

Executive Order Stakeholder Policy Group

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

Time: 12:30-4:30

Location: State Fire Marshalls Office

Facilitator: Mike Maley

Minutes recorded by: Cassy McCartney

Members Present:

- Trisha Baxter - Office of Developmental Disabilities - DHS
- Sarah Drinkwater - Special Education – Department of Education
- Sydney Shook - Families Connected – Family Members
- Jordan Ohdle - Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition – Self Advocates
- Ross Ryan - Oregon Self Advocacy – Self Advocates
- Seth Johnson - Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon – Service Providers
- Jessica Leitner - Edwards Center – Service Providers
- Bill Uhlman - Eastern Oregon Support Service Brokerage - Support Service Brokerage
- Jan Sansom - Lebanon School District - Education
- Sarah Jane Owens - Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs -Counties
- Roberta Dunn – FACT (Family and Community Acting Together) – Family Members
- Chris Burnett - Oregon Rehabilitation Association (ORA)

Members on the phone:

- Cynthia Owens - Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Family Members

Members Absent:

- Dacia Johnson, Oregon Commission for the Blind – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Dan Peccia, Self-Determination, Inc. - Support Service Brokerage
- Ed Krankowski, Portland Public Schools - Education
- Jaime Daigault, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Advocacy Organization
- Jordana Barclay, Oregon Workforce Partnership – Workforce Systems
- Liz Fox, Oregon State Rehabilitation Council – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Marcie Ingledue, The Arc Oregon - Advocacy Organization
- Pat Zullo, Clackamas Developmental Disabilities Program - Counties
- Rebecca Cader, Oregon Self Advocacy – Self Advocates

- Stephaine Parrish Taylor - Vocational Rehabilitation - DHS

Guests:

- Angel Hale – Oregon Commission for the Blind – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Ann Balzell – Vocational Rehabilitation - DHS
- Julie Huber – Office of Developmental Disabilities - DHS
- Michele Markle - Portland Public Schools - Education
- Angela Yeager – Employment First - DHS
- Corissa Neufeldt – Employment First - DHS
- Ryan Yecny – Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Self Advocate
- Andre Harboe – Employment First - DHS
- Ava Bartley – Employment First - DHS

Introductions

Opening Comments/Announcements:

Mike wants to think about possibly having this group meet every other month instead of every month. Group wanted to defer that discussion and decision.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) is hiring several self-advocates to attend meetings, including these meetings, Ryan, Ross and Jordan have been hired by the council to participate in these state meetings.

Update from Trisha Baxter with Office of Developmental Disabilities

- Continuing to work on the comprehensive and support CMS Home and Community-Based waivers will be ready for submission at the end of this month. Most of the changes will relate to employment/day services. Positive feedback from the stakeholder groups about the proposed service definitions.
- Elisha Ledridge from ReBAR group is waiting for their data survey to come back this month before finalizing the rate structures. Will share that information in May.
- Interviews are being scheduled for a second Policy Analyst to work on employment within ODDS.

Update from Sarah Drinkwater with Oregon Department of Education

- Heather Lindsey is the newly hired Transition Liaison. Working with Mitch Kruska to move forward with the ‘transition network facilitators’, these will be the 8 transition specialists placed throughout the state.

- Training dates for special education transition teachers are in the works. Potential dates at the end of June-approximately the 16th to the end of the month. May be a makeup day in August. Content will be varied including, for example, successful and appropriate outcomes-effective resources, working with families etc...
- There was a transition conference in Hood River early this month where Sarah, Mitch, Mike and Stephaine did presentations. There was good feedback from participants.

Update from VR – Ann Balzell

- The development of the VR state plan is progressing
- We are planning our second round of training titled “Part 2” of supported employment training.
- Ann is also working on the Employment First Policy and Innovation workstream. The Policy Analyst that will be hired into the Employment First team will eventually lead this team. The work plan for this group will hopefully be completed next week. The charge is to look at the services in the community. Also looking at information that is already out there that we can communicate better. They have started a list of FAQ’s for transition.

Question: Michelle Markle is part of a group that might need some feedback from Ann’s policy workstream. There is a concern in the group about “provider pools” and how individuals can access VR providers, I/DD Providers and Brokerage Providers. The request is to make it easier for an individual to go from one “pool” of providers to another, instead of reestablishing different relationships every time.

Trisha: This is an issue that has emerged in other services areas and will be easier to see all those providers once the new system comes into play July 1.

Comment: If there is a need for family members to have input on the ‘user’ side, Roberta Dunn is willing to help get some families to be a part of that.

Concern with the restructuring of the TACT group and wanting to make sure all of the groups from that TACT meeting are represented elsewhere in the project workstreams.

Update from Angela Yeager - Communications Officer with the Employment First team.

- Angela also has a workstream including Jaime Daignault, Mitch Kruska, Christy Sinatra and Gene Evans from DHS Communications. They are working on the outreach and awareness plan, there is a brainstorming session scheduled tomorrow on launching an awareness campaign on employment.
- Working on redesigning the Employment First website, it will be much more user friendly.

- As part of the outreach and awareness plan, we want to do a survey of some other information out there, like other states that have already made some of these materials. Will be contracting someone to do an inventory of materials that already exist.

Mike emphasized the need and desire to get any feedback from anyone on our communication efforts.

