

Methods to Strengthen Employment Services for Iowans with Disabilities

Interagency Memorandum of Agreement

October 4, 2007

Minutes for the Support Team Meeting, Thursday, September 13, 2007, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, Starkweather Room. (Prepared by Norma Hohlfeld.)

Attending Members of the Support Team: Shan Sasser, Department for the Blind; Mike Maher, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services; John TenPas, DHR, Division of Persons with Disabilities; Janet Shoeman, Department of Human Services; Jill Whitten, Department of Human Services; Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development, and Norma Hohlfeld, Support Team Coordinator.

Guest: none

Absent: Barbara Guy, Department of Education

1. Reminder and brief discussion about the Improving Transition Outcomes (ITO) Capacity-Building Forum scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2007.

2. Dissemination of information on ITO and other Governance Group initiatives

Doug Keast recommends and ITO officials support a Strengthening Employment Services Support Team field memo to share information about the promising practices and lessons learned through ITO. The Team provided input on the type of introduction and information for such a memo. The Coordinator will work with Connie Ehlers to develop the text.

The Support Team recommends that we begin work on similar memos regarding:

- the PROMISE JOBS disability specialists--Janet Shoeman and Jane Schockemoehl of IWD will begin on this.
- The Employer's Disability Resource Network and the new website the Coordinator will check with Barb McClannahan about this.

3. Update on the Collaboration Barrier Survey and the Assistive Technology Review.

As of 9-12-07 Region 1 and Region 19 have asked to participate in the barrier survey and the review. Doug Keast reported results from Region 1 and Region 10 for the barrier survey. None were from Region 1, and 13 from Region 10. We had hoped to have twenty participants from each region. Doug will send it out again to see if we can get more participants. Dr. Stensrud is talking with Region 13 to see if they will participate and Doug will continue to recruit participation in other regions.

Assistive Technology reviews are still pending for Region 1 and Region 10.

John TenPas mentioned the assistive technology displays and accommodation education for home and businesses that are being developed through Sunnyside Easter Seals.

MOA Support Team Members

Norma Hohlfeld, Support Team Coordinator
Shan Sasser, Iowa Department for the Blind
Barbara Guy, Iowa Department of Education
Micheleen Maher, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Iowa Department of Education
John TenPas, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Janet Shoeman and Jill Whitten, Iowa Department of Human Services
Becky Harker, Iowa Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council
Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development

4. Support Team Field Visit to Region 1, Dubuque/Elkader

The September date will not work for the Support Team Field Visit. The proposed date is November 16, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Elkader which will allow Doug Keast to participate. Alternate time is Elkader, November 16, 10:00 to 12:00.

5. The Strengthening Employment Services MOA renewal for FFY 2008, effective October 1, 2007, is ready for signatures.

The Team set up a plan to ensure that all agencies have a signature by October 1.

6. Reports from Support Team members on things we all need to know.

Jill Whitten reported that the MEPD evaluation for 2007 should be done by October.

Doug Keast reported on the proposed regulations for the Employment Network for Persons with Disabilities. The new regs. have more stringent measures for making timely progress for the ticket holders. Iowa is going to make some comments to ask for more time. Also, everyone being served by Vocation Rehabilitation or the Department for the Blind is considered to have their ticket in use so it cannot be assigned to another agency.

Doug also reported on the issues surrounding the Disability Program Navigators' status after December 31. Several options are being explored.

October 10 is the Discovered Resources job fair in Waterloo.

7. Other items from Support Team members: as raised at the meeting.