

Who Wants to Work (WWTW) Meeting Notes

Date: 01/08/08, 10am @ SPIN

Next Meeting: 03/28/08 (Needs to be rescheduled!!)

In attendance:

Trina Losinno, Michelle Sparling (via phone), Julia Barol, Shauna Roman, Joe Murphy, Pat Wray

- The meeting began with a big THANK YOU to all who made phone calls to the individual Supports Coordinators from the "yes" list. At the time of the meeting, a total of 94 individual conversations were held with Supports Coordinators from Quality Progressions (via Julia Barol), Partnerships for Community Supports (Michelle Sparling), Consortium (Shauna Roman), and Person Link (Trina Lossinno). Anecdotal information was exchanged, as well as more measurable information about the # of people who have employment outcomes in their ISP's, # of people who are currently working, etc.. The following table provides some initial information about this group of 142 people (currently in day program settings.) January 31, 2008 was identified as the official cut-off date for individual phone calls to Supports Coordinators. (In some cases, there have been several rounds of phone tag, or no responses from SCs.)

| SCO | # of Yes Responses (% of Yes List) | # of Individual Conversations w/SCs | # of Employment Outcomes in ISP |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Partnerships (Michelle) | 53 (37%) | 35 | 9 (3 people already working) |
| Quality Progressions (Julia) | 38 (27%) | 33 | 11 (1 person already working) |
| Person Link (Trina) | 25 (18%) | 11 | 0 |
| Consortium (Shauna) | 17 (12%) | 15 | 1 (2 people already working) |
| MRS (Wanda) | 9 (6%) | ? | ? |
| Totals | 142 | 94 | 21 |

- The information was reviewed, and ideas were generated about immediate next steps... which include:
 - Share feedback to the individual Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) about our conversations with the SC's.
 - Send thank you notes to all SCs who we spoke with!
 - Visit the SCO during one of their meetings a "talk up employment & Vision 2010"
 - Develop a formal report of trends, ideas, findings, etc... using the data above
 - Develop a "green light list" - which would be a group of people identified, without barriers, who are ready to work!
- (Shauna will take these ideas back to the Steering Committee for approval, before anything is implemented.)
- There was a lot of discussion about the barriers identified, which focused a lot on family members' resistance to the idea of employment and the "safety net" of a person being in a building all day, rather than out in the community working. Pat Wray, the director of CIE at SPIN, shared her experiences of people (who attended SPIN's workshop which closed in December) who clearly had a potential to work, but were not given the opportunity due to the fears, concerns, and perceptions of aging

parents, siblings, and other supporters. Pat made a commitment to speak with everyone who attends Norcom (SPIN), who was also identified on the "green light" list. Also, some of those people from Norcom will participate in a round of their (8 week long) Career Development series.

- Several ideas were shared as possible next steps, to move towards employment for this group, they include:
 - Career Planning Workshops – which are opportunities for a team to explore employment with the person. This is a strengths-based exchange of ideas and encourages everyone to dream big and consider various employment opportunities for the person.
 - Employment Action Group – this is a more specific approach, once a person is referred to CIE, and has had difficulty with getting a job. Members of the team can come together, talk through specific barriers, and brainstorm possible solutions.
 - Other educational opportunities (ie: trainings, support groups, existing parent groups, etc...) where employment could be the topic of conversation
- The next meeting was scheduled for March 28, 2008 at SPIN at 10am.