

ANNUAL STATUS REPORT



The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for
Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental
Disabilities

Submitted in Accordance with KRS 210.577 to:

Governor Andy Beshear and
the General Assembly
December 2023

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Fiscal Year 2023

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with KRS 210.577(3), the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities respectfully submits the following report for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities was created and established by KRS 210.575 through the enactment of House Bill 144 by the 2000 General Assembly. This commission, hereafter referred to as the HB 144 Commission, serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the service system that affects the lives of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

MEMBERSHIP

The commission's membership in 2023 included 24 individuals representing an array of stakeholders. Nine of these positions are appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms and include representation of family members, provider organizations, advocacy groups, and self-advocates. Four members of the General Assembly are appointed, and the remaining 11 members are stipulated in KRS 210.575 and include representation from the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), departments within CHFS, the University Center for Excellence in Disabilities at the University of Kentucky, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Andrew Venetianer on November 30, 2022. Mr. Venetianer was a self-advocate serving in his 8th year with the commission. The commission is grateful for his contributions to improving the service system for people with I/DD.

The list of commission members and their term expirations as of June 30, 2023, are included in Appendix A of this report.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The commission organized committees in September 2019 based on identified areas of need. During fiscal year (FY) 2019, each committee determined 5-year goals respective to the

identified area of need. Committee membership is inclusive of stakeholders with special interest and/or expertise in the respective committee's goals and objectives.

The committee structure is organized as follows:

- Employment Committee collaborates with the Employment First Council, and other similar initiatives to advance Kentucky as an Employment First state, including a review of transportation needs;
- Community Education/Outreach Committee is responsible for the topical areas of resources and self-advocacy; and
- Health/Wellness Committee is responsible for the topical areas of psychotropic medication usage, inclusion of individuals with complex medical needs, increased capacity of specialty clinics, and crisis intervention.

FY 2023 COMMITTEE REPORTS

During FY 2023, the committees met and continued work on the 5-year goals and short-term objectives adopted in FY 2019. Each committee has focused efforts on one or more of the identified goals and objectives. Following is each goal, short-term objectives (as applicable), and a summary of each committee's efforts related to the identified goal(s) in FY 2023. Committee recommendations and the cabinet's responses to those recommendations are outlined in the section "FY 2023 Recommendations and Responses" of this report, beginning on page 7.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The Employment Committee is tasked to collaborate with the Employment First Council and other similar initiatives to advance Kentucky as an Employment First state. The committee established the following goal and short-term objectives:

GOAL: Shape and influence policies on employment to increase social, civic, and economic contributions of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Objective 1: To facilitate the development of a comprehensive memorandum of understanding to promote the integration of Employment First policies across state government.

Objective 2: To directly influence Medicaid's restructuring of employment services and payment methodology in the redesign of 1915c waivers.

Objective 3: To engage with the transportation planning process to ensure needs of people with I/DD receive proper consideration.

Committee Chair/Co-Chair Report

The purpose of the Employment Committee is to continue to improve collaboration with an array of employment initiatives to advance Kentucky as an Employment First state. The Employment

Committee held three (3) meetings during the fiscal year and worked together by email to address time sensitive issues.

This year, the committee has been active with ongoing collaborative efforts working to address employment barriers for Kentuckians with disabilities, including issues around competitive integrated employment (CIE). Kathy Sheppard-Jones continued in the role of Committee Chair for the third year. The committee welcomed new members throughout the year. Existing committee members participated in a survey focused on advancing the Employment First priorities in Kentucky. Subcommittee members include people with disabilities, families, community partners and providers, and state partners.

A recommendation was presented to the full HB 144 Commission meeting in December and subsequently approved for the Employment Committee Chair to meet with Cabinet Secretary Friedlander and the House Bill Commission chair to discuss issues that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face around employment. The recommendation and response are on page 7 of this report. The Employment Committee Chair will schedule the meeting during FY 2024.

