

SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

August 16, 2017

2:30 P.M.

TST BOCES Board Room

Present: D. Barr, C. Crisell, M. Gold,

Excused: J. Matteson, A. Tunison, K. Wunderlich

Staff: J. Mattick, J. Luu

Call to Order

The meeting began at 2:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Mattick reported the Workforce Development Board partnered with Challenge Workforce Solutions to submit a proposal for the Disability Employment Initiative grant funding that was made available by the federal government where States were the only allowable applicants. The funds are to be used to fund a Disability Resource Coordinator to work with youth 14-24 years old to connect them to the One-Stop Center and career ladders. In a lot of cases these services are already being provided to youth in the community but are largely unfunded. Ms. Gold stated that the proposal was broad based and will cover many populations, ED, ID, etc. The grant covers 4 or 5 years and notification of approval is expected by the end of October, but the thought is this is a program that will begin in 2018. Ms. Mattick stated that Tompkins County is well versed in Disability Resource Coordinator services and Tompkins is considered the model for New York State.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2017

The minutes of April 12, 2017, were accepted as submitted.

DISCUSS ANNUAL ACTIVITIES FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN-SHOULD WE ADD AS ANNUAL TO THIS YEAR'S WORK PLAN?

There was discussion at previous meetings that some items on the work plan need to become annual activities.

Goal # 1 – Connect All Stakeholders to Resources Beyond High School

There was consensus that the majority of the items under goal one are annual items with the exception of item 3, "Identify and communicate all funding sources and technology to assist schools with transitional services," which the group decided to move to bi-annually. They also decided to change item 2, "Target Emotionally Disturbed/Other Health Impaired Populations," to read, "Target Individuals with ED and on the Autism Spectrum and Connect them to Services to Improve Soft Skills and Provide Connections to ACCES-VR and OPWDD." Ms. Gold stated that there may be some value in bringing in the three care coordination agencies in to talk about their services and what ages they serve. Ms. Crisell stated it would be valuable to have an individual from the mental health services community on the Committee.

REPORT OUT ON INITIAL CONVERSATIONS RELATED TO NEW WORK PLAN GOAL – INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PAID WORK EXPERIENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

There was consensus that the activity "Identify and Support multiple avenues for accessing job coaching services," to an ongoing activity.

Ms. Mattick will put together a list of employer's so they can be contacted for one-on-one meetings to find out what is holding their organization back from hiring individuals with disabilities. Ms. Gold stated that she can find out which employers are being worked with through Challenge so those companies can be excluded from the list. She will also find out which employers there hasn't been success with so they can be contacted to get a better sense of why they aren't hiring individuals with disabilities.

In relation to the Job Coaching COSAR it was noted that Ballston Spa High School is doing a very good job and Ms. Crisell will reach out to them to see what makes them so successful. The group sees this evolving perhaps during the summer months because job placements and coaching are difficult during the school day. This could be an option to expand to youth already on the BOCES campus during the day.

Ms. Gold stated that in reference to OPWDD – this was put on the plan so the group continues to look into using supportive employment services for time limited work experiences because there is a lag in the time that it takes to get individuals approved through OPWDD.

The group discussed summer youth employment wages and ways that these could be stretched to go further. The State has said that an employer match is a possibility, but they did ask if this was something that was going to be on a reimbursement basis. Ms. Mattick noted the Youth Oversight Committee will need to have conversations about this. There has been a suggestion to look at using an on the job training model because this creates measureable outcomes. Mr. Barr will speak with the work based coordinators about whether there is anything the committee can be doing to reach this goal.

OTHER UPDATES

None

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Ms. Mattick did not have a report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th in the Board room located in the Dexheimer Administration building at TST BOCES.