

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010 Steering Committee Meeting

March 25, 2009

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Michael McAllister, Len Kravitz, Julia Barol, Todd Handler, Shauna Roman, Kathy Sykes, Jeff Orlin, Teresa Myers-Thompson, Ann Marie Campbell

I. General Updates

Kathy mentioned the initiation of a Mural Arts Project that would create a mural depicting community membership and people with disabilities. Michael noted that Michelle Sparling would be leaving Networks in June 2009 to spend two years in Japan.

II. Employment Provider Practices Survey Preliminary Findings

Michael distributed the Preliminary Findings of the Provider Practices Survey. Michael and Todd conducted a follow-up meeting with PDDC to go over the specifics of PDDC's responses to the questionnaire. They meet met with several PDDC staff including the Executive Director, to discuss and clarify their responses. Based on the conversation, PDDC will be re-submitting the questionnaire. Michael suggested that we offer face-to-face meetings with CIE providers to review individual agency and survey results. A letter will be drafted offering to meet with agencies to review survey findings and discuss next steps. Teresa will accompany Michael at these meetings.

III. Video Project Update

Jeff and Julia updated everyone on the status of the "One City, One Vision" Video Project. They reported that interview filming had taken place already at Woodcock Washburn with a Managing Partner and the Director of Human Resources. There is a second filming scheduled to film Jonathon Williams (supported employee) and his supervisor. Filming/interviewing has also taken place at the National Constitution Center with Max and Me Catering's Director, Staff Supervisor, New Business Consultant and Larry Williams (supported employee). There have also been taped interviews with President Judge Marsha Neifield and Civil Listings Judge Bradley Moss as well as Margie Berger's (supported employee) Division Supervisor. The filming is presently on schedule with CVS still to be scheduled. Vince Hill (KYW News Radio) will be taping the voice-overs and the "B" footage will be shot in the next couple of weeks.

IV. Employment Supports Symposium

A. Update Draft Brochure

Michael distributed a draft of the Symposium Brochure and asked for any corrections/changes. Kathy explained the process of how the Conference has developed into a statewide event highlighting all individuals with disabilities. In reviewing the Brochure, there was much discussion around the Vermont break out session titled: Vermont: A Sheltered Workshop Free

State. Also discussed were the compromises and advantages to organizing a statewide, across disability Conference. It was also noted that there is a generous reimbursement being offered and funded through the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to offset Conference costs. Agencies should be encouraged to send as many staff as possible to the Conference.

B. Other Conference Information

Julia Sozio from Networks is handling logistics concerning the CIE Provider Expo to be held at the Conference on Thursday, May 22, 2009. A separate Flyer advertising the Provider Expo will be distributed. The Video: "One City, One Vision" will debut at the Employer Luncheon on Friday May 22, 2009. A suggestion was made to specifically invite employers who have been past Exemplary Employer Award Winners to the Employer Luncheon.

There was some general conversation about the Pennsylvania Vision for Employment strategic planning session scheduled for Wednesday May 20, 2009. The importance of getting as many key people as possible to attend the session was emphasized. Rose Higby, Director of Philadelphia OVR, was specifically mentioned as someone who should be directly invited to attend as well as representatives from the School District of Philadelphia.

V. Steering Committee Reflections: Moving Towards 2010

Kathy provided some background information about the initial ideas began for creating a new Employment Initiative in Philadelphia. The 2006 Employment Supports Symposium provided an initial jumps start to the idea. Michael distributed the minutes of the first Steering Committee meeting and initiated a discussion about the creation of the Vision for Employment concept and changes that have occurred since its inception. During the conversation it was announced that Todd Handler has been promoted to Supervisor and will be focusing on those duties and will not be a part of the Steering Committee for the time being. Todd provided some reflections on his work as Chairperson of the Transition Work Group and highlighted some of the work of that group.

There was some general discussion of how we can continue to keep the initiative moving forward in the coming year. Thoughts were shared concerning whether there needs to be a re-thinking or re-structuring of the Steering Committee in order to keep up our enthusiasm, energy, and commitment. One idea was to broaden participation on the Steering Committee to include representatives from the Alliance/Coalition, Parent Groups, and possible other service systems such as OVR and the School District. A related idea was to consider maybe meeting as a larger group on a quarterly basis or every other month while a smaller group still continued to meet on a monthly basis.

There was some discussion about considering ways to better organize and focus the time spent at Steering Committee meetings. Michael suggested some simple initial steps that maybe helpful such as planning regular attendance and beginning and ending meetings at the specified times.

VI. Agenda Items for the Next Steering Committee Meeting

Teresa distributed responses to an ODP March Employment update from Dennis Oswald, CATCH, and Bill Schoppe, PATH. It was suggested that the issues raised in this response be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting. The current ODP Service Definitions was also suggested as a topic to be discussed at the next meeting. It was also agreed to continue the reflections discussion started at this meeting and consider ways the Steering Committee might re-structure and re-focus efforts as we move into the next year.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 22, 2009, 2 PM at Philadelphia MRS