**Employment First Task Force Meeting**

November 17, 2017

**Members present**: Cassie Belter, Katie Lee, Erik Carter, Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Elise McMillan, Jeremy Norden-Paul, Blake Shearer, Cara Kumari, Matthew Parriott, Dwayne Webb, Lauren Pearcy, Bob Nicholas, Stephanie Cowherd, Tina Jones, Rachael Jenkins, Mark Liverman, Tiffany Kelley, Rachel Hauber, Krystyne Brown, Nathan Walsh, Cristi Blalock (phone), Ellyn Wilbur (phone), Jeff Fladen

**Welcome and Introductions**

* Members introduced themselves
* Thank you to DRT for lending space for the Task Force meetings
* Katie Lee continued the storytelling tradition by sharing about her experiences and how she got into this field.
* Cara Kumari introduced Krystyne Brown, new public information officer for DIDD

**ECF CHOICES Update (see attached update)**

* Shannon Nehus recently joined TennCare
* TennCare is seeking an ECF CHOICES director
* For questions about ECF CHOICES, please contact Shannon.nehus@tn.gov

**Workgroup updates (see attached workgroup report)**

**TennesseeWorks Partnership**

* Elise McMillan and Erik Carter gave an update on the TennesseeWorks Partnership and future opportunities for collaboration
* Although the grant that first started the TennesseeWorks Partnership has ended, the work will continue by staff of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
* For more information, please contact Elise McMillan: elise.mcmillan@vanderbilt.edu

**Expect Employment Report**

* Cara Kumari presented the final printed copies of the 2017 Expect Employment Report and shared about the report presentation in Kingsport
* An electronic version of the report can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/794q7hozc735c7g/2017_Expect_Employment_Report%20-%20Revised.pdf?dl=0>

**Mental Health and Employment**

* Katie Lee, Cassie Belter, and Ruth Brock gave a presentation about their work supporting Tennesseans with behavioral health diagnoses in acquiring employment
* DMHSAS supports 290 providers and 4 hospitals across the state
* 1 in 5 Tennesseans will experience mental health challenges at some point
* The group spoke about a statewide initiative called Individualized Placement and Support (IPS), an evidence-based model of supported employment
* The main challenge at this point is figuring out ways to expand funding and penetration rate of IPS across the state
* The group invited Michael Robinson to share his experience with employment and being supported by Park Center.

**2018 Employment First Task Force meeting dates:**

·         February 21st, 1:00-3:30pm

·         June 8th, 10:00am-12:30pm

·         September 28th, 10:00am-12:30pm

·         December 5th, 1:00-3:30pm

**Meeting location:**

Disability Rights Tennessee

2 International Plaza, Suite 825

Nashville, TN 37217

**To join remotely:**

If you just want to connect via Web Browser:

<https://join.ubiety.me/invited.sf?secret=QkJEv2QwBV_5.9p_LX6yRg&id=62142710>

**OR** to join Skype via phone: Dial 1–646–396–0444 and enter code 62142710#