Employment First Task Force Meeting

April 25, 2017

**Members present**: Elise McMillan, Will McMillan, Wanda Willis, Donna Goodaker, Carrie Guiden, Katie Lee, Lisa Primm, Bianca Knight, Taylor Fife, Carrie Brna, Mandy Johnson, Janet Shouse, Matthew Parriott, Mary Fultineer, Doria Panvini, Cristi Blalock, Jeff Fladen, Jeremy Norden-Paul, Bob Nicholas, Stephanie Cowherd, Michelle Halman, Stephanie Potter, Nathan Walsh, Clancey Hopper, Tonya Chavez, Diedra Sawyer, Brian Valenti, Ann Thompson, Ruth Brock

* Thank you to DRT for lending space for the Task Force meetings
* Cristi and Mary joined remotely via Skype
* Clancey continued the storytelling tradition by sharing some thoughts about her job at the Grand Ole Opry, the strategic plan, and the Employment First movement

**Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program (EFSLMP) update:**

* 1. Provider Transformation- 3 providers participating, collectively serve ~500 individuals, more than 6% of DIDD population
     1. MCDS
     2. Madison Haywood
     3. Pacesetters
  2. Capacity Building- customized employment consortium in east TN
     1. Practical application of training
     2. Sustainable model, member driven
  3. Mental Health- more shared during mental health workgroup update
     1. Dual diagnosis pilot
     2. MOU between VR/DMHSAS

1. DIDD employment data collection—about to launch a new employment data collection tool next week
2. Thinking about sustainability-- what would it look like to channel the experiences and talents of local experts across TN to support our continued transitions?

**DRT Survey**

1. DRT is doing a survey with multiple stakeholder groups in the disability community about barriers, experiences, and solutions for disability services in Tennessee.
2. This will help narrow their focus areas over the next few years.
3. This is completed about every three years.
4. Bianca Knight will follow up via email with the group to continue the conversation.
5. Questions were:
   * What is the single biggest barrier, obstacle or problem that you (your family member or those your serve) experience in your daily life as a result of your disability?
   * What is the single biggest barrier, obstacle or problem that others with disabilities in your community experience?
   * How would you fix these barriers, obstacles, or problems?

**ECF CHOICES Update**

  Holding quarterly stakeholder meetings to get feedback and figure out the best ways of sharing information.  Some of the suggestions made by families include:

* A Communications workgroup is being developed
* Exploring use of an online portal for families to be able to access services
* Thinking about ways of including flexibility in services (e.g. using respite services for summer camp)

  Have workgroups with MCOs and providers, look at various processes and to explore if anything can be streamlined

  New MOU with VR to outline which agency pays for what and when

  On track to meet enrollment goal (1700 in first year), currently at 1200 individuals enrolled.  400 are in the process of being enrolled.

  Enrollment by region

o   East- 35%

o   Middle- 42%

o   West- 23%

  Enrollment by MCO

o   BlueCare- 69%

o   AmeriGroup- 31%

  Enrollment by disability

o   Developmental Disability (DD)- 58%

o   Intellectual Disability (ID)- 42%

  Intake unit placing people on a waiting list into priority categories

  If you have questions contact Carrie ([carrie.brna@tn.gov](mailto:carrie.brna@tn.gov)) or Mandy ([amanda.johnson@tn.gov](mailto:amanda.johnson@tn.gov))

**Think Employment! Summit**

* Mark your calendars for 9/21/2017
* Being held at Music City Center
* 2 tracks
  + Students and adults with disabilities (working with DIDD to increase attendance by adults with disabilities)
  + Professionals/families

**Workgroup updates (see attachment)**

**Transportation**

* TF created a list of resources, barriers, and ideas during last meeting
* Proposal to create transportation workgroup, which was accepted by the TF members
* Members who expressed interest in forming the group
  + Michelle Halman
  + Carrie Brna
  + Clancey Hopper
  + Will McMillan
  + Carrie Guiden
  + Diedra Sawyer
  + Ann Thompson
* Workgroup will meet to decide on workgroup leader, meeting frequency, and identify key strategies for the year ahead
* The workgroup will report back to the Task Force at the next quarterly meeting during the regular workgroup reporting time

**Business Engagement Strategy**

* Various Task Force members have been involved in several different business engagement strategies (employer leadership committee, single point of contact white paper, employer outreach presentations, etc.)
* Representatives from ECD recently joined the Task Force and employer workgroup
* Members of the TF spent time discussing the strategies that are currently being implemented to promote business engagement, and also ideas that the employer workgroup can focus on over the year ahead, including:
  + Business Employment Consultants (BECs) at VR
  + Longitudinal data system (P-20)
  + Internships in state government office
  + Marketing/messaging to employers
  + Single point of contact for businesses
  + Resources/information about tax benefits/incentives
  + Self-employment, business plans
* Employer workgroup will convene in the next couple of weeks to continue the conversation then report back at the next TF meeting

**The next Task Force Meeting is on Thursday, July 20th, 10am-12:30pm, at Disability Rights TN.**

**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#