

Employment First Task Force

January 6, 2016

- ∇ New partners from the Department of Health. Welcome!
- ∇ Matthew Parriott, Public Information Officer, DIDD, showed a U-Tube video on employment (St. John's Community Services)
 - If any of the E1 partners know of opportunities to video employment successes please contact Matthew Parriott at Matthew.Parriott@tn.gov
- ∇ EFSLMP Update
 - Plan for 2016 submitted to ODEP
 - Concentration on provider transformation and capacity building
 - St. John's and Pacesetters added as partner providers
 - Calls with SMEs to set goals and address barriers
 - Webinars will be conducted quarterly
 - ✓ will share dates in Open Line
 - Capacity building
 - ✓ focus on policy work
 - ✓ incentives/rates
 - ✓ 2 day training along with VR staff
 - ✓ policies for the provision of customized employment along with recommendations from the pilot agencies
 - HCBS Vision Quest (ECF)
 - ✓ definitions
 - ✓ rates
 - ✓ qualifications for providers of services
 - ✓ Reviewing Relias and will be making recommendations for improvements
 - Doug Crandell
 - ✓ Recommended development of a sub group for mental health group for employment issues specific to those with MH diagnosis
 - APSE Conference in Detroit
 - ✓ St. John's and Greene County Skills attended
 - ✓ Since St. John's 2012 takeover of a "traditional" agency in upper west Tennessee they have closed their day facility and intend to transition folks out of sheltered work by July 1, 2016
 - ✓ At the conference learned about the need to:
 - communicate change with families
 - business plan for change
 - work with workshop employees for buy in
 - work with employers for jobs
 - how to structure community services
 - ✓ St. John's did a presentation at the conference on their transition from facility based services
 - ✓ looked at national trends
 - ✓ St. John's funded participation in the APSE Conference for 2 additional DSP to attend the conference (20 and 23 years respectively in the sheltered workshop).

These DSPs are expected to be able to share their experiences with other DSPs at St. John's.

***The Power Point presentation from this conference is available

- ✓ Dr. Cheetham recommended that DIDD record a video of DSPs talking to DSPs about transformation or a family member who believes in transformation

Workgroup Updates:

- ∇ See attached
- ∇ Policy
 - VR and DIDD MOU
 - WIOA – seamless transition
 - ✓ who will do what when employment is the goal
 - ✓ How is the “hand-off” accomplished between agencies
- ∇ Employers and Providers
 - Project Search
 - ✓ New hospital sites in Knoxville
 - Community Life Engagement
 - ✓ What does a good day in the community look like?
 - Stephanie in Knoxville: training for Employment Specialists
 - ✓ 1200 statewide
 - ✓ CESP endorsed by APSE
 - ✓ 79 who have passed the exam
 - ✓ requires experience and exam
- ∇ Individuals and Families
 - Family coalition meetings averaging 8-12 people/family members per meeting at most sites
 - variety of topics
 - 100 members on Facebook
 - February date for **Disability Day on the Hill**
 - ARC job club up and running at Friend's Life
 - ✓ Attendance has tripled!
 - ✓ facilitated by a man on the spectrum
- ∇ Data
 - Data available to state agencies applying for grants, completing research, seeking answers to employment questions, etc.
- ∇ Strategic Plan
 - 2016 objectives
 - need a day long planning meeting to address possible goals
 - Next Tennessee Works partnership meeting scheduled for 2/19/2016
 - Legislation
 - ✓ Step Up – mirrors the Hope scholarship to extend post-secondary education from 2 to 4 years
- ∇ Partners in Education
 - looking for self-advocates artisans or those who are self-employed and want to promote their goods/services
 - Can take up to 5 additional vendors for this year's conference

- \$50.00 per table that includes 2 lunches per day
- February 9-11 at the Music City Center
- ∇ Activities with DOHR
 - Internships for people with disabilities within state government
- ∇ State Rehab Council meeting is on January 7, 2016 at the Holiday Inn on Elm Hill Pike from 9 AM until 3 PM
- ∇ Fed Ex has reached out to Vocational Rehabilitation desiring to hire people with disabilities!

Next meeting: April 7 from 9:00 to 11:30 at DRT in Nashville on the 8th floor