

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010
Steering Committee Meeting

January 19, 2007

Attendance: Ann Marie Campbell, Todd Handler, Michael McAllister, Shauna Roman, Wanda Saab, Marianne Roche, Kathy Sykes, Michelle Sparling, Teresa Myers-Thompson

Meeting Summary

The meeting revolved around the following topics:

I. Supports Coordination

Marianne Roche discussed the activities of the Supports Coordination Work Group. The Work Group is developing a set of questions to assist supports coordinators when talking with families about the PFDS waiver and to guide discussions related to employment opportunities. The “Talking Points” will be shared with everyone involved in the employment process.

II. Baseline Data

There continues to be questions about the accuracy of the FY 2006 year end data. Teresa Myers-Thompson with follow-up with RIM to obtain a list of each person reported to have been employed in FY 2006. Copies of the report will be distributed to the Steering Committee for discussion at the next meeting (2-20-07). The Steering Committee reviewed copies of a report created by Leonard Kravitz based on self-reports from Community Integrated Employment (CIE) Providers about the number of people employed in FY 2006. The report does not contain information from all CIE providers. Teresa suggested using the CIE Directory and follow-up phone calls to complete the report. Baseline data will be re-visited at the next Steering Committee meeting. The goal is to have an agreed upon baseline number by March 2007.

III. Transition 44 (Planning for individuals who left school, June 2006)

Teresa and Wanda Sabb reviewed and updated the group on the status of individuals identifying CIE providers and registration for Career Planning Workshops. Ten (10) individuals have identified a CIE provider. To date, six (6) people are registered for the 1-31-07 session, two (2) have registered for the 2-7-07 session, two (2) have registered for 2-14-07 session, and one (1) person has registered for the 2-21-07 workshop.

The goal is to have all of the individuals identify a CIE provider by the end of the month of January 2007. Correspondence related to registration at Career Planning workshops should be copied (cc) to Elaine Thilo.

IV. Public Relations

The Committee discussed the idea of rolling out the new Slogan and Logo for Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010 during the month of March 2007, Mental Retardation Awareness Month. A decision was made to formally present the new logo at the **Points of Transformation Event on March 23, 2007**. The PR Work Group is working with a graphic designer to complete the new Logo. Networks will investigate other marketing products to be used to promote the initiative such as pins, additional pens, key holders, bags, etc. Ideas for marketing materials will be shared with the PR Work Group.

There was general discussion about developing personal stories related to employment and publishing them in the local media such as the Philadelphia Inquirer. Bonnie Squires was suggested as a good resource for helping us to make this happen. The Committee discussed the need to find other venues for promoting Vision for Employment 2010. Wanda Sabb and Todd Handler agreed to investigate the possibilities of publishing an employment success story in the School District of Philadelphia's "Notebooks" publication.

V. Who Wants to Work?

Shauna Roman updated the committee on the activities of the Who Wants to Work Group. There continues to be a relatively small number of people involved in this group. The committee brainstormed ways for increasing participation as well as possibly merging with other work groups such as the Supports Coordination or Capacity Building.

The Who Wants to Work group has drafted a document for use in identifying individuals who are currently in sheltered employment who would like to be working in community integrated jobs. The committee suggested that members of Who Wants to Work group attend meetings of the Supports Coordination and Capacity Building Work Groups to review their work and look for ways to collaborate. Shauna will work with other group members to arrange to attend and discuss their ideas at upcoming Supports Coordination and Capacity Building work group meetings. The goal is to get feedback and to have a document ready to go in March 2007.

VI. Philadelphia Transition Planning Project

Michael McAllister provided the committee with updated information about the status of participants in the project. Since the beginning of the project in December 2005, 24 individuals and their teams have participated in the project. The October 2006 group included seven (7) teams, with one (1) participant acquiring a job as a direct result of attending the two-day Workshop. The two-day workshops facilitated by Beth Mount have generated much enthusiasm and energy among participants and project mentors.

A second session for this fiscal year is planned to occur on February 1 & 2, 2007. To date, there are only three (3) people registered to attend. The group brainstormed ideas

for increasing the registration. An emphasis was placed on contacting Person Link and Consortium since no referrals have been received from those organizations. Michael will send a follow-up e-mail to each Supports Coordination Organization (SCO) and directly contact Person Link and Consortium. Ann Marie agreed to touch base with Hana Sabree, Michael agreed to contact Oni McMullen, and Todd Handler agreed to contact Transition Coordinators at the Philadelphia School District to ask those individuals to spread the work about the workshop. The workshop planned for February may need to be cancelled/re-scheduled if registration does not increase.

VII. General Ideas and Decisions

There was general conversation about the **Employment Conference** scheduled for June 5 & 6, 2007 at the DoubleTree Hotel, Broad and Locust Streets. One idea was to include a **Provider Expo** (similar to the events held on 11-30-05 and 1-8-07) as part of the Conference.

Based on current Conference planning, June 5, 2007 appeared to be the best day to hold the event and for it to occur from 4 PM – 7 PM allowing families to attend after the work day. The idea is to give recent graduates and their families an opportunity to see what CIE Providers have to offer and be more informed about choosing a service provider. Michael McAllister will contact Michele Sparling, who is the Conference Coordinator, about arranging for this event to occur as part of the Conference.

Kathy Sykes introduced the idea of developing a forum for sharing information about Employer Incentives for hiring individuals with disabilities. Kathy is aware of family members who would be interested in promoting employment to local businesses but would need additional information. There was a discussion about creating a training session on the topic of **Employer Incentives**. The session would be for CIE Agency staff and others who may be ambassadors for employment so that they are more informed in this area. Several names were mentioned as resources and possible contributors to the proposed session: Phil Migliarese (Mayor's Commission), Rose Higby (Philadelphia OVR), Stacy Kyle (PA BLN), and Michelle Sparling (Networks). Networks will contact resources in the area and develop a format for a session. The goal is to develop the session to occur in March 2007.

An invitation letter to potential advisory Group members needs to be completed. Michael will develop a draft letter for Kathy Sykes to review. The goal is to have Advisory Group members attend the March 21, 2007 Steering Committee meeting.

In order to continue to highlight the focus on employment, Networks will compile a list of all employment-related activities, training, etc. in a Calendar of Events format. Anyone knowing of an event that they would like to see included in the Calendar should forward the information to Michael McAllister. The goal is to compile the first Employment Calendar for the month of March 2007.

Upcoming Steering Committee Meeting dates:

February 20, 2007 9:30 AM – 12 PM

March 7, 2007 9:30 AM- 12 PM

March 21, 2007 9:30 AM – 12 PM

Summary completed by:

Michael McAllister, Ph.D.