

July 26, 2006

Philadelphia Vision for Employment
Steering Committee First Meeting

Attendance: Ann Marie Campbell, Todd Handler, Karen Kenny, Leonard Kravitz, Michael McAllister, Rosa McAllister, Teresa Myers, Marianne Roche, Shauna Roman, Wanda Saab, Michelle Sparling, Kathy Sykes

Meeting Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of creating a Vision for Employment for Philadelphia Mental Retardation Services. The idea is to continue the work which began last year as part of the identified “Year of Employment” focus identified by the Public Awareness Committee at the Bright Futures Event and culminated with a two-day Employment Conference. Kathy Sykes began the meeting with a review of past and current activities related to employment emphasizing the importance of working together in a variety of ways to promote employment and increase the number of people with mental retardation who are working in inclusive employment settings. The group gathered today to begin this process will need to be ambassadors for the idea of employment, with a shared commitment and ownership of the process and the agreed upon goals.

The meeting focused on laying the groundwork for a broader future strategic planning process using a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrow’s with Hope) process. Michael McAllister facilitated a beginning discussion of the current situation in Philadelphia. The group identified successes, accomplishments, and building blocks as well as challenges that need to be addressed in both planning and implementation efforts. There was energy and excitement in the group as a number of ideas and possibilities were generated as part of the discussion.

Rosa McAllister led the group in an explanation of the PATH process and provided examples of completed PATH’s. Through a discussion of the values and beliefs which guide our efforts in the area of employment services and supports, an outline of a PATH was created. This framework will be explored and added to at a future PATH planning with a broader group of stakeholders.

A list of people (stakeholders) to invite to participate in the PATH planning was generated in order to get input from stakeholders within and outside of the Mental Retardation system. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for August 10, 2006, 10 AM at MRS to continue this dialogue and work on the logistics of the process. ***Friday September 8, 2006*** was identified as the date for the PATH planning with a larger group of stakeholders.