Employment First Task Force

July 8, 2015

* Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) Update:
* St. John’s Community has joined the ***Provider Transformation*** group
* ODEP is working on an assessment form to be completed by participants in the EFSLMP grant
* Tennessee/DIDD will be reapplying for this grant for 2016
* Lisa Mills, SME for ODEP, has been in Tennessee consulting with TennCare and DIDD about the new Amendment 27, Employment First Choices Waiver
* Abby Cooper, SME with ODEP, will be holding the last call on ***Customized Employment and Discovery*** next week
* PDI, Greene County Skills and SRVS are all placing individuals using skills learned during these calls
* There will be a ***Vision Quest*** call to discuss WIOA deliverables
* IPS visit in August
* Amy attended the ***APSE Conference*** in Baltimore
* SRVS was recognized for the Transformation of its sheltered facilities
* Auto Zone was recognized as an employer of people with disabilities
* Review of Goals from the 3-year Strategic Plan
* Goals and objectives were reviewed by the group. Elise McMillan will update the grid and send it out to the group
* Workgroups
* Employers and Providers; Lynette Henderson and Bob Nicholas (see handout)
* Capability Careers Expo held a job fair specifically for people with disabilities
* 35 vendors offering “real” jobs and 150 people with disabilities looking for employment attended
* still collecting data on how many people got employment as a result of this effort
* Piggybacked on the Mega Conference dates and location to maximize cost and accessibility
* Diversity “lunch and learn”
* the Pepsi Corporation had a follow up with Vocational Rehabilitation
* Policy; Elise McMillan (see handout)
* 2nd report from this group almost ready to present to the Governor
* WIOA
* Seven other states have AIDD grants, but only Tennessee has completed work on WIOA as a part of the grant
* Individuals and Families; Carrie Hobbs-Guiden (see handout)
* As a part of the June meeting in Memphis a mock interview between a person with a disability seeking a job and VR was conducted.
* It was noted by DOE that this would be a perfect presentation for the PIE conference held every year for educators
* Data; Elise McMillan (see handout)
* Community Conversations (see handout)
* Ten (10) meetings have been held so far this year
* Grant opportunities were offered. Fourteen (14) applications were received, six (6) were chosen
* Grantees will hold a “Community Conversation” and then follow up in 18 months.
* Employment Summit
* Will be held on September 16th
* Schedule to be developed
* Expecting a full house again this year – 150 people already registered
* Aaron Bishop, keynote speaker
* Yovancha mentioned that at a recent VR event a person supported and the person’s parent spoke to the group and it was a wonderful experience. She will get the name for the organizers of this event
* Will be working on resume building
* Will be inviting prospective employers to participate
* Amendment 27 – Employment First Choices Waiver (MCO)
* Will serve both ID and DD
* Will concentrate on employment and transitioning youth
* Project Search will be a priority
* 3 different “packages”; families, transitioning youth and adults needing 24-hour services
* Focus on independence or limited supports, keeping people at home with their family, keeping families together, keeping people out of 24-hour supports if possible, etc.
* Will start out small (little funding to begin with), will build on cost savings from the ID (1915) Waivers
* All services can be self-directed
* Open for public comment through the end of this month
* Need input on supporting people with developmental disabilities – little or no experience in serving this group. Please post comments!
* Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant application; Susie Bourque – (see handout)
* Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities
* Will be assisting with paid internships, but that will mean less funding for other positions
* Notifications will be made by October 1, 2015
* Provider Updates – Progress Inc.
* TNCO developed an Employment Committee several years ago to address employment issues. About 70% of DIDD providers are TNCO members
* Progress runs two Project Search sites; Embassy Suites and Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital
* Project Search has proved to be a very difficult, but important journey
* Working with families to change their “mindset” on employment for their family member
* Making employment everyone’s job!
* Provider Updates – St. John’s Community
* Employment for persons in seven (7) counties in north-west Tennessee
* presented at the APSE conference in Baltimore
* Participated in the filming of employment videos with DIDD
* Joined the EFSKMP grant group
* Closing day facilities un August 2015
* Opened a new satellite program in Henry County for two counties in June
* 64% of the people who want employment have a job
* 30+ volunteer sites
* 5 job coaches for 44 working individuals over 7 counties
* Opportunity for SJC and VR to work together in some of the more rural counties in Tennessee, Yovancha will follow up with Dwayne Webb
* Offered a Board Membership for the Career Center at UT Martin
* WIOA opportunities
* Misc. Announcements
* Vocational Rehabilitation presentation at APSE in Baltimore
* There will be an opportunity to promote self-employment through an art gallery at the PIE Conference (DOE). Send contact information to Alison Gauld with DOE

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 1-3:30 PM at the Disability Rights Tennessee office