Group discussion about FAQs

- Really wanting to make sure there is access to current, up to date questions.
- Concerns about holding these questions to make sure different groups have input and once they are actually released it wouldn't be current. With the amount of new things coming out, the more the better.
- Request if there are important topics that need to be seen, to make sure they are highlighted really well. There is so much information coming out that some things don't get the attention they need.

Update from Ava Bartley – QA/QI Medicaid Analyst with Employment First team

- Ava's workstream has already looked at the global level, and has documented the existing QA/QI activities within each of ODDS, ODE and VR. Now the lens is being recalibrated to look at the "street level." Asking for feedback from the group on strengths (What do we – ODDS, VR, ODE – do REALLY WELL?) and weaknesses) what are the areas where we – ODDS, VR, ODE – could IMPROVE what we do?) In terms of the individual client experience in accessing and receiving employment services. (Ava has two chart pads at the front of the room on easels to write out strengths and weaknesses)
- Strengths
 - County-once they're in, we do a good job wrapping services
 - Disability Navigators (previous strength)
 - YTP is a great model for career exploration
 - Transition teachers creative about finding things in their community
 - Provider Community has a strong network of community placements
 - A lot of the Employment First groups are doing great work
 - Commission for the Blind summer work program is working really well
 - Lane county – TLC (transition link center) has a series for special needs trainings where several different agencies come together
 - There was a high school transition project in the late 1980's that lost funding but it was doing really well.
- Weaknesses:
 - ODE-communicating in advance about invitations to meetings
 - CDDP's eligibility

- Rural-getting people in to I/DD services early
- Going away from ESD: challenging to communicate to all families
- All service providers having some info
- Partnering – about transitions, good communication between the service coordinator, families and individuals
- Comp and Brokerage Systems – an individual has to go through VR to have a job coach, they can't just find a job on their own and use a job coach.
- High school transition has shrunk significantly in terms of planning and transitions coordinators. The focus is on graduation and getting the diploma now.

Question: Is there a measurement of some kind in the EO for ODDS to measure when we have reached our goals?

Answer: there is no specific measure in the EO. This is a collaborative effort and every agency feels the same obligation. The Employment First Policy and the Integrated Employment Plan addresses these things, but there is also the MOU with the other agencies: Department of Education and VR.

Discussion on CMS Rules on Integrated Service Settings

- This changes the CMS regulations, or clarification in regulations that waiver dollars can only be used in service settings that meet a standard of community integration. This is for certain service settings funded via CMS waivers and certain state plan services.
- There was a webinar last week that is available for anyone who would like to view it; we can send you the link.
- We are still waiting for further guidance from CMS for non-residential services.

Question: Are they going to allow young kids into this waiver? Outside of school hours, if they are in an integrated setting would they be able to access those services?

Answer: This is up to the state level, but this hasn't been a part of the discussion so far.

Continued discussion on Data – Andre Harboe – Data Analyst with Employment First team

Review of latest version of report from last meeting. Andre was able to add the employment data, information to what type of industry they are working in and ODE information.

Question: Is there a way to look at the individuals who have not sought out I/DD services that have Special Education or IEP services?

Answer: that will be part of the next report; did not go into that much detail for this first round.

Snapshot report on Sheltered Workshops:

- Suggestion to look at the people who are in sheltered workshops now against the employment data to see who has had a community job in the past.
 - SiS-Support Intensity Scale. A short hand for ReBAR rates and measured in Tier's 1-7, 1 being the least amount of support.
 - Distribution of Hours: This won't show people who are in ATE or with the sheltered workshop and not working.
 - Would like to see the same graph for Distribution of Sheltered Work Hours for ATE.
 - Group agreement to really focus on the people who are at 1-10 hours per month.
 - Concern that the SiS tiers don't capture the employment barriers.
 - Employment Data-wanting to add a footnote that this information only shows the industry that the employer paid the hours in. Therefore, there can be enclave workers that work in an integrated setting, but appear to be working in a segregated setting since the employer is matched to that industry.
 - Population by county of sheltered workers: wanting to know what the percentage of the total people receiving I/DD services are accessing employment services in these areas. For example, in Multnomah County there are significantly more people receiving I/DD services so that number will be higher, but how many people are actually accessing employment services?
- Bill Uhlman: Brokerages do have data about why someone doesn't have a job and survey asks nine reasons they can choose from.
 - Suggestion that EOS data should be the same from support services to comprehensive services. This is a policy concern

Next steps for data:

- Deeper dive with this data including the ATE numbers.
- Wanting to use the chart paper for where the data is corresponding or missing the policy pieces, this might lead to other questions for where we want the data to go.
- Also wanting more data with the people who are 31 and older, to look at that age group and what their life has looked like
- Twenty-one to 30 year olds: How many are in comprehensive services and how many are in support services?
- Can we measure qualified job developers? This would be in the VR data, we wouldn't have the data on job developers in the I/DD world who are within VR

- Suggestion to have this data at the beginning of the meeting: We are at the end of the meeting and really getting into the meat of the discussion
- Roberta Dunn is willing to help get some family feedback about satisfaction and barriers etc. through Facebook “pulse points.”

Special Notes:

- The requirement for individuals to go through VR before accessing employment services has been changed in policy.
- If you have any other ideas about data or questions, please email to the Employment First email address: employment.first@state.or.us

Next Meeting: Monday, April 7 at 1 p.m.