

Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
Meeting

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

Attendees: Kelly McNurlin (DDP), Randy Winstead (Family Outreach), Phyllis Astheimer (Family Outreach), Derek Deeney (CFSD – DPHHS), Jennifer Finnegan (DDP), Bill Harant (Disability Transitions), Charlie Briggs (Easter Seals), Diana Tavary (PLUK), Marla Swanby (OPI), Erin Martin (VR)

Phone Attendees: Dave Eaton (Counterpoint), Lori Idland (DRM), Diane Reidelbach (Job Connections), Pete Haley (RSS), Jenny Harris (Department of Labor), Laurel Gebo (DDP Region 2)

Roll Call and Opening Remarks:

- Introductions were made throughout the room and by participants on the phone.
- Randy Winstead is retiring at the end of this month so he was thanked for all the work and contributions he had made with the SELN committee.

MTCEC Conference Update:

- Kelly and Carla Rime will present at the MTCEC conference in Bozeman on February 12th.

Disability Employability Conference:

- Kelly put together and passed out a draft agenda from the notes we had taken last month.
- The conference will now be held at the Holiday Inn of Great Falls because we found the Heritage Inn was not available during the dates of our conference (May 11-13, 2016)
- **Wednesday Agenda:**
- Talked about the education part of the conference and focusing on how Great Falls have done transitions from school to work since they are the best in the state as far as their program.
 - Would like to have them talk about how they make offering education past the age of 18 work with funding.
 - Maybe have the school superintendent or other high level person in the G. Falls school district give a presentation. We can also involve the PTA.
 - Christopher Pope was the legislator who carried the bill last session to extend school age past 18. It didn't pass but he maybe he could be a resource.
 - Marla is following up on setting up the school district contacts. Also Lori and Diana will also talk to Tammy Lacey (GF school superintendent) on how they make the programs work and if she would be willing to do a presentation.

- An idea thrown out was maybe doing a panel with the superintendent, legislator, PTA, Casey Schreiner (who was a GF legislator and former educator). He also works as the head of the Governor's State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) as well as works with WIOA.
- Idea of maybe doing a break-out session for higher education opportunities and the rural institute programs as a topic to be added?????
- **Thursday Agenda:**
- Mike Cooney will need talking points. Jenny will work on some talking points for him focused on employers. Something on how the state of Montana is committed to helping disabled individuals over 18 get into integrated employment.
- WIOA draft state plan for Section 511 is due by 4/1/16 so VR can give an overview about what was submitted in their section.
- Kelly reported that she was currently in contact with Marsha Threlkeld to confirm she would come to present on Assistive Technology
- During lunch we will have Mike Beers there doing an ice-breaker session. Get teachers, employers, individuals all talking in a fun way and encourage networking and interaction between them
- Breakout sessions:
 - How working might affect benefits: Tiffany Costa would be our top choice as far as covering this topic, but if she can't Margaret Keener could also be a choice.
 - On the employment law breakout session, an attorney from DOL will be covering this. Jenny is waiting back to see how he would like the agenda item worded and get back to the group.
 - An idea was brought up to have another breakout session for clients that own their own businesses to present. We will add that to the agenda and the group will work on finding people with disabilities that are self-employed that can present.
- We tossed around ideas of having Mike Beers come back in the evening for some impromptu comedy and other fun entertainment for conference attendees to come if they would like
- **Friday Agenda:**
- Talked about finding a good speaker for the assessing and finding employment for people with Autism topic. Kelly found a website for Stephen Shore who is a national speaker and has written books on autism....may be worth contacting. Other names for presenters was briefly discussed.
- The to-do list for the conference:
 - Derek designed the save the date flyer and we made a few changes and then it will be ready to send out. Once ready we will send to providers, VR staff for their mailing lists, PLUK, MCDD who will put it on their website, Chamber of Commerce across the state. Marla will send it to school districts, and we will see if we can have it posted on the DPHHS facebook page. Idea about maybe asking if we can place it in Apostrophe magazine as well???

- Everyone gave an update on who they have contacted and the responses they have gotten.
- Need to get an online conference registration form built and on the website. Kelly will get with Kathy Zeeck about building this.
- Marla is working on the CPU credits for Educators and we will ask Chanda about VR maybe sponsoring scholarships like they did for the Youth Transitions meetings.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday March 15, 2016 in the Sanders Building, room 207