

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010

Steering Committee Meeting

May 14, 2008

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

Meeting Summary

The meeting revolved around the following topics:

1. Employment Supports Symposium Update

Michelle began the meeting by reporting that the May 21, 2008 Pre-Conference Workshop with Denise Bissonnette is at 90 registrants. The registration total for Day 1 of the Conference is 91 registrants. She pointed out that this number does not include registration numbers for Philadelphia MRS employees. The Employment Providers Expo on Wednesday May 21, 2008 currently has only 18 people registered. Kathy mentioned that Expo information had been distributed to all the Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs). Teresa reported that she has sent the Expo information to all students aged 16 – 21 that are registered with Philadelphia MRS and it has been sent out twice.

Registration for Day 2 is at 80 registrants. The luncheon has 128 registered with a number of agencies taking advantage of the buy one, get one free and bring an employer idea. Michael suggested that Len contact Stacy Kyle at the BLN and offer the luncheon free to employers that are part of the BLN in Philadelphia. Tuesday is the deadline for submitting numbers to the hotel the luncheon.

Michelle noted out that in general there are more registrants for the Conference at this point than at the same time out last year.

B. Volunteers

The volunteers for the Conference were discussed and Steering Committee members agreed to help with Conference Registration on all three days. A volunteer meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 2 pm at the Hyatt at Penn's Landing. The volunteers will receive a golf shirt to wear at the Conference and will be oriented to the facility and the use of video equipment for the sessions.

C. Employer Award Update

Julia distributed a listing of the 2008 Employer Award recipients and reported on the status of those attending the luncheon as well as the progress to date on the Awards. The Award Certificates were given to Judy Kreslov from MRS on May 8, 2008 for signatures and the

plaques are ready to be assembled. Networks staff is in the process of gathering pictures of all award winners to be used in a PowerPoint presentation during the Awards Ceremony during the Luncheon. At the Awards Luncheon, individual Steering Committee Members will give out the awards. Kathy will contact Bonnie Squires about possible media coverage for the luncheon.

D. Octavia Green Award

Shauna discussed the seven (7) nominations for the Octavia Green award. A meeting to determine the winner for 2008 will be held within the next few days. Kathy asked that the committee be encouraged to include as part of the criteria for selecting winners nominees who have not won other awards given by the Philadelphia mental retardation system. The jobs that the nominees hold are quite diverse. Shauna suggested that all of the nominated stories should be mentioned at the luncheon and the stories should also be documented in writing. The nominee, the person who nominated them, and their employer should be encouraged to attend the luncheon.

E. Employment Provider Expo Information Booklet

Shauna distributed a draft of an information booklet (one page folded in a booklet format) to be distributed at the Expo. Two inserts will be included when distributed: A map of the room and an Exit Survey for people to fill out prior to leaving. Michael suggested that the Booklet can be used as a template for future Expos. Len and Teresa have been listed as contacts for more information on the last page of the sheet. The booklet will be printed on cream color paper.

F. Transition To Work Booklet and Story Booklet

Kathy shared a Transition from School to Work booklet recently developed. The Transition booklet was compiled by Jeff Orlin and is in its final draft. It contains stories and information geared towards transition-age youth. Kathy also distributed the updated Employment Success Stories, 2nd edition. There were editing suggestions made by Steering Committee members that will be passed along to Jeff for final edits. Both of these products will be distributed at the Conference.

G. Moving Employment Forward

Discussion about attendance at the Moving Employment Forward session scheduled for Friday May 23, 2008, 9 AM – 12 PM occurred. Six (6) providers have specifically registered to date. It is anticipated that there will be 25 to 30 people registered. Michael asked that everyone arrive at 8:30 to give enough time to organize for this session.

Michael distributed copies of the data sheets that were sent to all of the organizations that provide Community Integrated Employment Services (CIE). At the Moving Employment Forward session system-wide data will be presented.

Ann Marie indicated that there may be 4 individuals, at the most, available to tell their stories at the Moving Employment Forward session. It is important that we are focused and that the

individuals are prepared and clear about their time in the spotlight. The agenda allows for no longer than 30 minutes for this portion of the session. If there are more individuals that are interested in telling their story it will be suggested that they go to the Story Room and record their stories there. There will also be an opportunity to be videotaped.

David Mank and Cesille Coulson, Executive Director, Washington Initiative for Supported Employment will do a joint Keynote to begin the Conference on Thursday, May 22, 2008. They will discuss system change efforts in the state of Washington and items from a paper describing those efforts that will be appearing in the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation this summer. Cesilee Coulson will also be conducting a separate session on activities and strategies related to promoting employment outcomes in Washington.

2. **Other Business**

Michael suggested that we plan another Retreat Days for the Steering Committee in July and August. Tentative dates: July 9, 2008 and August 13, 2008.

Kathy suggested scheduling a larger Stakeholders Meeting to follow-up with the those who participated in the September 6, 2006 event which created the Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010 strategic plan (PATH). Tentative dates: October 2, 2008 or October 8, 2008. Shauna will look for appropriate space for these gatherings.

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 4 at 2pm at Philadelphia MRS.