



**November 14, 2013 – CONSORTIUM MEETING**

**MEETING OUTCOMES**

- Reports from Idaho DEAM events: Take Your Legislator to Work and Disability Mentoring Day projects
- Learned about Dept. of Labor Disability Employment Initiative Grant
- Workgroup to address statute changes with members from the Collaborative Workgroup on Adult Services
- Reviewed IEFC representation
- Data Collection System – developed list of data points
- Set next two meetings for January 9 and February 19

**November 14 - Members Present:**

Trina Balanoff, Dina Flores-Brewer, Lori Gentillon, Gordon Graff, Shannon Purvis, Howard Fulk, Russ Doumas, Noll Garcia, Monique Johns, Scott Hoover, Cassie Mills, Jean Christensen, Tracy Warren

Guests: Janalee Henderson and Julie Sherry – Dept. of Labor

**Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities:**

Lori, Russ, and Cassie reported about successful Take Your Legislator to Work activities in local areas. Ten Community Rehabilitation Providers participated in supporting some of their clients to invite and meet with their legislators at their place of work. Twenty three (23) legislators participated in the Coeur d’Alene, Rexburg, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls and other areas. A report with photographs and a summary of media coverage will be developed. Suggestion was made to include legislator testimonials as well.

Tracy reported that Disability Mentoring Day projects were held in 4 communities: Moscow, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, and Boise. All projects were successful in connecting youth with local business in their career of interest. Twin Falls had their largest participation ever with 81 students experiencing job shadows in their community. Reports from the different projects are still coming in and information will be posted on the Council website soon.

**DOL Disability Employment Initiative Grant**

Gordon Graff, Department of Labor (DOL), told the group about the newly awarded Disability Employment Initiative Grant Idaho has received. The grant is for 3 years and provides funding and technical assistance to implement activities that will help youth ages 14-24 attain their employment goals. The grant abstract describing objectives and strategies is attached with these notes.

The state has been divided into an “impact” area and a “control” area so that the impact and outcomes of the services provided under the grant can be measured. The area that will be receiving services is from Twin Falls to McCall and covering the southwest corner of the state. Under the grant, DOL staff will be Disability Resource

Coordinators and that includes Janalee Henderson – Nampa and western Idaho, Julie Sherry – Boise, and Sandy Hacking – Twin Falls area. DOL will also have a Business Outreach Coordinator to work with business and industry.

Work under the grant will follow the Youth Guideposts to Success from the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability. The Guideposts can be found on the NCWD website at: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/guideposts>

### **Statute Language Change – Medicaid Budgets:**

Jean reported that Medicaid has suggested a strategy of adding language to statute that defines when additional funds could be added to an individual's Medicaid service plan budget to pay for employment support services. It would mean defining parameters around when employment would be funded. Medicaid would not support a statute change that took current language out that restricts additional funds to budgets only for health and safety reasons. IEFC members volunteered to be part of a sub-group that continues to work on proposed language for possible legislative action in a future session. Tracy will follow-up with the CWG on forming a workgroup.

The group also discussed the possibility of moving forward on recommended questions to be included in the development of individual services plans related to and employment goal, justification, and services.

### **IEFC Members and Organizational Representation:**

Tracy reported that she had been contacted by a state association about how representation on the IEFC is determined. The group discussed how each member is considered a representative from their own agency or organization and how information from the IEFC should be shared with those organizations and outside related associations. Each member felt comfortable in the role on the consortium to represent the interests of their agency in meetings and would share information/feedback with the appropriate staff or leadership when necessary.

Russ, Lori, and Cassie sit on the IEFC representing their own agency/organizations, but not the ACCSES or VSI employment service provider associations. However they will continue to share information from the IEFC with those groups. Tracy asked if it would be possible to get on the agenda of upcoming ACCSES and VSI meetings to share information about Employment First and the work of the IEFC. Other meetings coming up where information will be shared include the Idaho Assistive Technology Project Advisory Committee and the State Rehabilitation Council. Tracy is providing a lunch-hour presentation at the U of I Boise Center on Employment First on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. The PowerPoint presentation on Employment First she uses will be posted to the Employment First page of the Council website.

Decisions by the IEFC are made by group consensus and members agreed to handle things in this way. From our early meetings, *Group Consensus* was described as:

We measure consensus by asking group members to describe their perspective based upon selecting one of five responses:

1. I think there are major problems with this and I choose to dissent from group action to adopt.
2. It's too soon to adopt anything. More work needs to be done before I can support.
3. I am neutral and can see both sides. I will choose adoption.
4. It's OK with me. I can live with the decision.
5. Yes! I am excited about adopting it.

### **Data Collection System Development:**

At the September meeting IEFEC members decided to focus on development of a state data collection system based on individual employment outcomes as one of the group's first priorities. The group discussed the challenges of comparing current data collected in different service systems. Reviewed current data collected by Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, Dept. of Labor, Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities, Social Security Administration, and through the special education process.

The group also looked at how a few other states are collecting data and the data points they report. Possible processes include a periodic provider survey/data report that is required as part of the provider agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation or Medicaid. A list of possible data points was developed and the Data Workgroup agreed to take that list and meet to continue to develop recommendations.

### **Marketing and Outreach Workgroup:**

Input from Self-Advocates: Noll and Tracy reported that recruitment of individuals with disabilities to serve on a Self-Advocate Advisory Committee for the IEFEC has not been very successful. Only 2 completed applications have been received. The group discussed a new format for outreach and gathering input – hold public forums/focus groups in local areas. Noll would connect with IEFEC and other helpers in local areas to help set up the public forums. Suggest we contact Idaho Parents Unlimited to see if co-occurring groups of parents/caregivers could be held as well. The group reviewed the questions from the self-advocate survey developed by Trina and Dina and agreed that those questions would be used for the focus groups. Noll will move forward in developing an announcement and materials and making local connections for public forums. The Boise and Treasure Valley area will be one location, Moscow or another north Idaho community, and the Idaho Falls area in conjunction with the Tools for Life conference next March.

Business Outreach: A 10-15 minute presentation packet will be developed for IEFEC members to use in connecting with business associations and other venues to inform and engage employers in local areas. Suggestion to include peer-to-peer sharing (from one employer/business owner to another), employer testimonials, and use links to media coverage from Disability Mentoring Day and Take Your Legislator to Work events.

**ACTION Items from this Meeting:**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
Participate in December 4th ELC Community of Practice webinar, Tracy will send notice	All members who are able to participate
Report about Take Your Legislator to Work activities to be shared with policymakers and the public	Russ, Cassie, Lori
Report about Disability Mentoring Day Activities	Tracy
Identify Statute Language Workgroup members from IEFC and CWG, follow-up	Tracy
Arrange for Employment First presentation at upcoming ACCSES, VSI, State Rehabilitation Council meetings	Russ, Cassie, Lori, Tracy
Toolkits for Presenters – Business Focus	Tracy, Trina, Lori
Develop public forum materials and announcement	Noll Garcia w/help from all
Ongoing - Gather quantitative and qualitative information about effect of Medicaid budget cuts to individuals who use services for work	Service Providers, Jean, Howard, others

**Next Meetings:**

- **ELC Community of Practice, December 4th and January 10th**
- **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Possible Agenda Items for January meeting:**

- Data collection discussion
- Discuss business outreach efforts
- Reports from IEFC Workgroups and CWG
- Outcomes of October IDEAM activities
- Others?