

**State Employment and Training Commission
Disability Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2009
Janice Levin Center, Rutgers University
Piscataway, NJ**

Attendees:

Vito DeSantis	Jennifer Joyce
John Fig	Frank Kirkland
Harriet Findlay	Greg Patty
Brian Fitzgibbons	Orah Raia
Judith Formalarie	Nils Richardson
Bob Haugh	Dennis Rizzo
Alice Hunnicutt	Javier Robles

Meeting started 12:25 with Judy Formalarie welcome and introductions along with the approval of the minutes.

John Sinzer- America's Job Exchange Partnership

For no cost, a partnership has been made with accessible employment and America's Job Exchange to help people with disabilities find employers and visa versa.

Disability- Owned Business

Announced Tuesday, September 15, 2009 through BLN DI had ???? before President to sign to include with Mon/Women owned business set aside program. New Jersey will be pilot to certify business as DO- IBM, Walmart, Sun Trust Bank and Starbucks. Has put DI on their contract list. This will also make them part of micro-owned business enterprise. Still looking at certification regulations. Information will be posted at www.bln.org Disability Supplies business. There are set asides for government contracts and can also enable them for special laws though SBA.

Will look for New Jersey adoption later. Is an annual audit and renewal. Looking for people to assist with audit as volunteers. This committee will send out notices when the time comes for them.

Disability Conference

On October 20, 2009 hand outs given 100 people registered. 35 vendors table too. Looking to get 350 people but encouraging people to register beforehand. It is for consumers. No walk-ins will be accepted, so promote registration.

Census- Judy Formalarie

John Fig and Vito have names for NJN PSAs. Vito will send.

Alliance for Full Participation- non funded. Brian fed movement with national disability organizations, especially DDD Boggs Center are convening this for NJ for all disabilities. Is an advocacy effort for people with disabilities? Just starting next meeting 10/16/09. More information to come will work with "Employment first models".

MIG Grant- Javier

Will know in November if we get it- applied for \$1.75 million. This is for one year then reapply and ask for more money next year. Sunset of Law is 2011.

PSA's NJN has started PSAs on hiring people with disabilities. One targeted to employers, one for employees. Are going to also do one in Spanish.

Employment First explained by Jennifer Joyce. To encourage employers to hire. But most, to tell people that their 1st option is to work and if they choose not to work, there has to be some reason before they can access other benefits. This is especially looked at with the DDD community. Each State looks at this own regulars and some at "movement" some a mandate. Hope to change expectations (Jennifer will email Judy information to share with committee).

As with Fed program ticket to work has modified their regs to encourage more participation. Largest issue can be health insurance of which universal healthcare could help.

DVRS Updates- Brian

Got cuts on State fund that is devastating on growth on Fed funds. Doing okay on goals, with exception of rehab goals (has 35% reduction in staff).

ARRA 18 p/t allowed to hire (but hard to find who meet qualifications).

SEED program- grants for Social enterprising, 7 ??? now and will get new ones.
Paid Internships for college graduates
DPN navigators also funded.

DOE- Bob Haugh

Post school outcome for students with special ed who dropped out, graduated or aged out.

All districts have to complete data, last year 70% of students responded and this year 75% response rate

Did phone interviews and looked at one year out.

Asked if they ever worked or are working and if they are in post-secondary.

New year will ask if employers over 90 days or school at least 1 semester and also will include day programs next year. Looking to see what can be done to make improvements.

All data on DOE website and each school listed separately.

Bob will send Judy a link- send out to all.

Frank- DDD working with VR for long term services

Nils- Spoke to LWD Commissioner about loss of funding; said to let government reps know of dissatisfaction. Dennis said to educate legislatures of positive results of funding.

Judy- return to work explained

Disabilities at Work- has PSAs now to recognize the economic impact this has.

Dennis- Equity Access- for savings program and he will send to Judy to send out.

John- will send Judy information he had for his group, stories, pictures, etc. which helped his group get double funding.

