Employment First: How it Began?

Employment Discussion at 2014 Portland Gathering

Outcomes of this session

- Know how the movement began in Oregon—the grassroots efforts
- The importance of including Subject Matter Experts in increasing supported employment
- Good conversation about the importance of an Employment First policy, along with discussion about moving things forward in a thoughtful way

Outcomes of this session

- Discussion about the local Employment First teams, not the specifics but what they are
- People will come away with knowing what an Employment First policy is and which states have policies and/or legislative efforts
For The Gathering 2014

What do you want to know?

The beginning for Oregon
August 24, 2005
- Attending the meeting hosted at Oregon Council on Development Disabilities (OCDD): Kathryn Weit, Cindy Helvington, Molly Sullivan, Jean Tuller, Scott Pellham, Bill Lynch, Ted Wenk, C.J. Webb, Cynthia Owens, Lynnae Rutledge; and by phone: Bud Thoune, and Dan Peccia
Completed 4+1

Action
Contact Washington State for a discussion on best practices.
Who do we need to include?
- Governor’s office (to continue to work with those who are already doing things around this so we are coordinating with those efforts).
- Lynn Greenwood
- Business community – Lucy
- Ted Sweigart
- Travis Wall (MIG Program Manager)
- Ann Blackburn or Cheryl Cuze from SAAL
- Liz Fox from AWC
Action

Clearly define the group’s purpose. Build task list for opportunities coming up right now. Scott will research on Washington policy and send it out to the group.

RESULT

- Applied for Medicare Infrastructure Grant
- Hosted a Round Table Discussion
  - Invited leadership from Washington State
  - Invited Dave Mank to support the meeting
    - Community awareness, for Washington, began with schools and families.

Recommendations from Round Table

- Education and Training
- Building Partnerships
- Employment Services
- Development Opportunities
- Earning Potentials
- Systems Issues
- Data Collection
- Role Clarity
Recommendations from Round Table

- The Future
- Business Practices
- National Collaboration
- Political Coordination

Oregon: DD Employment Task Force

Drafted Employment First Policy 2008
Policy: 9-18-08
SELN: State Employment Leadership Network
Alliance for Full Participation

From APSE

Formal Policy Actions Over Time
From APSE

**Local Employment First Teams**
- Umatilla County
- Multnomah County
- Washington County
- Clackamas County
- Tillamook County
- Central Oregon
- Jackson County
- Lane County
- Yamhill County
- Mid-Columbia
- Josephine County
- Marion & Polk Counties

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**What does an Employment Policy do?**

- With the right support
  - People get real jobs
  - People earn real wage
Let's discuss the topics you brought up ...

Thank you!!!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions
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