

7/17/24

Hi all – thank you for your participation in the Iowa Blueprint for Change Collective and attendance at last week's meeting if you were able to attend.

We just wanted to follow up briefly and share our summer newsletter and a couple of upcoming events that should be on your radar!

#### Employment Summit:

The IBC Collective will gather to host the 2024 Employment Summit on Thursday, September 19th!

Immediately following the Make Your Mark Conference you are invited to influence and bring your unique perspective and genius to the Collective as we begin to pull together key concepts of the Blueprint for Change so that all people can get to work! This interactive and active planning session needs strong representation from people with disabilities (working or not working), businesses, family members, job coaches, educators, job developers, VR counselors, and policymakers. Everyone is welcome! Without you we cannot grow Iowa's Employment First movement!

The Employment Summit will be from 1-3:30pm at the Gateway Hotel & Conference in Ames. If you need financial or accommodation assistance to attend, please contact Andria Pooley ([andria-pooley@uiowa.edu](mailto:andria-pooley@uiowa.edu)). Attendance at the Make Your Mark Conference is encouraged but not required to participate.

#### [Register now!](#)

#### Collective meeting:

At the collective meeting, the group was introduced to the IBC's latest full-time addition, Andria Pooley, who has joined the UCEDD as an Administrative Services Coordinator. We then got updates from the Evaluation team that detailed responses to the C Survey, and why and when data is collected. Disability Iowa then shared details about their [Disability Employment survey](#) that is geared toward individuals with lived experience who are currently working and/or want to work. It is open until September 30<sup>th</sup> and data collected will be used in a report that discusses systemic issues and barriers in achieving competitive integrated employment for Iowans with disabilities.

The majority of the time was dedicated to conducting a SWOT analysis of the current landscape of disability employment as it is understood by Collective participants. A SWOT analysis is a planning tool which seeks to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats involved in a project. We're analyzing the results and will develop an action plan in the near future.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Employment First Training: July 31st from 10am-2pm at Goodwill of the Great Plains in Sioux City, Iowa
- Make Your Mark Conference: September 18th-19th in Ames, Iowa - [Register](#)

- IBC Employment Summit: September 19<sup>th</sup> - [Register](#)
- Iowa APSE Conference: September 24th-25th in Altoona, Iowa - [Register](#)

#### Upcoming Workgroup Meetings

- Youth Transition Work Group
  - Thursday, August 1, 2024 2-3pm [Link to join](#)
- Registered Apprenticeship Work Group
  - Thursday, August 1, 2024 1-2 pm [Link to join](#)
- Changing the Narrative Work Group
  - Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1-2pm [Link to join](#)
- Policy Work Group
  - Thursday, August 29, 2024 2-3pm [Link to join](#)