The committee worked during the year to address identified gaps in information and resources. There were several new products created and activities conducted by members of the committee. The committee is developing an employment overview presentation that may be available for use by committee and commission members toward improving understanding of competitive integrated employment in Kentucky.

Presentations and other meeting discussions included:

- Annual Provider Employment Survey
- Assistive technology resources and applications in employment
- DETAC Learning Community on Financial Inclusion
- Employment First Legislation and Council Updates
- Education, Employment and Health Collaborative
- Employment presentation development
- Innovative Supports for Autistic Workers (ISAW) overview
- Kentucky Alignment of Employment Initiatives
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky National Core Indicators Quality Improvement Committee
- Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- KentuckyWorks Collaborative
- KentuckyWorks Partnerships in Employment
- KY-SPIN, Inc. (Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network)
- Legislative session updates
- National Expansion of Employment Opportunities (NEON)
- Overview of employment and benefits
- Return to Work / Stay at Work program – RETAIN Kentucky
- Role of inclusive higher education on employment

- Transportation Initiatives

Committee member quote: “Kentucky has the best relationship and collaboration across the entire spectrum of employment services that I have seen in other states.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION / OUTREACH COMMITTEE (CEOC)

The CEOC is tasked with the responsibility for topical areas of resources and self-advocacy. The committee established the following goals and short-term objectives:

GOAL: Identify currently available resources, barriers to accessing resources, and gaps in resources.

GOAL: Develop one (1) self-advocacy group across each of the fifteen (15) area development districts.

GOAL: Explore community inclusion efforts across the lifespan to identify promising practices.

Objective 1: Define community inclusion.

Objective 2: Identify community inclusion best practices.

Committee Chair/Co-Chair Report

The CEOC had 4 meetings during FY 2023. Meetings included presentations from Department of Transportation, DiscoverU_Kentucky and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The committee had two recommendations successfully implemented this year. The Department of Transportation made their Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Rider Survey available online as recommended. This year’s survey also added a question asking riders if they are a waiver participant. This information allows the program to ensure people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are being included. While a formal recommendation for the waiver question was not made, it was discussed during committee meetings. The committee thanks the Department of Transportation for listening and adding this question.

The second recommendation implemented was to add six transportation questions to the 2023 Supports for Community Living (SCL) Provider Survey conducted by the Division of Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DDID). The recommendation and response are on pages 7-8 of this report.

The committee will use the results of the DDID provider and NEMT surveys as a basis for further recommendations on improving NEMT transportation in FY 2024.

The committee continued to look for gaps in the transition process for students from high school and into employment. Members of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation attended explaining

their process and their interaction with other agencies. We received an update on the Employment First Council.

The committee renewed their efforts toward the goal of expanding the Self-Empowerment Network across the 15 area development districts. DiscoverU_Kentucky presented to the committee about their efforts to create a statewide network for parents, self-advocates, agencies, and legislators to work together on legislation and other needs to improve the life for persons with disabilities. The committee agreed to work with DiscoverU_Kentucky and will have the group return in FY 2024 to report on their first-year activities and see how the committee can help.

HEALTH/WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Health/Wellness Committee was assigned the following topics identified during the commission's planning session: psychotropic medication usage, inclusion of individuals with complex medical needs, increased capacity of specialty clinics, and crisis intervention. In FY 2019 the committee developed the following goal and objectives:

GOAL: Maximize good health and reduce health disparities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Objective 1: Continue collaboration with the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to access and evaluate all available data sources that lead to recommendations for the reduction of polypharmacy, and the development and implementation of appropriate training for provider agencies and health care providers.

Objective 2: Assess available data to identify the current parameters and barriers of crisis intervention services and propose policy level changes to increase availability of outcome driven services and decrease barriers and disparities.

Objective 3: Research and recommend a definition of "medically complex" that is inclusive of people dually diagnosed with I/DD and mental/behavioral health conditions and propose outcome-driven policy amendments that decrease barriers to all available services.

