

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010

Steering Committee Meeting

February 25, 2009

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Michael McAllister, Len Kravitz, Julia Barol, Todd Handler, Marianne Roche, Shauna Roman, Michelle Sparling, Kathy Sykes, Jeff Orlin, Ann Marie Campbell

I. General Updates

A. Supports Coordination Workgroup

Marianne began the meeting by updating the group on the most recent meeting held on 2-24-09. She explained that the Supports Coordination Organizations would each be holding an outreach event targeted towards transition aged youth aged 16 – 21 that are currently registered with Philadelphia MRS. She explained that four dates were planned: Consortium will hold an afternoon and evening session on 4/16 and 5/21, Partnership For Community Supports (PFCS) will hold two sessions on 4/22, Quality Progressions would hold two sessions on 4/27 and Person Link would hold two session on 5/19. The goal of the sessions is to educate families on their options while their children are still in school. There will be information presented regarding the IEP process, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) regulations Regulation, as well as options available for transition to work. Marianne explained that there will panel presentations at each of the sessions. Carol Frangicetta from PFCS will be helping to organize panel participants. To date, Michael Basch, an attorney has agreed to participate on the panel. Dr. Linda Chen, from Dr. Ackerman’s office at the School District of Philadelphia has also been invited to participate on the panel.

B. Tenth Employment Supports Symposium (May 20-22, 2009)

Michael updated the group on the status of this year’s Symposium. The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has been involved in the planning of the event and has agreed to provide additional financial support for the Conference through the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG). AHEDD is the direct recipient of the MIG and John Miller from AHEDD has participated in event planning discussions. There has also been involvement from the Governor’s Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities in the planning of the event. This involvement has broadened the focus of the Symposium which has created more of a statewide and cross disability focus for the Conference.

Michael provided some additional details planned for the Conference. On the first day, Denise Bissonnette will present a full day workshop: “Renewing Purpose and Passion for the Employment Professional”. Concurrently, John Miller of AHEDD is assisting in coordinating two Work Incentive Seminars (WISE) events. These events are conducted by Social Security Administration staff for individuals with disabilities. A strategic planning session is also being arranged that would focus on developing a PA Vision for Employment. Rosa and Michael will be facilitating those sessions. Kathy stressed the need for the participation of Kevin Casey at the strategic planning event. Presently, Suzanne Campbell from the Governor’s Office has agreed to participate. There is a need to identify other key

people to be invited to participate. The goal of the strategic planning session is to create an outline of a statewide PATH with an agreement from stakeholders to follow up and continue the process in future years.

A variety of sessions are being planned on Day 2 and Day 3 with more of a cross disability content focus. There was discussion about holding a Vendor Expo on Day 2 in addition to a separate Philadelphia CIE Provider Expo. The space for the Vendor Expo would be on a first-come first-serve basis with a maximum of 15 tables. The tentative schedule is to hold the Vendor Expo from 12 PM to 4 PM and the CIE Provider Expo from 4:15 PM to 6:00 PM. A one page Flyer is being developed for initial advertising of the Conference. A more complete Brochure will follow shortly thereafter.

C. Video Project: One City, One Vision

Julia and Jeff updated the committee on the status of the Video Project. Julia distributed the final version of the script as provided by Crossbow Studio along with editing suggestions from Rosa. The group decided to include some of Rosa's suggestions. Julia will incorporate the changes and send the revised version to the committee for final approval. The next stage of the project has begun and meetings will be scheduled in the next week with the employers with videotaping to follow.

There was a general discussion about how employers and others who may view the video can gather additional information about hiring people with disabilities and the work of Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010. One suggestion was to list the philaonthejob website and other contact information at the end of the video. Jeff pointed out that the current website needs more pizzazz if businesses are to use it as a portal. Jeff suggested that the philaonthejob website should contain more information about Vision for Employment 2010. It should be as complete as possible so that people would not need to go to the City's web site to find additional information. Michael suggested that Jeff share his ideas with Diane Kehoe so that we can begin the process of updating the website.

II. Provider Practices Work Group

Michael updated everyone on the status of the Provider Practices Work Group. A meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2009 to discuss the results of the Employment Provider Practices Survey. At present, there is one remaining interview to be conducted to complete the survey. That interview is scheduled to take place on March 4, 2009. Steering Committee members involved in conducting the face to face interviews discussed their experiences. Michelle pointed out that it appears that a lot of providers are not engaged in job creation or job carving strategies. Follow up discussions with individual agencies were suggested as a way to discuss the initial results of the survey. Todd and Michael agreed on a date for a discussion with PDDC.

Michael suggested meeting again with all of the providers to discuss some of the responses to the survey and to assess any technical assistance that might be needed to improve on practices. This would then be incorporated as a plan for training for the following fiscal year. It was suggested that Len put the survey on the agenda for the next Employment Forum. Michael agreed to present Preliminary Findings at the upcoming Employment Forum.

III. CIE FY 2009 Monthly Data Reporting System

Michael distributed a chart and a table depicting “Community Integrated Employment in Philadelphia”. The charts compare FY 2008 with the first six months of FY 2009 and reflect a potential increase in the number of people who will earn wages during the current year compared to last fiscal year. In FY 2008 there were 656 individuals that were employed (reported by 28 agencies). In the first six months of FY 2009, 626 individuals were reported to have earned wages (19 agencies reporting). It was also pointed out that there may be some duplication in the numbers and that we are working hard are to have a solid data set by the end of this fiscal year.

Michael also distributed FY 2009 second quarter data for the 19 CIE Providers showing the number of people employed and served by each agency along with average earnings. Kathy suggested the production of a ranking of providers in terms of the number of people employed, served, and average earnings for review by the Steering Committee. Michelle suggested that it maybe helpful to have a listing of all new jobs acquired.

In reviewing the data, it was noted that there have been three training sessions on the topic of customized employment this year. There was a general discussion about whether these trainings are influencing employment support practices. There was much discussion on this topic. Michelle pointed out that the Employment Mentors this year are involved in projects using “best practices”. Kathy said it would be great to follow those Employment Mentors to see if there is implementation of these practices within their agencies over the course of the next fiscal year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at MRS at 2 pm.

Note: Due to time limitations the following agenda items were not discussed: Follow-up Interac Workshop Discussion, Philadelphia Transition Planning Project Update, FY 2009 ODP/Transition Initiative, Data review Interac and Elwyn.