

SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

October 11, 2017

2:30 P.M.

TST BOCES Board Room

Present: J. Matteson, K. Wunderlich, D. Barr, M. Gold

Excused: C. Crisell, A. Tunison

Staff: J. Mattick, J. Luu

Call to Order

The meeting began at 2:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 16, 2017 were accepted as written.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Gold reported she attended the NYS Rehabilitation Association Conference in Saratoga Springs recently and she attended a presentation on Project Search. Project Search provides employability skills training to people with significant disabilities through on-site immersion in a business. It also provides supports to the business to encourage the hiring of individuals with disabilities. There are 20 Project Search sites statewide where individuals work with a host employer and other supports to gain employment skills.

There was discussion about having a discussion with individuals who are leading these projects at a future meeting.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

The group reviewed the work plan. Goals 1 and 2 are still a work in progress. For Goal 2 – Increase the Number of Paid Work Experiences for Individuals with Disabilities. A list of employers is being created who can be approached to see why they do not currently hire individuals with disabilities and what barriers they see to hiring those individuals. Ms. Mattick and Ms. Gold will work on preparing the list.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTION - MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The group brainstormed suggestions for including an individual from the mental health community on the Committee. This will need additional discussion.

JOB COACHING COSAR

Mr. Barr reported that this is ongoing. Ms. Crisell did reach out to Ballston Spa to see what makes their program so successful and does not believe their model is replicable.

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Gold reported that ACCES-VR will begin offering a wider range of services beginning in July 2018 and services can begin with individuals as young as 14. She stated services through OPWDD continue to be cumbersome and do not offer enough flexibility for many individuals to receive assistance. One of the items of Goal 2 is to Identify and Support multiple avenues for accessing job coaching services and there is consensus that OPWDD should be removed from the list.

SYEP NUMBERS – YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

There was brief discussion about the number of youth served during the Summer Youth Employment Program. The percentage increased to 35% or 65 youth in 2017 from 20% in 2016. The group decided that because of the overlap between this committee and the Youth Oversight Committee it would be beneficial to have a joint meeting after the 1st of the year.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Ms. Mattick reported that she has not heard whether the DRC application that was submitted will be funded.

Ms. Gold stated OPWDD is making its first step toward managed care and staff will be making the transition to health homes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th in the Board room located in the Dexheimer Administration building at TST BOCES.