

UWIN Work Group Minutes

Work Group: Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Date: January 23, 2003

Facilitator: Cathy Chambless

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: Cathy Chambless, Bill Young, Kathy Daley, Nonie Lancaster, Mandee Buckley, Richard Harward, and Diane Russell

Next Meeting Date and Location

March 27, 2003 Judy Buffmire Building in the South Conference Room from 8:30am – 10:30am

Discussions for Future Meetings

Discuss desirability of applying for SSDI demonstration grant with SSA

Discuss Work Incentive training and how to get agencies to take over long term

Topic and Summary of Discussion

UWIN Update and Annual Information

It became clear of how many people e were working in unison to help move the UWIN program forward, or at least support this move.

Training has become a major activity of the UWIN Project

- 1- There has been much thought as to who to train, when to train, and the best way to train.
- 2- Many groups are involved in this training.
 - a. Utah State University
 - b. Utah State Office of Rehab
 - c. Social Security Administration
 - d. UWIN Staff
- 3- Hoping to help people learn about their choices in order to make an informed decision.
 - a. In the past the paradigm has been “protect your benefits”
 - b. We are hoping that with additional training, individuals may be able to see that going back to work is a viable choice for them.
 - c. It is important that individuals and providers understand how to prepare people for the return to work.
- 4- Barriers
 - a. How to serve all people in the state?
 - i. Do you serve only those who are interested in going back to work, or do you educate all so they are aware of the choice of going back to work.
 - ii. How do the budget cut backs hold us back from the optimum types of services
 - iii. What are the current perceptions of Work Incentives? Many people are not very aware that they exist.
- 5- Resolving Barriers
 - a. Have a meeting to clarify what all of this is about.
 - i. Philosophical vs. individual need
 - ii. Philosophy drives the people
 - iii. Money and results seem to drive the agency so administration can choose where to best apply dollars to the most needed of programs.
 1. Not as much of an issue, perhaps, when the economics of the state are difficult.
 - b. Cost analysis may be tied to taking the existing disabled population from ½% to 1% into a job situation. This alone could save the government a significant amount of money, and improve the quality of life to individuals in society. This is difficult to accept because it is a new way to view a system improvement. You have to have an administration that believes that this is the population that should be worked with.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- c. Sometimes “need” is based on the numbers, but do the numbers really demonstrate the need and success of a program like this where a straight number are not the most validating of evaluation. Why is this the philosophy? Should or could it change?
- d. In 5-10 years we will not have enough workers to meet societal needs and employers will have to lower their standards for hiring in order to maintain.
- e. We need to change or we will not survive the difficult economic times. We have to serve the population we are meant to serve.

UWIN’s Role with the Governors Committee for People with Disabilities

(Post pone some of this discussion for a meeting when more of the Executive board is in attendance.

Dissemination Campaign Updates

The Employer CD is coming along. There has been much accomplished in the way of content and design.

SSDI Demonstration Grant with Social Security Administration

Alan Jensen, from GW University, he worked with the House when the first designed the current SSI/SSDI programs. He is very motivated to re-model the program for the times and needs of individuals. What are the congressmen likely to support?

Next week (January 28, 2003) some people who are very active in the UWIN philosophy will be going to Washington DC to help Alan get support for these programs and perhaps the re-design some of the aspects surrounding SSDI incentives/disincentives. (The Demonstration) We will need to have a viable Buy-In program in order to house the Demonstration in Utah. This may or may not be possible.

While in DC, we will also be meeting with the state senators.

Bobby Silversien will be doing a series of emerging disability framework policy, for the next three Thursdays in a row. This begins today.

Getting Agencies on Board with Work Incentive Training

This spring we will be going to Mental Health centers to train.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

Trainings could be done per agencies or per community for the more rural areas. This will be decided by the agencies and the community they reside in.

This training is “free” to you, but you need to assign someone to be a “co-trainer” so we can keep them up-to-date on changes and new policy. This is an effort to maintain reliable trainings after the UWIN program eclipses.

Some agencies have begun to consider have a central trainer within each of the major agencies. DSPD has made this assignment within their agency.

The training is going very well. It is really making an impact and this impact is carry though to make all of it even more effective.