

# 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 2024

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

**Fiscal Year 2024**

## **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, 2023, through June 30, 2024. 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 2024 included 24 positions representing an array of agency partners and community members. Thirteen 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 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.

The list of commission members and their term expirations as of June 30, 2024, are included in Appendix A of this report. Also noted in Appendix A are vacated positions.

## **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 agency representation and community members 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 2024 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

During FY 2024, two of 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 2024. Committee recommendations and the cabinet's responses to those recommendations are outlined in the section "FY 2024 Recommendations and Responses" of this report, beginning on page 6.

### **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 increase awareness of relevant employment policies, resources, and stories of employment success across audiences, including employers, people with IDD (Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities), families, and professionals.

**Objective 2:** To support the provision of high-quality employment services that assist people with IDD to find and maintain competitive integrated employment.

**Objective 3:** To engage in transportation planning processes, ensuring the needs of people with IDD are included as critical to getting and keeping a job.

### **Committee Chair/Co-Chair Report**

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 fourth year. The committee welcomed new members throughout the year. Subcommittee members include people with disabilities, families, community partners and providers, and state partners.

The committee updated its goal and related objectives.

The committee worked during this 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 completed a 12-minute employment overview presentation that is available for use by committee and commission members toward improving understanding of competitive integrated employment in Kentucky. The presentation is available at:

- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/922008192?share=copy>
- YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pju\\_hzzaak8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pju_hzzaak8)

Presentations and other meeting discussions included but are not limited to:

- Committee goals
- Inclusive workforce definition and summit
- Employment First Council
- Kentucky's Family First programs (KSTEP and START)
- Employment presentation development by committee members
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky National Core Indicators
- Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board
- Legislative session updates
- National Expansion of Employment Opportunities (NEON) application and activities
- Olmstead Planning
- Protection & Advocacy resources
- Transportation updates

### **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 6 meetings during FY 2024. Meetings included presentations on topics such as transportation services, employment initiatives, 988 Crisis Hotline, and other behavioral health initiatives.

The committee submitted 4 recommendations for consideration of implementation by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The recommendations and responses are on pages 6

through 7 of this report.

The committee continues to review results of the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DDID) provider and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) surveys as a basis for further recommendations on improving NEMT transportation in FY 2025.

### **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 IDD 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 did not meet during FY24; therefore, no recommendations were submitted to the commission for consideration FY24.

## FY 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

The commission received the following recommendations from the Community Education/Outreach Committee during FY24. These recommendations were submitted by the commission to CHFS for consideration and response. Responses from the appropriate programs within CHFS are included.

### **Community Education / Outreach Committee**

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** We recommend the Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DDID) and Department for Medicaid (DMS) incorporate content on the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Medicaid program in the Case Manager Training materials. Furthermore, we recommend that personnel from the NEMT Medicaid program be invited to present how the NEMT programs works and how case managers may use the program effectively to future Case Manager Training sessions.

**CHFS Response:** Participants in the Case Management Training for the Supports for Community Living and Michelle P. Waiver Medicaid programs receive information regarding the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** We recommend the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Medicaid program create a printed brochure or fact sheet containing the information recently uploaded on their website ([https://transportation.ky.gov/TransportationDelivery/Pages/How-to-Schedule-Non-Emergency-Medical-Transportation-\(NEMT\).aspx](https://transportation.ky.gov/TransportationDelivery/Pages/How-to-Schedule-Non-Emergency-Medical-Transportation-(NEMT).aspx)). Furthermore, it is recommended that the NEMT program provide printed or printable versions to the following agencies for distribution to individuals, families, and appropriate agencies: Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DDID), University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute (UK-HDI), and Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (CCDD).

**CHFS Response:** The Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities staff will work with staff from the NEMT Medicaid Program to attain printable materials for distribution throughout Developmental Disabilities Network.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** We recommend the Department for Medicaid Services, Division of Program Operations (DPO) allocate a position to serve as a transportation help desk position to assist individuals with disabilities, or their representatives including case managers, locate appropriate funding and/or services within the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) program or other Medicaid waiver programs that provides access to the individual's community. Transportation needs for community access include, but are not limited to, activities such as employment, procurement of food or other items of necessity, access to religious activities, and access to recreational events.

**CHFS Response:**

The Department for Medicaid Services currently has an internal point of contact assigned to the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Program as Program Administrator.

**Explanation of Response:** The Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services partners with the

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Office of Transportation Delivery (OTD), in the administration of the Human Service Transportation Delivery, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program (NEMT). OTD administers a call center for anyone to call for assistance with NEMT. Members, medical providers, waiver programs, case managers, and various other groups use the call center resource daily. OTD is staffed with trained Medicaid Services Specialists and is open Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm EST. The statewide toll-free telephone number for the OTD call center is 888-941-RIDE [7433]. Through the partnership, OTD stays in constant communication with DMS. OTD will verify covered services with DMS if there is ever a question of eligibility.

DMS is always available as well for anyone who contacts the department directly. Calls received by DMS will be directed to the internal NEMT Program Administrator.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** We recommend the Department for Medicaid Services and the appropriate Division within the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet conduct a series of town halls across the commonwealth to inform ongoing policy amendments related to the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program and other Home and Community Based Waiver programs that include, or may include, transportation services. Future policy amendments should be reflective of information gathered during the town hall forums and address identified concerns and barriers as highlighted by participants’ lived experiences.

The committee further recommends these town halls be available as in-person events in each of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Regions. Furthermore, it is recommended that a minimum of two (2) additional town hall events be conducted virtually to accommodate Medicaid participants, family members, or participant case managers unable to attend an in-person event.

**CHFS Response:** The Department for Medicaid Services will consider the recommendation as future town halls are planned and scheduled throughout the state.

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

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