

UWIN Work Group Minutes

UWIN Executive Board

Meeting Date: October 21, 2002

Chair: Michael Deily

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: Blaine Petersen, Michael Deily, Dave Dangerfield, Marie Christman, Cathy Chambless, Hank Liese, and Alison Lozano

Next Meeting Date and Location

January 23, 2003 from 8:30am – 11:00am at the Judy Buffmire Building (To be held every other month on the 4th Thursday)

Discussions for Future Meetings

Utah Work Incentives Executive Board Document

Introduction for further review
Do we need an MOU?
Policies and planning

Topic and Summary of Discussion

BPA&O (Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach)

Currently there are 3 Benefits Specialists, each has been funded by different sources, and therefore have different focus while trying to accomplish similar program goals.

- 1- SSA grant (State wide service)
 - a- Serves SSA beneficiaries
- 2- DDS transmittals
 - a- Newly determined and eligible beneficiaries
- 3- DWS and TANF
 - a- 50% of these clients have to be TANF eligible, per the grant

SSA Grant Quarterly Report

- 1- Past Summer 65 individuals maintained or increased work activities due to meeting with a Benefits Planner
 - a- Is it possible to do an ad-hoc query on work incentives from these consumers?

Department of Workforce Services (DWS)

- 1- Currently serving 50 consumers
- 2- Targeting TANF eligible SSA beneficiaries
- 3- Working towards grant goal for serving 50% TANF consumers
 - a- Those who are TANF eligible are not yet working
- 4- Medicaid buy-in is still a strong incentive, especially if the rates can be restored

Gathering National Information

What kind of comparisons do we have access to that describe which other states have the buy-in vs. those that don't have it?

-Some information will be available over the next few months concerning the 13 states that do have the buy-in.

-It seems that the states that don't have the buy-in are struggling with Ticket implementation because they have little or nothing to offer consumers in the way of working incentives.

Topic and Summary of Discussion

MWI (Medicaid Work Incentives)

CMS doesn't require a set or defined amount of "work"

-Some states are trying to get minimums set

Currently looking at administrative data and planning a survey to help determine barriers and needs of people who access MWI.

- 1- Sample of approx. 150 consumers
- 2- There was a large group who initially applied for MWI but never enrolled. Want to find out why.
- 3- Discover why many who enroll only pay the premium only intermittently
- 4- Discover the factors to why those who pay ongoing continue to do so. (Continuous means 4 consecutive months.)

Use the survey as one tool to appeal to the legislature during the next session.

EPAS (Employment Related Personal Assistance Service)

- 1- Two people who are currently eligible
- 2- Four others who have applied
- 3- So far the program has been spread by word of mouth and letters to those on the waiting list for the DDS Waiver.
- 4- Not many referrals have come from Vocational Rehabilitation yet.

Employer DVD

- 1- Will contain testimonials to and by employers
- 2- Will contain testimonials by consumers with disabilities who work
 - a. Explain why work is important to them
 - b. Motivational to other people with disabilities
- 3- Library of information and resources
- 4- Early next year is the proposed deadline for the DVD launch
- 5- Still deciding what information will be assembled
- 6- Our main outlet thus far for the Employer DVD has been the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Topic and Summary of Discussion

DOL Grant (Department of Labor Grant)

- 1- Unofficially, UWIN did not receive the grant for the Valley Mental Health research
- 2- Waiting for the feedback and comments

Review PAR Survey (Booklet handed out)

Reviewed results

Recommendations

- 1- Prepare new workgroup members more thoroughly before they begin attending meetings.
- 2- Develop agendas prior to meetings.
- 3- Send reminders to work group participants.
- 4- Clean up UWIN membership lists and determine who should be encouraged to attend, or replace so proper representation still exists.
- 5- Continue to improve the web site and at work group meetings determine who needs tech support for web and email problems.
- 6- Strive to include employers so that the PAR model is upheld.

This survey's purpose was to help us identify if UWIN is having the results that it intended too. This goal is still in sight and the staff and evaluators feel optimistic at the outcome.

Data Share (In progress)

- 1- We have to prove that we have authority to access specific information
- 2- Rex Olsen (attorney from Department of Health) is trying to put together a recommendation
- 3- Data Share is for aggregate data
- 4- Workforce Investment Act may be a source of "sharing" information
 - a. Sarah Brenna (DWS legislation Liaison) may be able to help form a reauthorization to assist with this issue

Topic and Summary of Discussion

UWIN Grant Continuation

Expanding the EPAS Program (Benchmark)

- 1- Still trying to get definitions for the Mentally Ill qualifications
- 2- Trying to find a way to gather resources to complete Mental Illness study
- 3- Discussed other alternatives besides funding a study for information
 - a. It's pretty clear that the first and third months are the critical time periods for the Mentally Ill.
 - b. Some preliminary research has been done by Valley Mental Health
 - c. Division of Health Care Finance and Valley Mental Health will continue to explore options

Sustaining Programs (Benchmark)

- 1- There is increased pressure on the Governor's Office for agencies seeking grants
 - a. Many grants are viewed as locking up state dollars (state match grants)
- 2- Trying to get a buy-in from involved agencies so the future of agency coordination is maintain once the UWIN grant expires in two years
- 3- Data share is vital to cross agency coordination and statewide services

Action Steps

| <i>Action Item</i> | <i>Responsible</i> | <i>Target Date</i> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Get information from other states that do and don't have Work Incentives. This information could be useful for determining Ticket issues. | General | As available |
| Present to the State Workforce Council when we are ready to get additional support for the second phase in the media campaign. | Cathy Blain (Contact) | When approaching phase 2 |
| Need to have a DWS representative at the Executive board meetings. | Cathy Bill | Next Meeting |
| Explore forming a reauthorization for inter-agency data share issues. Contact Sarah Brenna (DWS Legislation liaison). | Cathy | When Applicable |