

UWIN Work Group Minutes

Work Group: Work Incentives

Meeting Date: March 24, 2004

Facilitator: Drew Hyde and Bill Young

Minute Recorder: Tamara Keene

Attendees: MAndee Buckley, Cathy Chambless, Noreen Brown, Rick Cobia, Kathy Daley, Margot Dana, Anita Hall, Drew Hyde, Tamara Keene, Matt Knotts, Susan Loving, Suzette Martellaro, Sara McCormick, Phyllis Sharples, Jeff Sheen, Linda Smith, Bill Young, Sue Hanson, Mark Santini, Gay Warner, Mary Nokes, Jennifer Jensen, and Hank Liese

Next Meeting Date and Location

May 19, 2004 at the Judy Buffmire Building from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Action Item Updates from Past Meetings

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Who</i>
Once CDs are completed, take them to the UAPSE Trainings	In progress. CD's should be available in April 2004.	Cathy
Consider having a meeting to address the Phone line and the BPAO referral situation.	Have met a few times within the Employment Resource Unit to work out kinks of the Work Ability phone line. Keeping a log to see what kinds of questions are asked from the public.	Kathy
Email Assist Inc information to this workgroup information as it becomes available with the press release.	Completed	Tamara
See if there are potentials consumers in the supported employment program for the Assist Inc program.	Completed	Kathy

Topic and Summary of Discussion

Medicaid Work Incentive Update

- 1- Expect that enrollment will be lower in April because of poverty level changes (\$779)
- 2- MWI Training is continuing throughout the state
- 3- Medicaid Data, and using data (Conference in Baltimore)

BPAO Update

- 1- Two new staff members
 - a. Jennifer Jensen (BPAO Specialist)
 - b. Mary Nokes (Support Staff for Margo)
- 2- Working on and IOTI (Interagency Outreach and Training Initiative) Grant to bring more benefits training
 - a. Have been asked to submit a full proposal
 - b. Will do week long benefits training, and hopefully do 2 advanced trainings
 - i. Focusing on long term benefits
 - ii. Long term follow up
 - iii. Additional PAS training (Veterans, Rail Road retirement...)
 - iv. HIPPA, and how it applies to Benefits Specialists
 - c. Hoping to set the training up for September/October 2004
- 3- Submitted a proposal to RSEP7
 - a. Turned in a interest letter
 - b. For Benefits training
 - c. Focus on Work Incentives as it applies to Transition Students
 - d. Long term benefit management
 - e. We have been selected
- 4- PAS Cadre
 - a. Will be held the first week in May 2004
 - i. Voc-Rehab is doing a pre-training with Esther Medina April 21, 2004
 - ii. Web-Streaming format...refer to pink flyer
 1. Who would use PAS

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 2. Why they would use PAS
 - 3. What PAS is for
 - b. Part of each training will include personal consultations, following the main meeting
 - c. Contact Kathy Daley for more information 801-887-9393
- 5- Valley Mental Health has commissioned a Full Time BPAO Position

Ticket Update

- 1- 3rd phase of roll out, less than 12,000 Tickets have been mailed out.
 - a. 72 Tickets have been assigned (pending)
- 2- Currently have 7 Employment Networks besides Voc-Rehab for Utah
 - a. None have taken a ticket other the VR, this is also Nationally
 - i. Problematic with funding for the ENs
 - ii. Social Security has been criticizing the Ticket program
 - iii. Utah is doing better than the national average
- 3- What are the barriers for the ENs
 - a. No education to ENs by Social Security, or to potential Ticket receivers
 - b. Consumers remain fearful or ill prepared
 - c. Not enough money for the ENs, to risky and they prefer VR to take the Ticket assignments
 - i. Ticket Advisory Panel have been appealing to Feds for additional funding for ENs
- 4- Good things to come from Ticket
 - a. Getting some people to think about the option to work
 - b. Getting more information to consumers, and plugging them into various services
 - i. However, this was not the goal of what the Ticket was supposed to do
 - ii. Ticket's goal was to provide options for services for people with disability
 - iii. EN's don't have the money to offer consumers needed services like VR is able to.
 - 1. VR does work with ENs to do their best to make their program work.
- 5- Much easier to get a hold of VR reps, rather than Social Security
 - a. Difficult to coordinate with SSA

Topic and Summary of Discussion

- 6- SSA has reauthorized funds for PABSS and BPAO

EPAS Update (handout)

- 1- 21 individuals with disabilities receiving employment
 - a. 6 additional persons are in the eligibility process
- 2- 12 of the 21 are part of the Valley Mental Health EPAS Demo
- 3- 14 have a diagnosis of mental illness
- 4- Claims and Billing procedures are a challenge
 - a. Medicaid billing interface
- 5- Question about enclaves are eligible for EPAS Services
 - a. Minimum Wage or above
 - b. Fair Labor Standard Act
 - c. May be paid less, for time study, but never less than minimum wage
- 6- Utah is the only state that has this type personal assistance, in relationship to employment.

Outreach and Training / Transition

- 1- Working on training for Transition aged youth
 - a. Current training materials needed some tweaking
 - b. Putting emphasis on the needs of youth to go to work, for the first time
 - c. Teaching parents and families how to deal/understand employment for youth
- 2- Round Table Trainings have been the main mechanism for helping the transition population
 - a. Next week in Salt Lake
 - b. Cedar city in April
- 3- Will be participating on the Family Links Conference

Topic and Summary of Discussion

Work Ability Grant Discussion

It looks like Utah is one of four states, for a two year period, participate in a Demo Project. (2 for 1) In the Ticket Law, the opportunity to have demos expire at the end of 2004. This pilot would be to see how implementation would occur. We have to apply for a competitive grant before January 2004.

- 1- Setting up a research project
 - a. Random assignment of two groups
 - i. People will be put in to a control (no-interventions) and test (intervention)
 - ii. How to inform people about SSA issues
 - iii. Test group cannot be harmed by the pilot (contract assumption)
 - iv. Voluntary participation, informed consent
 - b. Peter Baird will be helping the four states with this process

- 2- Work Ability Kickoff (mid-April)
 - a. Employer/Employee CD
 - b. Radio Ads
 - c. Press Event, through the Health Dept
 - i. Hosting this at an employment center
 - ii. Hoping to get a crowd there, including some legislators for future buy-in

- 3- Grant Objectives for the next 4 years of the MIG Grant
 - a. Address the barriers of people with disabilities returning to work
 - i. Refer to Consumer Satisfaction Telephone Survey Report (Handout)
 - b. Training to help individuals deal with discrimination (what to do if it occurs)