will be coming out soon, as well as postsecondary goals for the IEP.
- Every month, I host a 40-minute Transition Tuesday presentation for high schools. You can find these recordings on our website – there's one on transition plans and identifying healthy relationships and disability disclosure.

Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (KYPSO)

Tony LoBianco - Project Director

- The YOYO opened on April 1. As of this morning, a little over 500 interviews have been completed.
- SERTACs, please remind your districts to complete the YOYO and collect former student contact information for next year's YOYO. This is our second year without being able to provide contact information from the state. Concerned that this may hinder our response rate.
- We will send you updates as we can. If you need more information from us, let us know.
- Debbie is putting together one-page flyers for SERTACs each month. One has been on employment, and the most recent was on engagement. Feedback is welcome.

Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC)

Carrie Stith-Webster - ECS College and Career Readiness Consultant

- We have pre-ETS in six districts. Finally, pre-ETS started in Shelby County this last week (only three students so far, but off to a great start).
- Another part-time pre-ETS person is helping in Bullitt County.
- Community Work Transition Program (CWTP) staff in districts tend to be concerned about territory and billing, so I try to tread carefully.
- Many districts I work with do not have a CWTP.
- I am working with Sophomores up to grade 14 on interest inventories, job exploration, and practicing job interviews. We had a nice visit to General Butler State Park in Carrollton last month. A state park is a great place to find out about jobs in different sectors. Park staff are busy, but they were welcoming to our students. Ten park staff presented.
- Working with kids in Oldham County. Getting them out of the building is hard, so we're working in the greenhouse stuff and learning how to start things from seeds.
- In Oldham County, I always have students stand up and introduce themselves. With older students, I have them lead activities.
- Partnered with Shelby County for a Community Resource Fair. This is a very popular event. We also had two parent workshops. Fifteen families attended.

- Our RITT (with GLEC) has two new chairs. Kitty Zachary with the Coalition for Workforce Diversity and Rob Stafford (used to be a school superintendent in Owen County and has an adult daughter with a disability).
- We just started planning a student transition conference for 2026.
- Shelby County Public Schools started a transition team last fall. They're using NTACT predictors of post-school success as their map. It's a good way for me to collaborate and meet people from the community.
- Head Start, a publicly funded OVEC program, is on the chopping block. Please advocate for us.

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)

Will Kayatin – Transition Specialist

- Just finished our region-wide conference and exposition for our special educators, showcasing innovation in special education on April 11. We had the entire Big Sandy Community & Technical College campus. Twenty-three teachers attended, and we had 17 presentations across three different transition projects.
- Next Friday, I'm leading our bi-annual region-wide low incidence Moderate to Severe Disabilities (MSD) transition conference. Eight high schools are attending. All schools that subscribe to the peer support network I lead will be there. Peer mentors will lead the sessions on teamwork, problem solving, crafts, fine motor skills, and lunch. It's an excellent outing for those students. We have been doing it since fall 2017.
- Gearing up for lots of summer training.
- On August 1, over 300 paraeducators will attend our 2nd annual paraeducator conference. I'm leading a higher education session. Trying to encourage people to finish their bachelor's degrees and become certified teachers.
- The transition pilot project is moving into its last year. Pushing out the spring survey. There is a strong correlation between academic growth and the density of transition experiences.

NKCES

Jacki Alexander – Transition Coordinators and Emily Borchers - Special Education Consultant

- Jacki - Our reverse career fair is on Monday, April 28. 100 students from across the region will be coming. Students will be stationed at tables with posters and resumes and will be ready for on-the-spot interviews. Thirty employers are coming.
- Our RITT team is up and running. This is our first year back in quite a while. Sent surveys to graduates and their families. We're meeting next week to evaluate that data and develop a plan. The most interesting information we got was that parents/families want/need access to information in one place – a one-stop shop. They overwhelmingly want a human to speak to. They want in-person training and information meetings.
- Emily and I have decided to change how we work with our teachers. We will continue with regional training and develop cadres. We will start attending school-level Professional Learning

Committees (PLCs) to create those relationships with our teachers and embed information we have into their daily work. Cadre coaching model instead of a training model.

- Emily – We traditionally have a Transition roadshow for teachers where we rent a van and visit adult supporting agencies in northern Kentucky. Thinking that might be a good model for parents and could offer them to go around and tour different facilities/agencies and talk to people from those organizations.

Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

Dr. Stacie Hutchison – Low Incidence Consultant

- I love the idea of embedding transition into a PLC. You're not asking anybody to do something extra; you're being intentional about skills/supports that you're putting into place.
- April 29 will be our final RITT of this school year. Holding a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) roundtable. Four Kentucky CTP Coordinators will join us to discuss their programs and programmatic supports that our Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can implement. At the same meeting, we will dive into the Predictor Implementation School/District Self-Assessment (PISA) to support/inform session topics for the 2025-26 school year.
- GRREC just hired a new Due Process Consultant. I will work with them on an Indicator 13 + transition planning training that will take place on November 19. Make sure we're intentional about the support we provide.
- Refining our RITT structure and developing a community of practice specific to MSD teachers or teachers of students with extensive support needs, specific to transition next year.
- The first RITT of the 2025-26 year will be on September 12 and will be virtual.
- AI for Educators training on June 18 at Cave City Convention Center. Doing a session on using AI in transition planning.
 - Showcasing features of ChatGPT, such as being intentional about the queries we submit, redacting identifiable information, community mapping, supports, etc.

Attendees:

1. Abbie Morris - Murray State University (MSU)
2. Beth McDaniel – Kentucky OVR
3. Carrie Stith-Webster – OVEC
4. Chelsea Bocard – HDI/KYPSO
5. Dorothy Jenkins – Kentucky OVR
6. Ellen Hoffman – Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
7. Emily Borchers - NKCES
8. Jacki Alexander – NKCES
9. Jenny Hogg – KEDC
10. Jonathan White - OVR
11. Marisa Duarte – KDE
12. Nick Carpenter – KY-SPIN
13. Sherri Craig – CTE/KDE

14. Stacie Hutchison - GRREC
15. Teresa Belluscio – HDI
16. Tony LoBianco – HDI/KYPSO
17. Veronica Dale – Kentucky
OVR
18. Will Kayatin – KVEC
19. Zach Stumbo – KDE