

UWIN Work Group Minutes

Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Date: January 16, 2004

Chair: Michael Deily and Dave Dangerfield

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: Cathy Chambless, Marie Christman, Helen Thatcher, Kathy Daley, David Dangerfield, Michael Deily, Corliss Neuber, Tamara Keene, Hank Liese, Susan Loving, Alison Lozano, Sara McCormick, Blaine Peterson, Bill Young, Russ Thelin, Doyle Bender, Bill Walsh, and Shirley Weathers

Next Meeting Date and Location

April 29, 2004 from 8:30am-11:00am at the Judy Buffmire Building in the South Conference Room

Topic and Summary of Discussion

Self Employment Project Proposal (Bill Walsh and Shirley Weathers)

- 1- Currently do some work with Active Re-Entry in the Uintah Basin and are interested in the UWIN Coalition. Also working with a group that calls themselves Agrability. It has been through that group that they have gotten tuned in with the Work Ability Project.
- 2- This program would address adults with disabilities, although it may have other applications.
- 3- Goals for the Self Employment Project
 - a. Apply the Work Incentives to the self employment proposal
 - b. (Hands on approach) Be able to address needs of self employment for people with disabilities.
 - c. (Concurrent) System change goal. See a gap in service and seek to fill it or respond to in both locally and nationally.
- 4- Some of the focus of the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities has been leaning towards self employment goals.
 - a. This is one way for people with disabilities who have trouble finding a job through a traditional means.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 5- Would probably need \$60,000-\$70,000 to fund the project, as a consultant locally and nationally
 - a. Would really like to see the funding come from a joint partnership (funding partners)
 - b. First year would be for development, providing the service would come after the foundation was built.
 - i. Trying to identify gaps and resources, this could include tweaking some laws, and other policy work.
 - ii. Develop relationships with other states who are experts in this area.
- 6- What are other state agencies doing in this area already? Would this proposal fill a gap, or just duplicate what's already being done?
 - a. USOR—set procedure that has been done for a few years. Plans are developed, about 24 per year, which guide a person through the self employment prep. Up to this point a lot of the Work Incentives have not been applied to self employment extensively.
 - b. DWS—has a hard time getting data because the question of self employment is very well addressed in their existing system.
 - i. Other states have tried to look at a package approach to serving people in a specific population to
- 7- It sounds like some things are being done, but not a lot of coordination. Do we want to spend more time focusing on this?

Utah One Stop Enhancement project (Doyle Bender)

- 1- Currently in the process of hiring of two navigators for Spanish Fork and Brigham City.
- 2- Working on a survey to assess disability service, and getting a report.
- 3- The general perspective of the program is to enhance the service to people with disabilities who come into DWS. Looking at what resources may be available to each person. This program is the connecting link between agencies.
- 4- The Navigator will primarily be housed in their main location. Travel will occur for training. This was set up as a pilot program to see if the navigator position actually impacts the community they serve. They were located based on the Benefits Planners that exist as well, so not to overlap coverage. They to lead people to the BPAO program.
- 5- The disability management modules will be coordinate with needs versus what the grant will allow them to do. On the local level the navigator will lead people to either BPAO program or to the Choose to Work program.
 - a. The intent of the navigators is to find a person's need and lead them to the appropriate service either by agencies or providers.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 6- What plans are there for evaluation?
 - a. What kind of information do you want to get at the beginning? There is a good opportunity for comparative studies.
 - b. It has been thought about, but still in process.
- 7- Hope to bring Doyle into the UWIN Executive Board and Coalition.

Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach (BPAO) Update

- 1- Richard Nasogi is the new supervisor of the BPAO Program
- 2- DWS Grant—11/1/03-10/31/04, renewable
 - a. Provide information to SSA beneficiaries on how working will effect their benefits
 - b. Located at the DWS Expo office (Dianne Brown)
 - c. Coordinated with the central region
- 3- SSA Grant—in its third year
 - a. Statewide service
 - b. Seen 400 individuals, 67 have obtained or maintained employment
- 4- DDS Transmittals—Grant ends March 2004
 - a. Early intervention for newly disabled people
- 5- BPAO Technical Assistance—provides training and support to newly trained Benefits Planners, funded by the UWIN Project
 - a. 19 of these planners are currently serving people.
 - b. 255 people have been served, or 418 hours of service providing benefits planning.
- 6- Project referrals continue to increase, and quickly exceeding our means to provide service to individuals.
- 7- Satisfaction survey (Sara McCormick)
 - a. It has been reviewed and will be sent out within the next week or so.
- 8- We are going to be doing a focus group from the people who worked with Dianne Brown, to better prepare the person who will fill the position.
- 9- There is an IOTI grant that can be applied for to help follow up with training of the Benefits Planners

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 10- What is the plan for sustaining the number of benefits planners?
 - a. Working on building some sustaining plans, but haven't formulated them yet.

Process to develop MIG grant proposal (Hank Liese)

- 1- WORKPATH: Planning for a "comprehensive Employment Opportunities" approach using the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
 - a. This includes Medicaid and Non-Medicaid programs
 - b. Will require more collaboration than MIG1
 - c. Utah is eligible for this extended grant
 - i. This is a very broad grant and very flexible. This is why it's being brought to the Executive Board. UWIN would like ideas which areas of the Workpath model everyone has consensus to include.
 - ii. We would like to form a CEO (Comprehensive Employment Opportunities) steering committee, and have one person from each agency to sit on the committee and assist with the grant proposal.
 - iii. Currently the Health Department houses the grant.
 - d. CMS wants to make sure that people who go back to work won't be worse off than they would be on benefits.
- 2- The motion to set up a steering committee, as described above, has been approved.

Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

- 1- There might be an initiative in this area. Delaware has some models in tying the CMS grant into the concept of transition.
- 2- Families are happy with school services, but they feel that there is a huge hole for transition students moving into the workforce.
 - a. Based on some focus groups coordinated by Hank Liese

UWIN Update (Cathy Chambless)

- 1- UWIN Annual, this year it was attended by about 160 people of mixed audience.
 - a. Many positive reports for the information provided and the collaboration of efforts
- 2- Training efforts will continue
 - a. SLCC Trainings (training series) begins in February
 - b. Community Trainings are still on going.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- c. Training for VR Counselors
 - d. Ednet on Medicaid Work Incentives
 - e. Working with Susan Loving to get on the round table agenda with Transitional Specialists
 - f. Participating in other conferences to teach people
- 3- Work Ability CD will begin to be disseminated mid February
- 4- Public Awareness Campaign, March
- 5- Employment Personal Assistance currently has 7 people receiving this service.
- a. VMH has 6 with the demo project
- 6- Ticket was rolled out in November
- a. We've set up a toll-free line who have questions about the Ticket to Work program
 - b. 3-4 calls per day after a rollout phase, 3-4 calls between rollout.
 - c. This number will also be on the Work Ability CDs and posters advertising the CDs
- 7- Project Central
- a. Received IT assistance from a Department of Health to thinking about building a project database.
 - b. They make recommendations and give advice.
 - c. Should we continue with this data base goal, should we continue to go after this? It is likely to cost more than originally planned on, but does give all benefits planners access to data base, rather than just those in the home office.
 - d. Statewide information is important, especially since this data will influence where we go in the future.
 - e. At this time the Board supports moving in the direction of a data base, but to be brought back with updates for future direction and budget issues.
- 8- Assist Inc and their home modification grant.
- a. We are helping them with referrals.
 - b. There are both grants for design and production, and no interest loans available to individuals with disabilities who are working or seeking work.

Action Steps

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Follow up with the possibility of the IOTI grant to further training for benefits planners	Cathy	Next Meeting
Send issue papers to EX board from CMS Conference calls	Tamara	January 23, 2004