Employment First Task Force Meeting minutes

April 7, 2016

* **EFSLMP Update**
* First CE and Discovery training held in Nashville on March 21-22
* Providers new to this training, but excited. VR staff were present as well
* April 18-19 in Memphis, 10 slots still available
* May 23-24 in Knoxville at the ETRO
* Sharing success stories is encouraging to providers! Great videos in “Way to Work”
* Need clear, understandable definitions of customized employment
* adding follow along
* Only getting about 40% participation on current requests for employment data
* Working on a process to get 100% of the needed data using the sanction policy
* St. John’s Update – working with employers to move jobs out of sheltered workshops and into industry
* One employer (they’ve had contracts with for over twenty years) has agreed to hire people previously completing jobs in the sheltered workshop
* 2-3 people four (4) days a week at $8.00 an hour to start and see how production numbers work out
* Pacesetters Update – going slowly
* Have begun picking folks up at home instead of at the center
* Identified people who are ready to work
* Work with SMEs to increase staff expectations
* APSE presentation proposal accepted Amy and Katie Adcock will present on Tennessee’s Employment First Evolution.
* See Open Line article
* Mental Health Sub-Group is beginning
* Still need a self-advocate, VR representative and providers
* Tennessee Works Think Employment Summit
* Will be held on September 15th from 8 AM until 4 PM at Cool Springs Embassy Suites
* Ideas for topics would be welcome
* Spread the word to self-advocates
* **Work Group Updates**
* See handout
* Addition to Policy
* Amy and Yovancha working to develop a plan to operationalize the MOU
* Addition to Employers and Providers
* Capability Career Expo set to be held the day before the Mega Conference again this year
* Project Search launching an adult program
* Profiling Walgreen’s “REDI” program
* Provider Transformation manual is out for review
* NASDDDS publication of the Ohio “Building Relationships on the Job”
* Employer Survey going out soon. Ideas on how to get out to employers needed.
* Addition to Individuals and Families
* Janet Shouse has been working on an easy to understand blog on issues pertinent to families such as the upcoming ECF Waiver and the Occupational Diploma. Available on the Tennessee Works web site
* Addition to Data
* Over 22,000 visitors to the data dashboard
* Only need to think, “What is it I want to know and how do I find out?”
* Communication – new workgroup!
* Outlining resources by needs
* Working toward the Employment Summit and the Mega Conference
* Video to be released tomorrow on a lady named Clancy who works at the Opry House – GREAT video!
* **Strategic Plan Update**
* 3-year strategic plan through 2017
* Needs to be inclusive of the next gubernatorial administration
* Send updates on any work assigned to Amy, Elise or Wanda

1. LTSS waiver evaluation
2. Communication work group
3. Work with DOHR to increase the number of state positions and internships held by people with disabilities
4. Work with schools to increase employment opportunities

* next year’s planning day for teachers will be focused on transition activities
* **Pre-Employment Transition Services - PETS**
* PETS includes the following:
* job exploration
* work based learning
* work place readiness
* self-advocacy
* Post-secondary counseling and enrollment assistance
* Beginning 14-22
* VR involved much earlier in a student’s school career
* Can serve people with a 504 plan, and IEP or a documented disability
* Can serve people who may not become eligible for adult services
* Big shift for VR
* all disability types
* school aged
* Guidance not expected until June-ish
* Have implemented a “pilot” in Jackson
* strengthens good work
* can’t meet everyone’s needs
* want effective, impactful services
* Addresses underlying issues such as poverty, health, insurance, benefits, etc.
* Multi-agency collaboration
* What do agencies provide?
* What are the criteria?
* most do some form of employment
* fix so that everyone doesn’t have to reinvent the wheel
* silos are difficult to break down even when occurring within an agency
* Meets monthly to discuss students’ needs and how to address
* lots of successes
* local level work
* state-wide roll out being planned very slowly to include:
* training
* education
* contracts
* area specific needs
* rural counties
* high poverty levels
* resources and resource allocation
* Beginning to disseminate information to the VR folks “on the ground”
* resistance to change
* Economic and Community Development Committee
* How to align information presented to potential employers
* meet with local Chambers of Commerce
* Unified message
* People who speak their language need to talk to businesses
* School to work
* VR (70%) and schools (30%) split the person’s salary
* 144 school districts
* still have money available if proposals submitted very soon