Objective 4: Reduce existing health disparities for people with I/DD utilizing data from a variety of sources to promote an increase in the number of people following physical activity guidelines, increase the collaboration among community organizations and service providers that leverage existing local health and wellness programs, and improve the overall health and well-being of people with I/DD and their direct support staff.

Committee Chair/Co-Chair Report

The Health/Wellness Committee held one (1) meeting during FY 2023. The committee's overarching goal was to examine psychotropic medication and usage, inclusion of individuals with medically complex needs, increased capacity of specialty clinics, and an assessment of

crisis intervention services. The objectives formulated by the committee were addressed through an evaluation of available data sources and research into medical terminology along with collaboration with community stakeholders and members of the committee. Much of the committee's focus centered on Objective 4, "reducing existing health care disparities in people with I/DD." This was accomplished through the provision of information by service providers in the community who presented on a variety of topics while addressing service gaps. Our May committee meeting concerned transition of care from pediatric care to the delivery of adult health care in our communities.

The committee did not submit recommendations to the commission for consideration in FY23.

FY 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

The commission received the following recommendations from the Community Education/Outreach Committee during FY23. These recommendations are being submitted by the commission to CHFS for consideration and response.

Employment Committee

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Employment Committee respectfully submits the following recommendation to the HB 144 Commission for consideration:

Employment disparities are a longstanding issue in Kentucky. There is a 75% employment rate for people without disabilities while the employment rate for people with disabilities is 32%. This 43% gap is one of the biggest in the country. Recent data find only 8% of people served through the state IDD system are employed, while 58% indicate they want a job. The state's recent passage of Employment First legislation makes competitive integrated employment the first and primary option for people with disabilities of working age who want to be employed. Therefore, the Employment Committee recommends that the Committee Chair meet with the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the HB144 Commission Chair as soon as possible to discuss opportunities for the Cabinet and State to improve employment outcomes for Kentuckians with disabilities.

CHFS RESPONSE: The Secretary of CHFS and the HB144 Commission Chair look forward to meeting with Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones to discuss this important topic. We respectfully request that Dr. Kathy Sheppard-Jones schedule the meeting at her convenience.

Community Education / Outreach Committee

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Community Education and Outreach Committee (CEOC) recommends that the following questions be added to the 2023 Supports for Community Living (SCL) Provider Survey conducted by the Division of Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (DDID) and present results to the CEOC and/or the full commission upon compilation and analysis.

1. Are you a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provider for your agency?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. How satisfied are you with the transportation options available through the Non-Emergency Transportation (NEMT) program?
 - a. Not Satisfied
 - b. Somewhat Satisfied
 - c. Satisfied
 - d. Highly Satisfied
3. How would you rate the timeliness of the transportation broker(s) utilized by your agency?
 - a. Not Satisfied
 - b. Somewhat Satisfied
 - c. Satisfied
 - d. Highly Satisfied
4. How does NEMT pick-up and/or drop-off affect participants and/or staff?
 - a. Participants unable to access community events
 - b. Participants experience lengthy ride times
 - c. Participants experience lengthy wait times for pick-up
 - d. Participants unable to seek employment opportunities
 - e. Participants arrive at appointed drop-off at scheduled time
 - f. Staff required to remain on-duty for extended time
 - g. Other: please specify
5. How satisfied are you with hours of availability of NEMT?
 - a. Not Satisfied
 - b. Somewhat Satisfied
 - c. Satisfied
 - d. Highly Satisfied
6. What suggestions do you have for future improvements of the NEMT program (i.e., hours of availability, accessible vehicles, routing changes, etc.)?

