

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010 Steering Committee Meeting

September 23, 2009

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Julia Barol, Ann Marie Campbell, Karen Claiborne-Pride, Len Kravitz, Michael McAllister, Teresa Myers-Thompson, Jeff Orlin, Larry Pace, Shauna Roman, Wanda Sabb, Kathy Sykes

I. Work Group Updates

Supports Coordination/Transition Work Group – Wanda and Julia updated the group on the new work group TIPS which stands for Transition in Planning Supports and distributed the minutes from the first meeting. It was reported that at the meeting Marianne coordinated a “What, Who and How” worksheet of areas to concentrate on in the near future. Activities include middle school outreach, working to develop local affiliations with the high schools, transition Planning Project, ESY (Extended School Year) and making employment an option, employment support, information sessions at different schools. It was suggested that it would be a great idea to recognize outstanding teachers at the Symposium this year. Also in attendance was Dr. Alton Strange, Assistant to Executive Director Dr. Linda Williams of the Philadelphia School District. Dr. Strange oversees the students in Special Education. There was discussion about getting principal buy-in at the different high schools and it was suggested to have Dr. Strange help in this area. It was suggested that Marianne contact Dr. Strange and offer to take him out into the field to see individuals working in the community.

CIE Data System Update – Len reported that for the first couple of months of the FY, agencies have been relatively good at reporting their data. Len sent out a schedule to providers for the fiscal year as to when the reports are due as well as when the quarterly reports will be sent out. It was noted that issues we have had over the past year have been improved on and the data is simpler to complete and therefore submit.

Michael and Len met with the data people from DBH (Raj Phatak and a second technical support individual) and reported that they are interested in promoting employment and want to begin to collect data on Employment which at the moment they do not do. It was noted that we do have overlap with some of our providers such as CATCH, JEVs, Horizon House and CoMHAR that are already providing data and that it would not be difficult to implement our data collection process with the few remaining agencies. There was much discussion over the benefits of collaboration with DBH. It was suggested that Michelle Kahn join us at Steering Committee meetings in the future.

II. Retreat Related Ideas/Project Updates

Policy White Paper - Larry shared that Len, Michael and Larry met to put together a white paper on Employment. The paper shares context (history), values and beliefs. Several sections of the White Paper were discussed. It was noted that there will be information on other states that are also supporting employment successfully. The 'Seize the Opportunity' section will cover contradictions and disconnections. "Suggestions and recommendations" will tackle the areas of: readiness, Stakeholder consensus, the definition of employment, the options to employment, absence of a safety net, rates, data system and flexible career supports. Flexible career supports would be those services built around employment and those service definitions would be need to be in HCSIS along with the budget to cover this. Michael suggested that we can all work to compile the information needed to complete the white paper. Shauna suggested that we include best practices in: support, person centered, customized employment and assistive technology. It was agreed that Supports Coordination needs to be added to this document. It was noted that self advocates have talked at a meeting very recently about the one thing that they want and don't have: employment.

Stakeholders would include: Supports Coordinators, families, providers, self advocates. The challenges would include making a step by step roadmap to accomplish this. It was noted that benefits counseling needs to be added to both the sections "Seize the Opportunity" and "Suggestions and Recommendations". Michael suggested that we bring together 3-4 CIE providers in a focus group to work on what we need to put in place to make this all happen. ODP is beginning to rewrite the waiver application at this time and it was agreed that it is important to finish this paper sooner rather than later. Kathy suggested we push on the executive summary page and then follow on the rest.

Larry pointed out that we want the State to buy into the philosophy and then we want the State to make it a reality. We need to link this to the PA Vision for Employment as this is the logical progression to accomplish these goals. It was pointed out that now is the perfect time to write this paper as the current administration has only a year and a half left. This could be started and advanced far enough to not be undone. Kathy said that the outcome would be to have the state embrace the values put forth in the White Paper in a substantive way.

If there are any additional topic areas to be included send to Larry and Michael.

III. Working With Facility Based Programs - Teresa reported out on the meeting held at Warren E. Smith with Lisa Smith, Wanda and Shauna. The meeting was planned to go over the services being offered at WES. There are 63 individuals in the workshop. Gilbert Morrow is no longer with the CIE program at WES and Lisa is acting as director temporarily and needs to have more support in the CIE process. Lisa said that there were 4 individuals in the workshop that want to work. This would be the place to start with their CIE program. Lisa has some great ideas to promote employment in the community but doesn't know how to move it to the next step. She has a great relationship with the parents and has done some work with the church across the street and is very open to doing more things with the community. Wanda shared that she had conducted outreach to Shriner's Hospital Public Affairs and talked to them about fostering

relationships in the community. Wanda also has contacts at Temple and will make contacts there for community outreach. It was suggested that perhaps we do a career planning workshop for the four individuals that want to work. Shauna will bring the Who Wants To Work survey to the next meeting which is scheduled 10/26/09. Michael will join them at this meeting.

IV. Other Updates

Philadelphia Transition Planning Project Update - Julia reported that we have 12 confirmed teams for the workshop on October 6 & 7 and will be having a mentors meeting on September 30. Michael reported that this is the largest group that we have had to date and there is a waiting list. There was discussion about the need for additional mentors.

MIG Statewide Employment Planning

Michael distributed the schedule for the MIG employment planning project statewide focus groups. The meeting dates are almost all set. The goal is that there will be a strategic plan that results from these focus groups. The next statewide steering committee meeting is December 17 at the Harrisburg Hilton from 11am to 2 pm. Networks website has a lot of information on the MIG and the progress that has been made.

One City, One Vision - Julia distributed the finished video with the sample insert. It was suggested that the FAQ sheet be "tried out" on employers through CIS and SPIN for feedback. Also, Kathy suggested Comcast Newsmakers for promotion and to create a five minute version to be shown on WYBE.

CIE provider meeting moved from October 21 to October 14 at 9:30 am at MRS.

Next meeting is October 28, 2009 at 2pm.

Note: Due to time constraints the following agenda items were not discussed: Response Team, FY 2010 Mini-Grant RFP, Chamber of Commerce Project (MIG Funded) - Building on Employer Connections, Philadelphia Employment Leadership Consortium