

IOWA BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

DIF-SWTCIE Project Collective Workgroup Summaries

10-18-23



Community of Practice (CoP) – Changing the Narrative

In the CoP group we identified some major themes that might be part of narrative change – benefits of work for people with disabilities, dispelling myths about loss of benefits and what supports are available for individuals to work, benefits to employers and co-workers (Universal Design), and the need to talk about employment as early as possible both for the information about supports that are available and also to have an expectation that children with disabilities will grow up to be employed. The group would like feedback from other workgroups on consistent barriers or themes that should be addressed.

We had two group members who self-identified as individuals with lived experience and volunteered to talk about their experience to groups. We discussed formats that they could do that possibly videos (need to identify a good platform to display those) but also potentially at school vocation fairs or other group events as well as presenting to the Collective as a whole. Group members will identify and coordinate opportunities. Jeff is developing Lunch & Learns for Amerigroup members and Community Based Case Managers on employment and will report back to the group on attendance and feedback from those.

The group also identified a need to show examples of carved positions (there is a potential individual and their employer that has shared their story through Voc Rehab in the past) as well as getting more information on how businesses have benefitted from hiring individuals with disabilities. Harkin Institute might have some valuable information but we may need to develop a survey for businesses to get specific information from businesses. The group plans to communicate via email between this meeting and the meeting in November to continue the conversation.

CoP Work Group Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15 at 1 p.m. Contact Kelly Strydom (kelly-bumpus@uiowa.edu) for more information.

Education

The youth team reviewed the call for interest letter. The letter is 10 pages long, we were able to review half of it. We will be meeting bi-weekly and will finish the final review during our next meeting. Torie Keith volunteered to co-chair with Paul Fuller.

We identified entities to send the letters to, a timeline for sending it out and receiving letters back, a timeline for planning and starting service delivery, and potential pilot sites.

Education Work Group Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9 at 3 p.m. Contact Paul Fuller (paul.fuller@iowa.gov) for more information.

14C/IPS/CE

Sheltered workshops are a safe space for individuals with disabilities to engage in employment, so why would we want to close them?" This was a genuine question asked by a parent of a child with disabilities during the work group. The group also identified the following barriers to promoting community integrated employment (CIE): not enough providers to provide support for individuals with disabilities in CIE opportunities, lack of promoting employment through case management services, rural area issues and lack of public knowledge regarding sheltered workshops and what other employee possibilities are untapped for business owners.

We are going back to the table for the next steps to put together our most important thoughts and content experts together to begin moving things forward. We want to begin to educate about supported employment opportunities and how things could look for current individuals receiving subminimum wage or working in an isolated workshop.

14C/IPS/CE Work Group Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6 at 2 p.m. Contact Ashley Banes (ashley.banes@iowa.gov) for more information.

Policy – E1st & Tech 1st

We touched on the 'ask', but it didn't seem like people had had a chance to review different policy specifics. There was consensus that people were excited by lots of different options:

- state as a model employer
- establishing an employment first commission
- agency alignment and coordination
- not allowing day hab without comprehensive employment discussion

It would be helpful for the group to better understand exactly how an 'ask' would be developed, so Ben reached out to the [SEED team at ODEP](#). Hopefully they will be able to help us understand the process among other things as we think about policies pertinent to CIE in the state.

The team identified a need to develop content to share stories and information about CIE for PWD to establish a sense of urgency in stakeholders not familiar with CIE. Ben will explore options for using DIF resources to potentially engage with a publicist, and produce high quality content. Carlyn was going to touch base with Tammie and LeAnn to get data for one-pagers & a toolkit that can be used to educate legislators and other influential stakeholders.

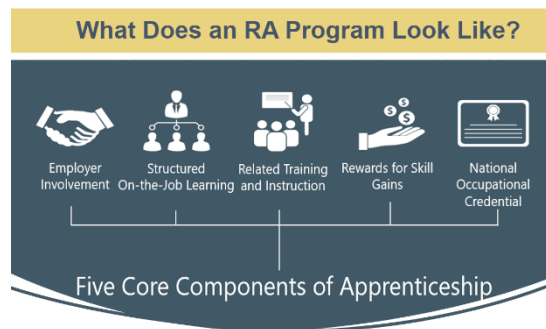
We also learned that UIHC's lobbyist, Jennifer Harbison, has a personal interest in this work, and could help us identify effective messaging strategies and content. Todd

Lange said he could research different champions (in government and influential figures) from areas around the state. Susan Seehase thought she could contribute to the identification of employers and Marsha Burright works with IVRS and has connections to individuals who have benefitted from CIE who would share their stories. Jeff Berkes was in attendance. He is the Digital Equity Coordinator for the state and has the ear of those who are expanding access to broadband (tech 1st). Ben plans to follow up with him individually.

Policy Work Group Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15 at 1 p.m. Contact Ben Grauer (ben-grauer@uiowa.edu) for more information.

Apprenticeships/Pre-Apprenticeships

Deb Fox and Jennifer presented on required processes for one.



Gray from IWD apprenticeship and the creating a registered

The steps to follow include 1. gathering job descriptions so a work process schedule can be developed. This will allow for the group to identify similar Ras and modify to meet the industry and market needs. 2. Determining the related training curricula and potential homes for it (online, community colleges, other). 3. Identify qualified lead agency to formulate the application and apply for the Registered Apprenticeship. The first step has been to request job descriptions for an array of DSP positions to begin the review of work process schedules that could be used. Next steps include engaging CRPs and other potential employers of the apprentices.

Apprenticeship Work Group Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15 at 1 p.m. Contact Judy Warth (judith-warth@uiowa.edu) or Ashley Baner (ashley.baner@iowa.gov) for more information.

Upcoming Collective Meetings

Wednesday November 15, 2023 1-3 p.m. - to register

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqduuqrToqHtZvCWtjgON1G7u6E0KOyZEn>

Wednesday January 17, 2024 1-3 p.m. – to register

https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkc-GprD4rGNKm_xQuFPg9VAHwb97iGPKf

Wednesday March 20, 2024 1-3 p.m. – to register

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwodeutqz0sH9GbCGYSq2xGhdT8FCaTd0uz>

Wednesday May 15, 2024 1-3 p.m. – to register

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclcOutqjkiGNOSmO5IXaiEi03fW61W9M6T>

Wednesday July 17, 2024 1-3 p.m. – to register

https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkce2qqzMoGtAhoT_sx6rhGgjcNs8bx9xB