

Philadelphia Vision for Employment 2010

Steering Committee Meeting

June 4, 2008

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

Meeting Summary

The meeting revolved around the following topics:

1. Employment Supports Symposium

There was general discussion about the 2008 Employment Supports Symposium. Shauna began by distributing a handout with the final attendance numbers. The final attendance numbers were as follows:

- The Preconference with Denise Bissonnette had 109 individuals attend.
- The Employment Expo had 93 individuals attend.
- Day 1 had a total of 116 individuals attend and
- Day 2 had a total of 110 individuals attend.
- The Awards Luncheon had 161 individuals attend.

The final numbers also contained breakdowns of each individual's vocation.

Members of the Steering Committee shared feedback from others attending the Conference. It was felt that the energy was very positive this year. People were excited and inspired by Denise Bissonnette and it was suggested that we should bring her back to Philadelphia for additional training. Michael suggested that in the future, having a high profile and enthusiastic speaker for the pre conference would help to carry along the energy. It was suggested that Claire Conway might be a good idea for the pre-conference next year.

Michael solicited suggestions for next year's conference which, he pointed out, will be the Tenth Employment Supports Symposium. All were in favor of scheduling next year's Conference for the same week before Memorial Day.

Marianne suggested a speaker/key note from a state that already has 'fee for service' billing in place to share experiences both good and bad. Michael mentioned a recommendation from Michael Callahan of a speaker from Georgia who might be appropriate.

Shauna also suggested an idea to boost attendance from residential providers and supports coordinators. She suggested that there should be a plan to have tracks specific to those areas of concentration in relation to employment. Michael felt that the tracks should be designed to help everyone. One session topic would be for residential staff on how to develop a job and support

an individual on the job. Another suggestion would be for those parents that have also supported family members or want to support family members in this capacity. Sessions could be created for both in mind. Marketing of these topic areas should be targeted towards residential providers, supports coordinators, families as well as employment providers: Employment is for everyone. Employers should also be targeted as well.

2. **Moving Employment Forward Session Discussion- Group Work Review**

Michael reviewed the ‘Moving Employment Forward’ session. It was agreed that those providers that participated at the May 23 session needed to receive copies of the worksheets from the breakout sessions. The providers should be told that they will be working on these notes at a future retreat.

3. **FY 2008 CIE Data**

Len discussed some ideas related to ways in which data could be collected. They included:

- Have supports coordinator’s collect data on an individual basis
Issues/Strategies: Software to use? How to collect? How often? Monthly?
Data reporting that will be useful and helpful?
The tool created by the Supports Coordination Work group: CIE Employment Information System may be a possibility
- Collect data directly from CIE providers on a more frequent basis
How to track individuals’ progress towards employment, how to collect data?
Issues/Strategies: What software should be used, how often, simplest way to collect it?
What data reports will be helpful and useful? Must have major providers buy in on this process.
- Current email data collection approach (aggregate data at the end of the year)
Issues/Strategies: Collect more frequently? Add additional questions? Include RIM data or RIM data elements? Create better, easier to use format?
- Other Data Collection Ideas: Use or adapt existing data collection system
Indiana, VCU, John Butterworth, Use the RIM data elements (but managed differently),
Len sends out request to individual providers

Much discussion ensued about the above topics. An interim plan was suggested for a CIE Employment Information System. Marianne suggested that the sheet be sent to the Directors of the Supports Coordinators Organizations as suggested questions for supports coordinators to gather the information necessary to monitor individuals working.

4. **General Updates/Directions**

Much discussion revolved around definitions of employment. Todd suggested that supports coordinators were getting mixed messages about the terminology of employment. Two issues

discussed were: (1) Clarity around a definition of working and (2) How the waiver will pay for services not defined as work such as a sheltered workshop or adult day program.

Michael suggested that the topic of ISPs and employment should be discussed at the upcoming Steering Committee retreat meetings. We can refine how employment is defined and help to create uniformity in acceptable definitions. Michael requested that Wanda bring some anonymous approved ISPs to the retreat. The Philadelphia approach needs to be defined and tightened up so that it can be passed along to the State. Our energies need to be focused on employment, clarification of the definitions used, and developing a process for disseminating the information. .

Michael verified that the retreat dates will be July 16, 2008 and August 13, 2008 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The July 16, 2008 day will be held at Lloyd Hall in Fairmount

The October 2, 2008 is the confirmed date for the Stakeholders meeting at the Independence Visitors Center, 6th and Market St. There will also be discussions held at the retreat to organize for the Stakeholders meeting.

Suggestions for topics at the July 16 retreat:

ISPs and Employment

Data Reporting

Work Groups and Moving Employment Forward

Language used in talking about employment and promoting the initiative.

Identifying other stakeholders who may not be on the same page as the rest of us such as:

Supports Coordinators, families, schools

5. Other Ideas/Topics

Michael suggested that the Mini-Grants could be created this year around developing a concept/action plan to get the word out about employment to the various stakeholders. This would tie into the theme idea of 'Employment is For Everyone' for next year's conference. The Mini Grant RFP will be on the agenda for the July 16, 2008 meeting so that the finalized RFP can be distributed by the end of July.