CHFS RESPONSE: The Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities reviewed the recommendation and questions. The questions, with minor editing for survey consistency and formatting, were included in the 2023 Provider Survey conducted by DDID. The results were provided to the committee.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

It has been a privilege for the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the needs of persons with I/DD. Commission members extend their gratitude to Governor Beshear for his continued support of the Employment First Initiative. We also extend our appreciation to the members of the General Assembly for their continued support of quality services across the lifespan for individuals with I/DD. Along with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, the commission looks forward to meeting its goals to improve the quality of supports for the citizens of Kentucky.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities extends its appreciation to the members of the commission for their advocacy on behalf of Kentucky's citizens with I/DD. Their continued advocacy has positively produced change in such efforts as competitive and integrated employment, community inclusion, and improving the health and wellness of people with disabilities across the lifespan.

APPENDIX A - KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary or Designee	Carrie Banahan, Deputy Secretary Frankfort, KY 40621 (502) 564-7042 Carrie.Banahan@ky.gov	Direct Service Provider TERM EXPIRES 11/24/2024	Vacant
Department for DBHDID Commissioner	Katie Marks, PhD Frankfort, KY 40621 (502) 564-4527 Katie.Marks@ky.gov	Direct Service Provider TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023	Steve Shannon, Executive Director KARP, Inc. Lexington, KY 40508 (859) 272-6700 sshannon.karp@gmail.com
Department for Medicaid Services Commissioner or Designee	Pam Smith Frankfort, KY 40621 (502) 564-4321 Pam.Smith@ky.gov	Family Member TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023	Robert A. Napolilli Prospect, KY 40059 (502) 472-8052 napolillir@gmail.com
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Executive Director	Cora McNabb Frankfort, KY 40621 (502) 782-3437 Cora.McNabb@ky.gov	Family Member TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023	Julie Sweets Rockfield, KY 42274 (270) 782-2132 juliebakersweets@gmail.com
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities-Human Development Institute Director	Kathy Sheppard-Jones, PhD, CRC University of KY Lexington, KY 40506-0051 (859) 257-3045 kathleen.sheppard-jones@uky.edu	Family Member TERM EXPIRES 11/24/2024	Catherine L. Buncher Nicholasville, KY 40356 (859) 552-5825 ckbuncher@gmail.com
Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities Director	Johnny Callebs Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 782-8601 Johnny.Callebs@ky.gov	Family Member TERM EXPIRES 11/22/2024	Kim Zeigler Frankfort, KY 40602 (502) 418-8189 KZeigler1@msn.com
Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner or Designee	Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner Office of Special Education & Early Learning Frankfort, KY 402061 (502) 564-4970 Ext. 4109 Gretta.Hylton@education.ky.gov	Self-Advocate TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023	Clayton R. Carroll Dunnville, KY 42628 (270) 566-8009 ClaytonCarrollSpeaks@gmail.com
Representative	Tina Bojanowski Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-8100 ext. 626 Tina.Bojanowski@lrc.ky.gov	Self-Advocate TERM EXPIRES 11/24/2024	Graham J. Maupin Louisville, KY 40217 (502) 681-8348 graham.j.maupin@gmail.com
Representative	Kim King Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-8100 ext. 763 Kim.King@lrc.ky.gov	Self-Advocate TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023 DECEASED 11/30/22	Andrew A. Venetianer Louisville, KY 40241 (502) 713-8949 avenetianer@outlook.com
Senator	Vacant	Business Leader TERM EXPIRES 11/22/2024	Karen F. Herdina Ft. Thomas, KY 41075 (513) 604-6162 kfherdina@hotmail.com
Senator	Julie R. Adams Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-8100 julie.adams@LRC.KY.GOV	Business Leader TERM EXPIRES 11/24/2024	Annette Jett Build Inclusion, Inc. Lexington, KY 40502 (859) 221-6689 annette@buildinclusion.org
Direct Service Provider TERM EXPIRES 7/15/2023	Dennis Brandon Griffith Lexington, KY 40503 (859)553-5883 brandon.griffith@noboundariescm.com	Statewide Advocacy Group Representative TERM EXPIRES 11/22/2024	Kellie Smith KY-SPIN, Inc. Louisville, KY 40272 (270) 566-8007 Kellie@kyspin.com