

New Jersey State Employment & Training Commission
Disability Issues Committee
The Leadership Council for DiscoverAbility NJ
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2011

Welcome/Opening Discussion

The meeting commenced at 2:15 with a welcome and introductions from Judy Formalarie, who apologized for the absence of committee Chair, Nicky Gacos, who could not make it due to the weather.

DiscoverAbility Grant Update

Savannah Barnett provided updates about the final award notice for 2011 MIG funds. New Jersey received their 2011 package for \$1.4 million which will end December 31, 2011.

Update on DiscoverAbility Initiatives

Savannah Barnett and Michele Martin gave an update on the Peer Learning and Leadership Network, including upcoming webinars on Labor Market Information, Business Engagement, Ticket to Work Employment Networks, and Online Privacy. Some in-person trainings are being planned around hidden disabilities and disability etiquette regionally across New Jersey.

Of particular interest is the Employment Network project, which has more streamlined applications processes for public workforce entities. The Ticket to Work Employment Network program allows anyone who is receiving SSI/SSDI and receives a “ticket” to contract with an agency to find and maintain employment. When an agency (or business) assists an individual to find and maintain employment they receive milestone payments based on certain goals. The Workforce Investment Boards in the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Grant sites are required to become Employment Networks.

Anyone interested in joining the Peer Learning and Leadership Network should visit the DiscoverAbility NJ website at www.discoverabilitynj.org or email Savannah Barnett or Michele Martin.

DPN Initiatives and Sustainability

Donna Buchanan presented on the Disability Program Navigator program and sustainability. The DPN program began with the Employment and Training Program and the Social Security Administration to address the needs of people with disabilities in the public workforce system and engaging in business development. Ms. Buchanan described best practices including 30 second disability trainings, resource guides, newsletters, disability signage, marketing/promotional materials, and success stories. The 30 second trainings are still available online and on the Workforce3 One site.

Sustainability of the DPN initiative was discussed, including the need for fiscal planning and sustainability options for local areas. Even though there are challenges with hiring at the state

level, the legacy of the DPN will be increased awareness of public workforce employees of serving people with disabilities.

National Organization on Disability

Anthony Camuso presented on activities at the National Organization on Disability (NOD). Mr. Camuso gave background on NOD and their disability workforce programs. NOD has piloted programs with large corporations (such as Lowe's) and disability service providers to create single point of entry supply chains. NOD built on this success on these projects to begin a similar project in New Jersey to act as an intermediary between employers and disability service providers. This is being done through partnerships with colleges and universities and service providers for candidates and engaging with several key employers in New Jersey.

NOD is working with ADP, Aetna, and Sodexo. There is a kick-off event scheduled with Sodexo next week. They are committing to hiring people with disabilities at 10 to 15 of their worksites, with a 20% minimum of all new hires to be people with disabilities. NOD is also engaging in research and data collection on students with disabilities and total pool of applicants with disabilities in New Jersey.

Updates

Judy Formalarie reviewed information given to each attendee in their packet. She encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming trainings, webinars, and to join the DiscoverAbility Peer Learning and Leadership Network and the DiscoverAbility blog. There was also a hand out to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Judy also reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as written.

New Business

Bob Haugh discussed a new indicator that is being used this year for high school graduation regarding students in special education. He said that early results show 75% are now in post-secondary school or working at least 90 days, 12% has had some experience in school/work, and only 14% that are not engaged. He will speak on this topic at our next meeting.

DVRS has put together their next set of public forums. Judy Formalarie will distribute information on places, dates and times.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Paula Barber	Eileen Gallo	Elaine Katz	Clara Rivera-Pacheco
Savannah Barnett	Joe Gazzara	Lillie Lowe Reid	Edward Sroczyński
Donna Buchanan	Jan Goodman	Cynthia Mapp	John Sinzer
Anthony Camuso	Bob Haugh	Michele Martin	
Harriet Findlay	Alice Hunnicutt	Claudette O'gilvie	
Judy Formalarie	Jennifer Joyce	Nils Richardson	