

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010

Steering Committee Meeting

April 23, 2008

In Attendance: Todd Handler, Leonard Kravitz, Michael McAllister, Ann Marie Campbell, Shauna Roman, Michelle Sparling, Wanda Saab, Teresa Myers-Thompson, Marianne Roche, Julia Barol, Kathy Sykes , Rosa McAllister

Meeting Summary

The meeting revolved around the following topics:

I. Employment Support Symposium

There was a general discussion and update concerning the Employment Support Symposium including changes to the brochure that reflect program changes. The Moving Employment Forward session that was postponed on April 9, 2008 will now take place during the Conference and has been listed in the updated Brochure. Providers have been invited to attend that session as well as the Employer Awards Luncheon. Those that attend the session do not have to register for the Conference.

Michael provided an update on the registration numbers to date: Forty-four (44) have registered so far the pre-Conference Workshop with Denise Bissonette. Networks will continue to market the event heavily. Day 1 has 29 registrants and day 2 has 27 registrants. In reviewing those that have already registered, there are a number of Philadelphia CIE providers that have yet to register. The Employer Awards Luncheon has 21 individuals registered. Kathy suggested that if a provider purchased a ticket to the Employer Awards Luncheon then they would be able to bring an employer for free. An award can be given to the agency that brings the most employers. It was also suggested that the previous two years of Employer Award Winners should also be invited to attend the Luncheon

B. Employment Provider Expo

The Employer Expo scheduled for May 21, 2008 at 4 PM has 8 registrants. Ten (10) providers have as well as the Disability Rights Network (DRN) have registered to have resource tables at the event. Philadelphia MRS will also have a table. Much discussion about whether the SCOs should have a table at the EXPO. Kathy felt that representation from Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO) was a good idea and their attendance should be encouraged. Three (3) SCO's had tables and participated in the Swenson High School Resource Fair. Todd felt it was a positive experience to have them there. Kathy will suggest that SCO's have resource tables at the Employment Provider Expo at the next SCO meeting.

Shauna introduced the idea of having an Information Booklet to pass out at the Employment Providers Expo. The booklet would contain information about the Expo (e.g., why you are here) and questions to ask employment providers. Also included would be a list of which providers are

in attendance as well as a map. Teresa also suggested including the Provider Directory which will be updated with FY 20007 information.

The group engaged in a discussion about the development of a Transition-specific resource directory. A meeting will be scheduled with Jeff, Todd, Teresa and Shauna to discuss what should be in this directory. It was suggested that the excerpts from IDEA and chapter 14 changes should also be included in the directory. Quotes from each document covering transition was suggested for addition. Marianne agreed to forward some information from these documents to Todd.

Michael noted the time change for the Philadelphia Transition Planning Project follow-up meeting. The half-day session will be rescheduled to Wednesday, May 21 from 1:30 to 4:00PM in order for participants to attend the Employment Provider Expo. This would also would allow us to hold the “Moving Employment Forward” provider session during the Conference. The session will be held on May 23, 2008 from 9 AM – 12 PM.

C. Moving Employment Forward

There was a general discussion of ‘Moving Employment Forward’ session agenda. Michael reviewed the edits made to the stimulus questions and reiterated which Steering Committee members would work together to facilitate the group work portion of the session. The edited questions with Steering Committee members are as follows:

- How do we **effectively and efficiently assist people to get and keep jobs** of their choosing? What works best? Do more of? Todd and Wanda
- How would you design an **employment information system** for the future that is useful at the individual provider and system level? What makes sense? Len and Marianne
- What **processes and outcomes** should providers and the system be looking at in order to improve overall performance? Teresa and Michael
- What **job development** practices are the most effective in finding jobs? What are the current strategies? More of? Less of? Michelle and Julia
- What assessment strategies are most effective/less effective in determining individual interests, preferences, career paths? Shauna and Ann Marie

The tentative session schedule is as follows:

9 - 9:10	Introductions
9:10 – 9:40	Stories
9:45 – 10:15	Kathy/Michael Systems Outcomes
10:15 – 10:30	Dana- PA Perspective
10:35 – 11:15	Group Work
11:15 – 11:45	Report Out
11:45 – 12:00	Next Steps

Steering Committee members will act as facilitators in the work groups in which they are assigned. This portion should take approximately an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes to meet and then 45 minutes to report out, with a 'where are we going from here' portion to follow.

Providers will be asked to respond to Jeff Orlin concerning their attendance at the session. They will not be required to register for the Conference if they are planning on just attending the Moving Employment Forward session.

II. Transition "74"

Discussion began around the Career Planning Workshops. Wanda reported that the teams that attended were very good teams despite the lower attendance than anticipated. Wanda is also suggesting that those that are employed should also attend to make sure that there is a review of supports needed and a discussion of what supports are in place match the person's Individual Supports Plan (ISP). Of the 74, a total of 15 have attended with 9 more scheduled to attend. Paperwork for 55 is completed which is a great improvement over previous years. Of the 74, it is hoped that at least 25 will be working. Twenty (20) people chose other services. It was suggested that other individuals should be invited to participate in the Career Planning Workshops, including individuals identified as part of the Who Wants to Work-Work Group activities. Career Planning Workshops will be scheduled one at a time with the next one scheduled for June 15, 2008. A sign-up sheet at the Employment Provider Expo and a board in the story room will be created to give individuals a chance to sign up for the workshops.

III. FY 2008 CIE Data

Len will contact Community Integrated Employment (CIE) Providers to let them know that they need to submit fiscal year 2008 data. Early submissions will be welcome.

IV. General Updates/Directions

A. Philadelphia Transition Planning Project

The Philadelphia Transition Planning Project two-day Workshop took place on April 3 & 4, 2008. Due to illness Beth Mount was unable to facilitate the Workshop. The Workshop had the largest turnout of students and families. Twelve teams participated in the event. Michael facilitated the first day of the event and Michelle and Ann Marie facilitated the second day.

The follow-up half day session will occur on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 from 1:30 PM – 4 PM. Teresa will be added to the e-mail list and Michael will not be sick.

B. April 9, 2008 Transition Fair at Swenson High School

Over 42 families attended, 14 CIE providers and three (3) SCOs, liberty resources had resource tables at the event. Also participating in the event was DRN. Philadelphia MRS registered 7 individuals. There were also families in the process of registration. The school was supportive as

the principal attended. Lynore Eisman and Estera Weiss were very helpful. School partnership is key.

B. FY 2009 Graduate Initiative

Kathy mentioned that there is a good probability that there will be a transition initiative from PA ODP for June 2008 graduates.

C. Benefits Planning/Work Incentives

Julia passed out materials related to benefits planning and work incentives. Kathy noted that we need to do a better job in educating SCOs and providers in understanding the effect of work on benefits. In-service training with SCOs, families, and possibly Vision for Equality staff on this topic were discussed as ways to educate more people on this topic. A dilemma for SCOs is that they do not see individuals on a day to day basis and it may be difficult for them to take on the responsibility of reporting earnings, etc. The development of a Handbook was also discussed as a way to provide information in a easy to read format. Julia will talk to Marianne about ways to talk with family groups across the city about this topic.

D. Other

Ann Marie updated the group about a poster session she and Karen Kenny will be doing at the AAIDD Conference at the end of May 2008 (see email) The poster session will focus on the activities and accomplishments of the PR Work Group and also will include information other general information about Philadelphia Vision For Employment 2010. The poster session is to be held May 28, 2008. The website will also be highlighted. Ann Marie has all products to be given out that have been developed. The PATH will also be on display.

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2008, 2 PM at MRS.