

Philadelphia Vision for Employment
Steering Committee Meeting

November 1, 2006

Attendance: Ann Marie Campbell, Todd Handler, Karen Kenny, Leonard Kravitz, Michael McAllister, Rosa McAllister, Teresa Myers-Thompson, Shauna Roman, Wanda Saab, Kathy Sykes

Meeting Summary

The primary discussion topic for this meeting was a review of Work Group goals and activities. A table containing the goals for each Work Group was distributed to facilitate the discussion of each Work Group (see attached). There was also a brief introduction to the idea of forming an Advisory Council as another component to the Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010.

Data Group

Leonard Kravitz summarized the goals for this group. We are currently still in the process of establishing a reliable baseline number to support our strategic planning efforts. June 30, 2006 was identified as the date to use for this purpose. At this point, the current number being generated by RIM may not be an accurate reflection of the number of people employed in community integrated employment. Len will continue to work with RIM staff to obtain a reliable June 30, 2006 baseline number.

There was a general discussion about other various data sources that are available and that can be helpful to our planning efforts. They include: Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO), School District of Philadelphia (students with mental retardation ages 16-21), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Database, and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). Len agreed to touch base with Melissa Allar and Diane Jones at the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Retardation (PA OMR) and Donna Cavaliere to review these potential sources of information. Teresa agreed to review the information that SCO's may have concerning students of transition age, especially those students who are expected to leave school in June 2007 and June 2008.

It was agreed to get a count of people employed during the 2006 fiscal year (7/1/05 – 6/30/06) by directly contacting employment providers. The following two questions were suggested to be posed to Community Integrated Employment Providers:

- How many people did you support in paid jobs from 7/1/05 through 6/30/06?
- How much money did the people in community integrated employment earn in fiscal year 2006?

A goal was set to have baseline numbers for the next Steering Committee meeting which is scheduled for November 29, 2006.

Public Relations Work Group

Karen Kenny discussed the Logo/Slogan contest to be kicked off at the Brighter Futures Event on November 8, 2006. The group reviewed a Flyer describing the contest and provided some final edits to the document. Employment Ambassador pins/ribbon will be distributed to individuals that are involved in Philadelphia Employment 2010 efforts at the Brighter Futures event.

Other ideas generated by the Public Relations Work Group include articles in the Family Forum, an Employment Related Monthly Calendar with a focus on creating a new kick-off event each month, promoting the development and writing of success stories and articles in local neighborhood newspapers.

Winners of the Slogan/Logo contest will be identified at the next meeting of the Public Relations Work Group which is scheduled for December 7, 2006.

Transition Work Group

Todd Handler summarized the activities of the Transition Work Group noting the collaboration with the School to Work Coalition. There was some discussion about the Transition Work Group being involved with developing presentations and a "Transition Track" for the June 2007 Employment Symposium. Other ideas discussed included collaborative training on roles in the transition process, education for supports coordinators about IEP's, and understanding the process for registering with the Philadelphia MRS. Much of the discussion revolved around ways in which school personnel can learn about the MRS system, as well as ways in which personnel working in the mental retardation system can learn about the school system.

Planning for Forty-Four Recent Graduates. A major effort in the area of transition is in its initial stages. Activities in this area overlap several of the Work Groups (Supports Coordination, Transition, and Capacity-building). Forty-four (44) names of individuals who graduated/left school in June 2006 were submitted to PA OMR. The MRS is expecting to receive OMR funding through the Person Family Directed Waiver to support these individuals in community integrated employment.

A meeting with providers interested in supporting these individuals through the employment process has been scheduled for November 15, 2006 to discuss this effort. Michel McAllister agreed to provide two documents for use at the meeting. One document will provide a family member or an individual interested in selecting an employment provider with a list questions (see attached). The other draft document identifies expectations for providers who are interested in providing community integrated employment services to these 44 young adults (see attached).

A Provider Expo will be organized to assist individuals and families in selecting an employment support provider. Networks for Training and Development, Inc. will assist in organizing the Expo/Fair. Once an employment provider is chosen a series of team-

based training will be offered to begin the employment process. Employment providers, supports coordinators, the individual, and significant others will participate a one day workshop designed to jump start the employment support process.

There was a discussion of developing a system for monitoring and tracking services and outcomes. The expectation is paid community integrated employment for each of the 44 individuals. Teresa Myers-Thompson is reviewing the information about the 44 people currently identified and working employment providers and supports coordination organizations.

Capacity Building Work Group

Teresa Myers-Thompson summarized the activities of the group. The Capacity Group will be focusing on strategies that increase the number of people who are employed in community integrated jobs. At the last meeting of the Capacity Building Work Group, participants brainstormed ideas about organizing a Provider Fair/Expo. The Expo will be designed to assist the 44 recent graduates and their significant others to identify an employment provider. Specific dates will be explored to hold the Expo at the Mid-Town Holiday Inn (Juniper & Walnut Sts.). Teresa will work with providers to develop marketing materials.

Supports Coordination Work Group

Wanda Sabb summarized the activities and ideas generated by the work group. They included ways to improve the referral process, include more of a focus on employment as part of ISP training for supports coordinators, and the importance of employment goals in ISP's. There was some discussion about providing Dana Olsen from PA OMR with some feedback regarding the ISP and employment from the perspective of supports coordination in Philadelphia. One idea was to get the Supports Coordination Registration Unit more involved in the Work Group.

Who Wants to Work Group

Shauna Roman discussed the activities of the Who Wants to Work Group. The group is working on drafting a letter to Providers requesting information about people who have indicated that they are interested in community integrated employment. An end of January 2007 deadline has been identified as the timeframe for the completion of the draft. The group is also working on ideas for putting together a survey to directly ask people if they are interested in paid community integrated employment.

Advisory Council

Kathy Sykes briefly reviewed the idea of developing an Advisory Council for the Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010 initiative. The Advisory Council would consist of individual and family representatives, and system representatives such as

Philadelphia OVR, the Philadelphia School District, the Coalition, and the Alliance of Specialized Agencies.