

# Quarterly KITC Meeting | October 24, 2025 | Minutes

## Welcome and Introductions – New Members!

- **Stacy Lindsey** is an Education Liaison with LifeWorks for Autism in Bowling Green. LifeWorks is a non-profit postsecondary program for young adults. Our Transition Academy is a two-year live-and-learn community. Our Bridge Academy is a brand-new partnership with KCTCS.
- **Megan Best** is a new faculty member at UK in the department of Early Childhood, Special Education, & Counselor Education. Background is a high school special education teacher and administrator.

## Presentations

### Christina Espinosa, KATS Network

#### [Presentation Recording](#)

- Reviewed the [Human Development Institute Mission/Vision](#).
- Shared Kentucky 2024 disability rates from the CDC. Numbers decreased from 2023. We're still at 34% or 1 in 3 adults in Kentucky who have a disability.
- Assistive Technology (AT) is any device or aid that can help a person with a disability perform activities that might otherwise be difficult or not possible.
- There are still kids in Kentucky leaving school without a communication system in place.
- The Assistive Technology Act was passed in 1988 and allows us to increase awareness, access, and acquisition of AT. It was reauthorized in 2004 and again in 2022.
- Funding goes to 56 states and territory-wide AT Act Programs to provide demonstration, loans, financing, training, TA, etc.
- In Kentucky, it's the [KATS network](#), which comprises five regional centers. We don't require proof of disability.
- Bookmark our [funding guide](#) and pass this along to families. It breaks down funding by public and private sources.
- We also provide a [lending library](#) and an [AT locator](#). We have a lot of pediatric equipment. We would love to get these out to schools, homes, etc.
- The [Appalachian Assistive Technology Loan Fund \(AATLF\)](#) provides access to AT through no-interest loans to gain greater independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community.
- Visit [AT Reuse/CARAT](#) to request or donate items.
- Our services are available throughout the state, but we can't deliver things.
- The Housing Futures Project is a newer project funded by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities and aims to address the shortage of

accessible and affordable housing. We plan to meet with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in their homes to conduct assessments and discuss their housing options. Home automation is an exciting part of AT (closing blinds, turning on fans, etc.).

- Reach the Housing Futures Project at [Housingfutures@uky.edu](mailto:Housingfutures@uky.edu)
- Reach out to the KATS Network at [hdiatcenter@l.uky.edu](mailto:hdiatcenter@l.uky.edu)

## **Tony LoBianco, KYPSO**

### *New Reporting System*

- When KYPSO started in 2006, we had an advisory group – we were figuring out how to build the YOYO reporting system. As the years went on, we realized that everyone on the advisory group was also on KITC, so we decided to make KITC our main advisory group. We're looking for feedback today on our new reporting system, which will go live next week. We'll also show you the 2025 YOYO data. Additionally, we would appreciate your feedback in drafting a new item for the 2026 YOYO regarding accommodations.
- Our old reporting system was through Microsoft Report Builder, which is ending. It was imperfect at making data understandable and actionable. We hope that this new reporting system will help stakeholders take action for education and employment outcomes.
- Indicator 14 targets are: 19.1% (14A), 55.4% (14B), and 68.4% (14C). State rates are 18.3% (higher ed) and 41.4% (competitive employment).
- Hypothetically, let's say your district data is 30% for 14A and 50% for 14B. In the new reporting system, you'll see a 14B bar graph showing 20% for competitive employment and 30% for higher education, totaling 50%. What's your competitive employment rate? In terms of higher education, you're doing great, and you're above the state target. There's no way to tell, though, how your district is doing in terms of competitive employment. OSEP likes it to be measured hierarchically, with higher education listed first. These are not mutually exclusive categories.
- With the new reporting system, you'll get indicator 14 data more clearly, in multiple formats, and in multiple places. You'll also get the familiar crosstab table showing education and employment outcomes and how they overlap. Each table can be disaggregated (year, type of exit, type of disability, etc.). Each outcome will have more detailed reports (for district-level staff with logins).
- Upon logging into the new reporting system, you'll see the Outcomes Overview report. You'll be able to filter by SERTAC and district-level data. Indicator 14A, B, and C targets will be at the top of the page. Below that, you'll see your actual Indicator 14 data. Kentucky 2025 Indicator 14 won't be available until February 2026.
- Last year, our higher education number was 19.3% so we're down a full point. Competitive employment was 45.3% so we're down almost four points on that. Numbers aren't great this year. We're still digging into why.

