

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

Date: January 7, 2016
Location: Sanders Building, Room 207
Time: 10:00-3:00 pm

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach), John Schroeck (CFSD – DPHHS), Derek Deeney (CFSD – DPHHS), Jennifer Finnegan (DDP), Bill Harant (Disability Transitions), Charlie Briggs (Easter Seals), Cassandra Millan (Family Outreach), Chanda Hermanson –Dudley (VRBS), Marla Swanby (OPI)

Phone Attendees: Dave Eaton (Counterpoint), Lori Idland (DRM), Diane Reidelbach (Job Connections), Pete Haley (RSS), Judith Bennett (Easter Seals), Jenny Harris (Department of Labor)

Roll Call and Opening Remarks:

- Introductions were made throughout the room and by participants on the phone.
 - John Schroeck from Child and Family Services joined us, and he oversees the Chafee training and education voucher program. His area provides transitional living services (like life coaches) to young adults 14-21 that are in foster care. Derek Deeney who is a VISTA data improvement analyst to look at kids in foster care and the services that can be used for them. He will be a new member of our SELN group. Welcome Derek!

Work on Employment Conference project (Disability Employability Conference). Create workgroup and assign tasks.

- Date for the conference was finalized to be May 11-13, 2016.
- We will plan to put all the topics that focus on employers on one day so that it would be easier for them to come. Use more education and family topics for Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning.
- Group believed that Mike Cooney would be great to open the conference on Thursday morning. We will follow up and try to get him scheduled to come.
- Talked about getting people there because this is the first conference we put on. We will look at not having a registration fee or a small one as the budget allows.
- Kelly has been in contact with the Heritage Inn in Great Falls about having the conference there. She had been sent a menu for the meals we will be providing because with everything we want to cover we will need to do working breakfasts and lunches. It was decided we will provide the following and we will look to see if VR or other groups could sponsor some of the food costs.
 - Snack on Wednesday afternoon
 - Breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon snacks on Thursday

- Breakfast on Thursday
- Topics that we would like to be presented:
 - Assistive Technology – Marsha Threlkeld from Washington State is an expert in this area and has given presentations on apps and how they are very beneficial in the workplace for individuals with disabilities. Kelly has contacted her and she is willing to come speak and just needs the dates. We asked her to be broad and not just iPhone or iPad specific. Montech and MTAP could possibly also be involved in letting individuals know what they provide as assistive technology services.
 - Idea to have a panel of employers that have disabled workers and they can go over the process of hiring, their experience, have some disabled employees share their experience.
 - Something from the school districts and their programs. Great Falls has very good programs for transition of disabled students into the workforce. Names were suggested for contacts to find a speaker.
- Breakout session ideas:
 - Benefits and how working might affect them. Find someone to talk on SSI/SSDI/etc.
 - Have a lawyer from DOL talk on how employment law works with disabled workers.
 - Personal Employment Plan session. Jenny H. will find someone to have for the presentation. Possibly 2 sessions....one as an overview which just takes a half hour and then another in-depth session that shows how to use MCIS, what it looks like, and a detailed walk-through. This program is used by VR and schools but not DDP.
- Discussed it would be nice to have some kind of icebreaker to do something that gets all the parties at the meeting to interact with each other. Michael Beers from Missoula could be contracted with because he does fun things like this. Bill Harant will contact him.
- Voc Rehab can present on new services for Employers, WIOA, Section 511 and the new services they will be putting together for employment. Maybe could address draft state plan.
- Conference planning committee was developed that will meet regularly. Kelly will set up the meetings. Committee is:
 - Marla Swanby
 - Lori Idland
 - Jenny Harris
 - Chanda Hermanson
 - Derek Deeney
 - Diana Tavery
 - Provider and employer if we can find one

Invest Training:

Workgroup put together. It needs to be gone over and updated. Workgroup will be:

- Mike Hermanson (Voc Rehab)
- Diane Reidelbach (contact for Job Connections)
- Phyllis Astheimer (will coordinate within Family Outreach)
- Something will be sent out to providers to ask to be on the committee

**Kelly will become involved when decisions are made

Finalize Employment Questions from last meeting:

- Kelly added a few wording changes and we reviewed those. Also looked one more time at the previous changes we made.
- Everything looks good to go. Will be emailed out to larger SELN members that weren't able to attend.
- Job action plan was tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting as we ran out of time. We need to talk to QIS's to ask what they feel we should require providers to include.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday February 10, 2016 in the Sanders Building, room 207