Employment First Task Force

July 13, 2016

* Introductions
* Announcement that Amy Gonzalez, DIDD Director of Employment and Day Services, has accepted a position as Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy with the Department of Labor in Washington, DC. Her replacement has been hired and Jeremy Norden-Paul will begin working for DIDD on August 1st.
* EFSLMP Update
* Training was held in East
* Most engaged group
* Still having difficulties getting agencies to agree to completing the additional work required to be a Transformation agency when there is so much to do with working toward the Final Settings Rule and Transition Plan compliance date of 2019
* Transformation in the works:
* Pacesetters
* staff resistance
* board members resistance
* Have challenged the ED to address barriers not just recognize that they are barriers
* St John’s Community
* July 1st the last SJCS sheltered workshop closed
* All people supported in community participation or employment
* 8 job placements yesterday!!! all at 20+ hours a week
* Used Matthew’s videos to show employers the benefits of employing people with ID
* Transitioned some sheltered work directly back to the factory
* Not all business partners willing to work with the job developer
* Got staff “buy in” by including DSPs in the APSE conference. They spread the work among their contemporaries
* St John’s employment program featured on the April Breaking Ground cover and a great article on their program
* Janet Shouse asked Dwayne to do a blog post on employment
* Dwayne has presented the work of St John’s toward employment of people with ID at a number of conferences over the past months and will conduct another presentation at the APSE Regional Institute in October.
* Amy will be presenting at the Federal Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities panel to discuss Tennessee’s success with the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program along with representatives of Auto Zone and SRVS.
* Workgroup Updates
* see attached
* Think Employment Summit
* 2 months away
* Have secured the keynote speaker; Anthony Ianni, first ever person on the Autism Spectrum to play Big 10 basketball
* Played for Michigan State University
* Autism Alliance of Michigan
* Sought after motivational speaker on the subject of anti-bullying
* Need employers to participate so that self-advocates can interface with employers and practice pre-employment skills
* One member of the Task Force recommended that these employers access the Tennessee Disability Etiquette Guide when interacting with people with disabilities
* Employment and Community First/Choices Update
* 360 new self-referrals completed
* Scheduling intake for people who qualify for priority categories or reserve slots
* letters went out to the folks on the DIDD wait list
* Expect Employment Report Review
* Forward from Governor Haslam to come
* Success stories from every participating agency
* short paragraph and photo
* Need all suggested edits by close of business on Friday, July 15th
* Graphics and statistics would be helpful for the report
* Data? Not having viable data is a barrier in being able to show the progress we are making

Next Meeting is on October 25 from 1:00 to 3:30 at the office of Disability Rights Tennessee.