

Employment First Task Force

April 30, 2015

▽ **EFSLMP Update:**

- Transformation from facility based day activities to employment
- SMEs here earlier this week
 - ✓ SRVS
 - ✓ Pacesetters
 - job development
 - state use contracts
 - ✓ New Life
 - smaller, newer agency
- WIOA implementation
- Customized employment
- HCBS employment definitions for MCO waivers
- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model used by Mental Health

▽ **Employment First Strategic Plan: 2015-2017**

- see attached power point
- see attached handouts
- Much as already been started or accomplished toward these goals
 - Goal I: Align service delivery systems and strengthen coordination to increase employment opportunities for Tennesseans with disabilities
 - Goal II: Build shared community commitment to “employment first” for individuals with disabilities
 - Goal III: Increase the number of businesses and employers throughout the state who actively seek and hire individuals with disabilities
 - Goal IV: Make Tennessee a model public sector employer through actions to employ more people with disabilities and through policy and regulatory change
 - Goal V: Prepare students for employment throughout their education and connect them to essential services
- DOE’s Transition Matters publication went out in March
- If you have information to share send to DOE – Blake Shearer at Blake.Shearer@tn.gov
- WIOA “combined” v. “unified” plan of implementation
 - ✓ “Combined” – 6 programs that will be incorporated
 - ✓ Tennessee may elect to add other “unified” goals
 - ✓ Focus groups meeting now
 - ✓ Must be in to DOE and DOL by 2016

Work Group Updates

▽ **Policy**

- Strategic plan work
- The Executive Order establishing the E1 Task Force requires an annual report to the Governor
- Deadline for submission of the annual report is August 1

- Meetings for the writing group are already set
- Cissy Mynatt will assist with the writing of the document with funding provided by the DD Council
- Many state agencies working together to make employment happen for Tennessee

▽ **Employers and Providers**

- Employers Outreach Initiative (EOI)
 - ✓ 7 presentations
 - ✓ 196 prospective employers
 - ✓ 5 of 95 Counties
 - ✓ 5 of 9 Tennessee districts
 - ✓ If you know of anyone who wants an E1 speaker let Lynette Henderson know
- Webinar with Walmart
 - ✓ 200-300 participants
 - ✓ Call from Clarksville Walmart wanting to join the effort
- First employer profile for...
 - ✓ Lowes in White House
 - ✓ Kroger distribution center in Cleveland
 - ✓ Auto Zone in Memphis
- VR partnership with AT&T
- Two (2) new Project Search opportunities in Knoxville
- Still need NORE!
- MT-SHRM (Middle Tennessee-Society of Human Resources Management)
 - ✓ Capabilities Career Expo (on the TN Works web site)
 - ✓ May 20th from 3 PM until 7:30 PM
 - ✓ For Davidson and surrounding counties
 - ✓ Need lots and lots of people with disabilities to attend
 - ✓ Career Coaches will be there to assist people before interviews with resumes, practice interviews, appropriate dress, etc.
 - ✓ Employers are coming to interview and hire
 - ✓ Project Search people should attend
 - ✓ Share with Transition Teachers
 - ✓ A “lunch and learn” being held at the same time in the same hotel for HR managers
- Individuals and Families
 - ✓ Yearly advocacy training
 - ✓ Disability Legislative luncheon
 - ✓ Public Policy 101 – training
 - ✓ Disability Day on the Hill
 - 42 visits made to legislators
 - well represented across regions
 - ✓ In March the ARC took the lead on the Community Conversations initiative
 - April topic – post secondary information
 - continue to struggle with the Chattanooga group

▽ **Data**

- There is “power in numbers”
- Need to select metrics for each of the 5 strategic goals
- Will contact agencies/state departments to see what data folks already collect

- Informational graphs available for the results of the family survey
- What predicts expectations?
 - ✓ Age – younger children’s families have higher expectations
 - ✓ Level of disability – the greater the disability the smaller the expectation
 - ✓ Exposure to employment
 - ✓ Family conversations
- Employment and Disability dashboard – not publically available yet
- TLDS moving along
- Data on businesses, owners and other employers
- DOL data
 - ✓ VR – school to work
 - ✓ good data could drive VR work in schools
 - ✓ helps you know if what we are doing is having an impact
- WIOA requires MOUs with a variety of employment partners
 - ✓ How many people in Tennessee receive SSA/SSI and are eligible for a Ticket to Work?
 - ✓ Work with students may effect services available for adults
- “I wish we knew...” What data do we want to collect to drive us in the direction in which we want to go?

▽ **TN Works**

- “Think Employment” summit to be held on September 16th at the Scarritt Bennett Center. For questions contact Rowan, Jennifer Lynn at jennifer.l.rowan@Vanderbilt.Edu
- Any ideas for a keynote speaker? Let Jen Rowan at Vanderbilt know
- A self-advocate will be one of the speakers

▽ **More Shameless Plugs**

- NAMI “Vision of Hope” Award Gala (see attached)
Wednesday, May 13th beginning at 6 PM
Omni Nashville Hotel
For tickets go to www.namitn.org
- Disability Rights Tennessee
Disability Luncheon
September 10th at the Music City Center
people with disabilities will be working with the Chef of the MCC to prepare the meal
- TN Works Partnership meeting
May 22nd from 1-4 PM
at the Airport Marriott (after the Mega Conference)
- WIOA – notice for public comment is posted on the federal registry
60-days until June 16th for comments

Next meeting of the E1 Task Force

July 8th, 9-11:30 AM

At Disability Rights Tennessee

*Amy will send out a Doodle Pole later in May for next year’s meetings