

MT SELN Team Meeting

Date: March 28, 2013
Time: 10:00 – 2:45 pm.
Location: Disability Rights Montana (DRM) 1022 Chestnut, Helena

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin, Lori Idland, Greg Olsen, Shannon Merchen, Jannis Conselyea, Tim Plaska, Mike Hermanson, Jenny Betz, Diane Tavary, Jeff Sturm, Rita Schilling, Jenece Sharkey (ORI), Kurtis Mayne (ORI), Lori Durrin Lundberg, Karen Cech (recorder).

RFP for Employment Specialist Training & Selection Committee Volunteers –
Jannis gave an update on the RFP. The vendor interested must develop the curriculum to be written in such a way that it can easily be put into eLearning software such as Adobe, Captivate, or Moodle. Two vendors have submitted a letter of interest. The RFP response is due March 29th by 2:00pm. DDP will receive proposals for review next week, March 6th. A committee to review the proposals has been selected. The following members are Greg Olsen, Rita Schilling, Pat Fandrich, Diana Tavary, and Jannis Conselyea will help facilitate and Jennifer Garza from DPHHS Office of Procurement and Contracts will oversee and help with the process. Deadline for receipt of Written Questions is March 6th.

Discuss Focus areas per last meeting and establish groups and timelines -
In the last SELN meeting the group reviewed the topics below. In the meeting today it was discussed the next steps in each of the topic.

(1) Develop employment outcome data strategy-

Kelly will call John Butterworth to see if he would be available by conference call or in person to help develop an employment outcome data strategy - Review available data, develop outcome data system, and develop strategies for sharing among departments. With work services more defined collecting data should be simpler.

Suggestions made:

- a) Group can look at what other states started.
- b) Use data already existed.
- c) Create survey with questions that all programs could use for data collection.
- d) Keep survey simple; directions clear so all will interpret the same. Training can be done on how to complete survey.
- e) Require survey to be done. This should be 100% compliant to get good data. Maybe put in as contract requirement or survey required before invoicing

Rita was inquiring if there was going to be any guidance or training on the new employment definitions. Kelly is looking to put a WebEx together and is not sure what it will be, but case managers and providers will need to participate. It was

suggested that parents or individuals that self-direct should also participate in the training.

(2) Develop systematic approach to supporting transition and improving collaboration during the transition process-

- This systematic approach will be slow moving but starting with small step will be important.
- Will need to get Rural Institute (Ellen Condon) and OPI (Frank Podonick) involved.
 - Train school districts?
 - How do we do this?
 - No mandate - when person is out of high school is he/she employable, can he/she get a job, or can he/she get higher ed?
- Collaboration with PLUK (Roger Holt) and parents. Families don't know resources exist.
- Work with Universities - Have a class with upcoming teachers that will be graduating to let them be aware of PLUK and other resources.
- OPI reaffirms message at state teacher conferences.
- Develop smaller subgroups and identify players on the SELN that should be on groups - per Mike Hermanson, Barb Schiedermayer (VR-Missoula) develops procedures and forms- running pilot in Missoula area.
- Some schools have VR counselors - these schools can be found on the VR website.
- Mike Hermanson reported that June Hermanson (1/2 time position) is in charge of the Montana Youth Transitions and information about program can be found on their website. This program is working on regional transition and includes some school representatives --Kelly will see about inviting June to the SELN meetings.
- May want to create a data approach.

Next barriers:

- Does individual qualify for DD services?
- Does individual qualify for VR services?

Options in other states:

- Let schools become VR providers.
- Providers do transition - providers have vested interest because they will have them for life.

Funding options:

- Grants
- IDEA
- Montana school system

Rita Schilling mentioned that Washington school district gave dollars to providers. Providers came up with a 65% success ratio.

(3) Develop standard practices for coordination between VR and DDP-

The Waiver amendments have been submitted and when DDP finds out what changes will need to be done from CMS, Kelly would like to create a document to combine Job Discovery information and Career Plan information that can be useful for both DDP and VR. It was suggested to see what John and Rie may have already seen and may have input. The plan for such a document to be created and out for use will be July 1st when the new services begin. Any form created will be simple and can be updated.

(4) Develop DD communication and outreach plan for employment,

(4) Establish mechanisms for collaboration and sharing across providers and state systems (these two ideas go hand in hand) -

Kelly presented a webinar presented through the national SELN, using information technology as the new support to possibly be helpful to show DD individuals how to use applications (apps) on I-Pads for a training tool and/or use of assessment tool. The presentation revealed apps for how to use the I-Pads. A couple examples are (1) Touch Trainer - teaches individual how to use touch screen, (2) Sliding App - teaches individual how to slide pieces of a puzzle or picture into place to show slide techniques, and (3) Task Cueing Video - shows multiple folders for different tasks by showing one picture at a time or a slide show.

Kelly previewed a small portion of this webinar. Kelly inquired with the group to see if they would be interested in having an Apple Representative come and show providers and other individuals what they have to offer. Other SELN members suggested contacting Rural Institute and that there was an Apple Program Committee at the U of M. MonTech may also have a program exploring apps. Mike Hermanson also mentioned that Voc Rehab (VR) offers I-Pads for demonstration. I-Pads could be purchased through cost plans. Jeff asked if anyone was using I-Pads with individuals on the work sites. It was mentioned this would depend on the safety of the individual. The I-Pads are a little big and hard to carry at the same time as doing a task. Rita said she would love to have Apple representatives come and explain the process.

Webinar was viewed favorably. Kelly will look into timelines to see when this can be scheduled, will need help to pass information out for all to view whole series of I-Pad apps (VR, OPI, MCDD, post on face book), and possibly will consider revamping Career Plan services to include use of technology. Rita suggested the use of I-Pads could be suggested at the PSP process.

(5) Create a resource guide that maps the pathway to employment and available resources -

- Guide can be created anytime.
- If an individual or parent does not have a case manager a resource guide would be very beneficial on how to proceed to get help and find resources.
- Montana Independent Living Project (MILP) in Butte had developed a guide. This could be resourceful.
- Guide should include not just facilities but people to contact.
- Guide needs to be updated on a regular basis.
- Create brochure to hand out to schools to help make it easier for parents and student.
- Message needs to be detailed and specific.
- Most parents hit a bump in the road and stop pursuing.
- Guide cannot be long.

When other sections have been looked at and addressed SELN can see what a guide should look like. Rural Institute may be an option to bring in to help.

Legislative Update -

Jeff reported that this legislative session has been really quiet this year. The House Bill 123 has passed and all documents in the state with MR will be changed to ID.

DDP received the okay for the three DDP Waivers to be sent for renewal from the Director's office. The Waivers are the 0208 Comprehensive Waiver, the Children's Autism Waiver, and the new Supports for Community Working and Living Waiver.

Next meeting will be April 25th, at the Wilderness Room 2nd Floor – 2401 Colonial Ave., Helena.

Meeting time is from 10 – 3:00 pm.