- What didn't change much from last year was African American competitive employment rates.
- Students who exited on the alternative diploma track increased in competitive employment.
- Looked at LRE and guardianship, which stayed about the same as last year.
- The number of people who were considered CTE Completers dropped 8% which is a positive predictor of post-school employment. This may partially explain why our outcomes weren't as good this year.
- Our Data Quality report will show you your district response rates.
- For those without a district login, we'll have public reports available. You'll be able to disaggregate the data (you won't be able to dive into district-specific data) and view indicator 14 trends over four years.
- Tony shared that KYP SO would like to implement an interactive reporting model in the future. Everyone agrees that this would be very helpful and would aid in interpreting the data.

#### *Q&A*

- Jonathan – Looks great. Like the layout, and it looks easy to use. It would be good to see how it functions for a screen reader if someone is blind.
- SERTACs agreed that it would be beneficial to view multiple districts at once and would like for the district drop-down to default to No District Selected.
- Stacie – Is there a possibility of incorporating qualitative data?
  - Tony – probably not in this reporting system. We will incorporate qualitative data in our state report. Also, feel free to reach out to KYP SO with any questions. Debbie could and often does incorporate this into individualized SERTAC reports.
- Will suggested video tutorials.
  - Tony – we could also do Zoom trainings and/or personalized trainings.
- Jenny Hogg - DoSEs have been utilizing the [KY Special Education Indicator Dashboard](#). Do you collaborate with KYSTATS or whoever builds/updates that platform?
  - Tony – They're getting their numbers through KYP SO (through KDE). Our data goes more in-depth and is more personalized.

#### *Feedback on YOYO Accommodations Question*

- We want to change the YOYO questions/answers regarding accommodations. Currently, the question is, "Do (or did) you receive any of the following supports/accommodations at this job?". Currently, the answer options are (check all that apply):
  - Job coach/employment specialist (someone who offers advice to improve performance)

- Personal aide or assistant (for personal care needs, not specifically work-related)
  - Special equipment like a computer, braille, furniture, etc.
- We'd like to change the question/answers to: "Do you receive any of the following supports or accommodations at your job? (check all that apply)"
  - Adjustments to job tasks (for example, removing certain duties or having a flexible schedule)
  - Accessible equipment or spaces (for example, adjustable chairs, standing desks, accessible restrooms, large-print materials)
  - Help with staying organized or reducing stress (for example, job coach, quiet spaces, break areas, checklists, clear instructions, color-coded systems)
  - Transportation assistance (for example, help with getting to and from work)
  - Assistive technology (for example, speech to text, screen readers, augmentative communication systems)
- In agreement that an "other" option would be helpful.
- Tony reminded everyone that students won't see these answer options. They are for interviewers so they can provide examples to students. The purpose of this question is so special education teachers/DoSE's will know what to tell their students to ask for and how to advocate.
- Beth – Do we want to measure ADA, or if students' needs are being met?
- Emily – are we trying to measure a number or an impact? If they got an accommodation, did it allow them to stay on the job?
- Stacey mentioned that Job Coaches can be involved in all of these examples.
- Deb – we will review notes and come up with next steps. We may send this out again to KITC and ask for feedback.

## Agency Updates

*NKCES (Emily Borchers, Special Education Consultant)*

- We concluded our visit with middle schools and how inclusive they are with all students. We look forward to diving into this data.
- Our MSD transition fair is on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Participating in unified sports for bocce ball.
- We're revamping the transition portion of our website to make it more streamlined for parents, DoSE's, etc.
- Planning a reverse career fair for juniors and seniors. Some districts are branching off to conduct these fairs on their own. We wonder how this will go without us setting the tone.
- Conducting a multitude of trainings for all of our schools.
- Excited about a brand new facility called Perspectives in Kentucky. An entire space to teach work and independent living skills. Fully equipped kitchen, laundry, classrooms, sensory room, theater room, and game room. We can go in and teach

skills as SERTAC staff. Our first class is next Thursday. Hopefully, our kids can come get CBI.

*KVEC (Will Kayatin, Transition Specialist)*

- Presenting this afternoon at the KVEC fall conference.
- Recently finished our Transition Teacher Leader Training. They're moving forward. There are 25 teacher leaders across three projects. Up to eight high schools in the region for this project.
- Two presentations at CEC on Sun/Mon. One is on the peer support network, and the other is on two transition projects.
- Just finished up region-wide PSE conferences over the last three Fridays. Over 900 high school students participated. We booked the entire Big Sandy Community College campus for that and had 30 presenters.

