

Employment First Collaborative Team Meeting/Conference Call

January 8, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
124 Marriot Drive, Suite 203
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

MINUTES

Members Attending:

David Darm, Governor's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities
Nancy Boutot, APD
Kirk Hall, VR
Jan Pearce, VR
Judith White, BEES
Kristin Panella, DBS
LeeAnn Herman, APD
Sheila Gritz-Swift, FDDC
Dehryl McCall, Workforce Florida
Diane Vacca, DEO
Shila Salem, DEO
Steve Dunaway, APD
Suzanne Sewell, FARF
Jennifer Evans, DCF SAMH
Allison Cohen Hall, ICI via phone
Jarl Jackson, FDDC

Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting and all members introduced themselves.

Interagency Cooperative Agreement Template

Sheila asked members for any additional recommended edits to the interagency cooperative agreement draft template and shared several edits that were suggested by members. Team members suggested a few additional edits for clarification. Specific edits recommended are as delineated below.

- Add a draft watermark.
- Add a header with DRAFT: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY and date.
- Add page numbers.
- In Section II, first sentence, add the word "the" between "mandating" and "creation."
- In Section III, first sentence, capitalize "state" in "state of Florida."

- In Section III, second sentence, change the word “affect” to “increase.”
- In Section III, remove the last sentence to avoid duplication.
- In Section three, second paragraph, first sentence, add “of this interagency cooperative agreement” between “purpose” and “is to...”
- In Section IV, add a colon after the word “Scope” for consistency in formatting.
- In Section IV, first sentence, ensure that “statewide” should be one word.
- In Section V, last two bulleted items under “Develop and implement an annual action plan...,” add the word “and” after the first semi-colon in the next to last bulleted item and change the colon to a period in the last bulleted item.
- In Section V, last bulleted item, add that the team will report annually to the Governor’s office.
- In the signature section, change Chris Hart’s name to read “Chris Hart IV,” and change his title to “President/CEO.”
- Two additional items were found after the meeting and changes were made as follows:
 - In Section I, the comma after (DBS) was changed to a semi-colon.
 - Language in the second paragraph on page four was changed from “...operations of the organizations involved” to “operations of the agencies or organizations involved.”

It was agreed that Sheila would make all edits on January 9th, send the revised template to members for review and feedback with a turnaround time of noon on Friday, January 10th, and send the final draft to the full Employment Partnership Coalition early next week for their review and approval at the January 17, 2014 meeting. Sheila mentioned that it might be worthwhile to have Judy approach the topic with General Counsel to determine whether or not the strategic implementation action plans will require General Counsel’s approval, or if only the four-page interagency cooperative agreement will require their approval. Judy offered to assist as this will help up better determine timelines for completion and approval.

Draft Strategic Implementation Action Plans

Each respective agency or organization provided an overview of their strategic implementation plans and time was allowed for questions and feedback. One item that rose to the top as a collaborative goal was training. Sheila will revisit all plans and develop one draft collaborative goal for training based on commonalities between partner’s plans.

Feedback on plans that was captured is as follows:

BEES

- Judy presented the BEES plan, and it was suggested that she look at how IEP templates might be revised so that the measurable postsecondary goals are the first item addressed and drive all other components of the IEP for transition-aged youth.
- It was also suggested that she consider adding DBS as a partner to Activity 2, Services and Service Innovation.

FARF

- Suzanne shared the history of Respect and indicated that 70% of individuals served are in integrated, competitive employment.
- Discussion ensued regarding transportation and the need for more options as the existing framework with iBudget isn't covering transportation in many cases

DBS

- David raised some questions and provided input based on his personal experience and the need to capture data for individuals who do not necessarily use all of the services available.
- A question was asked about the success of the EOP training, and Kristen noted that it had to be tailored. Also, they found that individuals with disabilities need to be involved in their job search.

DEO and Workforce

- Diane shared information on her plan and noted that WOTC and the Federal Bonding Program are underused and that many individuals do not realize the bonding program is not just for ex-offenders. It can be used for those with bad or no credit, etc.

VR

- Kirk shared that VR's greatest challenge is keeping people engaged. The fact that the downturn in the economy has resulted in it taking longer for people to obtain employment has contributed to the problem.

APD

- Steve shared the APD plan and noted that the iBudget is underfunded and they are looking at the issue in their plan.
- Allison Cohen Hall noted that Steve's plan has a lot of "to dos," so he will also want to think about what will be the priorities.

FDDC

- Sheila shared the FDDC plan and noted that one consideration is taking the Employment Nuts and Bolts proposal back to the Task Force and possibly using this proposed initiative to help support collaborative training needs that are emerging through our collaborative work.

Next Steps

Sheila will request that ICI staff review the plans and offer any additional suggestions or guidance. Sheila will also revisit the Executive Order, Interagency Cooperative Agreement, and Governor's Commission reports and strategic plans to determine what items are missing that need to be incorporated into the plans. The team will revisit during their next scheduled meeting on February 11, 2014. An interim conference call may be scheduled if determined necessary.

David inquired about the communications subcommittee. Sheila and Judy will get together to determine next steps for reconvening this subcommittee.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.