

# UWIN Work Group Minutes

## Work Group: Employment Supports

Meeting Date: October 22, 2003

Facilitator: Ted Loosli and Catherine Carter

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: Doree Anderson, Tom Brownlee, Mande Buckley, Catherine Carter, Cathy Chambless, Tina Johnson, Tamara Keene, Ted Loosli, Andrew Riggle, Kim Rognon-Sato, Jeff Sheen, Rhonda Feller, and Sarah McCormick

### Next Meeting Date and Location

November 19, 2003 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Judy Buffmire Building in the South Conference Room.

### Action Item Updates from Past Meetings

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Who</i>
Monitor both versions of the EPAS and receive updates on progress.	Main body of notes	Cathy Catherine
Email Focus Group report to workgroup once it is completed.	Main body of notes	Cathy Jeff Hank
Revise EPAS Brochure and work on further approval.	Is waiting to clear up the Workability Brand but is otherwise ready to print.	Doree Tamara

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

### Mental Health Demo Update

- 1- 3 people enrolled, but persistent to get 30
  - a. 2 have been referred through Medicaid
  - b. Why are there still so few?
    - i. So many people aren't working and are looking for a job that they can do, in order to access services
    - ii. It is hard to find work without the services in the first place
      1. It would be nice if this could be addressed
    - iii. Most consumers are coming across this information about EPAS haphazardly
      1. More outreach

### Focus Group Report

- 1- Found that to find a secure job you need to be able to tell the employer that you do have assistance.
- 2- Staff not cross referring, not being encouraged to understand and really refer
  - a. These programs are broad and different people are being served that sometimes the specifics get under-emphasized
  - b. Make University Disability Resource Centers more aware to serve as a community resource and a resource to new students
- 3- One focus group was held in Logan and the other was in Utah County
  - a. Some people were working with EPAS
  - b. Some people were working without EPAS
  - c. Some people weren't working
- 4- Nationally why people aren't accessing EPAS
  - a. Those who were had natural supports
  - b. Already had personal assistants
  - c. Pay scale for UT personal assistants (PA) is difficult to keep a competitive wage
    - i. Not being able to reimburse for mileage to Pas
  - d. How to explain why you get assistance or "special treatment."
  - e. 40 hours each month was prohibitive in some cases

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 5- Reasons for not working
  - a. Health issues
  - b. Employers, and perceptions
    - i. Don't want to get in trouble legally
    - ii. Afraid
  
- 6- How to help people have energy to work
  - a. Help with house chores
  - b. Space organization (work and home)
  
- 7- Transportation to work
  - a. Especially within the rural areas
  
- 8- People don't know about EPAS
  - a. People who aren't connected into a larger organization who is plugged in with UWIN really don't know about this as an option.

### Bottom-Line Issues

- 1- Mistrust of the system
  - a. To access is this program, what other services do you lose
- 2- No knowledge of the program
  - a. Some people in the transition community don't know that working is even a possibility
    - i. (From the view point of the family or caregivers of disabled individuals.)
    - ii. Getting to the support system
      - 1. Parent Center
      - 2. Think about possibilities not the limitations

### Discussion and Recommendations

- 1- What can we provide to individuals assistance to prepare for work
  - a. Voc-rehab
    - i. Coordinate and build a network
  - b. Valley Mental Health
- 2- How to find personal assistants?

## Topic and Summary of Discussion

### Valley Mental Health Report

- 1- Are actively looking for people who want to participate in the program
  - a. Many are interested in being a PA rather than having a PA
  - b. Going out to School campuses
  
- 2- Alliance has a level system
  - a. First level is being a member of the clubhouse
  - b. Second level is Transitional Employment
    - i. This job is owned by Alliance House and is available for 6 months
  
  - c. Third level independent employment

### UWIN Annual

- 1- Invite people who would have some interest
  - a. KCPW has a Community Affairs program that may general a lot of interest in the disability community

**Action Steps**

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
Find out when the university disability resource centers have meetings that we can get involved with.		
Revise the Focus Group Report for the Executive Board and their information.	Jeff/Hank	October 29, 2003
Have Doree come up with an informal report about people who have approached her for services, but have had a barrier similar to what was brought to light in the Focus Group Report. Mandee will review files to see what she came up across early in the EPAS Program.	Doree Mandee	October 29, 2003
Ask Leanne and Rhonda to do a presentation on their developed material	Catherine	Next Meeting