*KDE/OSEEL (Marisa Duarte, Transition Training Coordinator)*

- New Competitive Grant Opportunity – KY Transition 360 SPARK: Supporting Postsecondary Achievement and Resources for Kentucky students with disabilities. Award Amount: \$75,000 per awarded district to strengthen transition programming. Applications are due November 25, 2025, by 4 p.m. ET. Please review the full RFA, including eligibility and application details, on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#). For questions, contact [Jennifer Bryant](#).
- Kentucky Transition 360 *for Educators*: Kentucky educators can apply for the fourth cohort of [KY Transition 360 for Educators](#), part of the State Personnel Development Grant (KYSPDG) program. The program provides asynchronous professional learning to strengthen educators' transition skills and improve post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities. Participants receive a \$750 stipend, and to date, 270 educators have completed the program. Feedback from previous cohorts has been overwhelmingly positive. For more information, contact [Magan Gaddis](#).

*KDE/Office of Continuous Improvement and Support (Zach Stumbo, State Homeless Coordinator)*

- Traveling throughout the state for regional trainings. Stacie presented to one group, and we received great feedback.
- Not so great news at the federal level. Our federal team was entirely let go. Hopefully, the program will survive.
- Excited to release our state report card data in the coming months. We did have a decrease in 900 identified students. We're now at just over 22,000 students statewide. Watching the graduation rate closely. Last year we were at almost at 88% and the top state in the county is at 91.4%.

- Will be traveling to Dallas on October 31<sup>st</sup> for the national conference. I was selected to be the state coordinator of the year for the country. They will officially announce it on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*OVR/Division of Field Services (Jonathan White, Assistant Director)*

- In September, we had our pre-ETS summit in Louisville, which went well. We had providers present and a speaker from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition. The grant reopened, so they can continue providing TA. This was our second year, and we received great feedback. The point is to connect OVR and the school district staff.
- This week, we had our AT workshop in Frankfort at the KSU Model Farm hosted by the KATS network. This year, the AT workshop was focused on pre-ETS. All speakers/presentations focused on AT for students with disabilities.
- Still in Order of Selection. We still have folks on the waitlist. That will continue for the foreseeable future. Keep monitoring the budget to determine when we can take people off the wait list to serve them.

*Supported Employment Training Project (Zac Sappenfield, Training Facilitator)*

- We're compiling our quarterly report that details our work.
- We've seen success with our roundtable conversations. We pick a subject from our core training to address.
- We've been providing TA, and we've implemented a Professional Learning Community. Each SETP staff member has five mentees, whom we meet once per month. There are also quarterly collaboration meetings for managers and Employment Specialists. It's been great to develop relationships and understand what's going on in the field.
- We're developing advanced customized training with consultants from the NEON project, which we plan to pilot in 2026.
- We have several [new online courses in our Learning Management System](#). Our courses start with SETP.

*GRREC (Stacie Hutchison, Low Incidence Consultant)*

- Conducted a session for McKinney Vento liaisons.
- Conducted the first RITT of the year, focused on interagency collaboration and parent expectations from NTAC:C predictors.
- In September, we partnered with Carolyn Wheeler to talk about person-centered planning practices for a group of waiver services providers and educators.
- In October, I had a CWEC process training with educators out of the GRREC region focused on supporting career readiness initiatives in our region for students on alternative assessment.
- Working on brainstorming with districts about KDE SPARK grant.

- Training on November 19<sup>th</sup> focused on transition-focused IEPs. Pulling in indicators for compliance, but also how to make supports meaningful.
- Sarah Tinker from GLEC and I are presenting at KYCEC about self-determination skills for students across grade bands and how to teach those.
- Next RITT on December 4<sup>th</sup> and will focus on transition programming and will feature districts that have participated in the Transition KY 360 content and earlier cohorts.
- Two presentations coming up at the national CEC division of autism and developmental disabilities in January. 60-minute session on our systematic MSD cadre for new teachers and building those good instructional practices. Also doing a poster session with my friend Dr. Christina Knowels from Western on our person-centered planning triadic summer programming that I talked about in the spring.

*KEDC (Jenny Hogg, Education Consultant)*

- It's been an exciting fall for transition work! We attended the DCDT Conference and came back with some great ideas to share with our districts.
- Our Transition Cadre sessions include collaboration with community partners to strengthen student outcomes, and recent training sessions on transition compliance have sparked great conversations.
- We're gearing up for spring reverse career fairs and are excited to see those play out!

*KDE/CTE (Sherri Craig, End-of-Program Assessment System Consultant)*

- The [Working with Exceptional Children in CTE](#) has been updated for 2025-26.

## **Attendees:**

Beth McDaniel, Beth Metzger, Chelsea Bocard, Christina Esponisa, Deborah Taub, Dorothy Jenkins, Ellen Hoffman, Emily Borchers, Jenny Hogg, Jonathan White, Kellie Smith, Marisa Duarte, Megan Best, Nick Carpenter, Stacie Hutchison, Stacy Henderson, Tony LoBianco, Veronica Dale, Will Kayatin, Zac Sappenfield, Zach Stumbo