

Task Force on Eliminating Subminimum Wage
Monday, January 8, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rebekah Griffith, Margaret Alewine, Thoyd Warren, Tyler Rex, Pamela Jones, Valarie Bishop, Robb McBurney, Amanda Hess, Darline Graham, Kimberly Tissot, David Rotholz

Guests: Bonita Benson (staff for Rebekah), Amy Lazenby (staff for Senator Alexander), Ralph Courtney, Aiken DSNB, Becky Peters, DDSN, Lindsey Daniels, Community Options

Legislative Staff: Rebecca Wieseahn, Mason Thomas

Kimberly Tissot called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm

Kimberly indicated that the website is being built. Everyone has access to the google docs in the meantime. Please send committee notes to Kimberly and Mason and place them in google docs.

Review Action Steps from December Meeting

- Get DDSN Report on the Survey – QR link will be sent to Kimberly to share with the group that shares the survey information. Robb gave a summary:
 - Transportation was seen as the biggest barrier
Suggestions would include all options that are available in that area – uber, bus, etc. Would suggest flexible options
 - Primary concerns include:
 - Benefits, transportation, supported employment services
 - System used to track changes – most using Excel
 - Concerns included:
 - Some individuals don't want competitive employment, transportation and benefits
 - What could they use assistance in:
Some not seeking any employment, funding, negotiating contracts
 - What tools would help the organization
More employment staff, resources, help with contracts, one statewide location that providers can use with all of the resources they might need
 - What funding is needed:
Resources, infrastructure updates

Respondents included 7 who have eliminated sub minimum wage and 7 who have not

- Preview Legislative Report – The group received last year's report
- Get a clear report on where 14c providers are at in their transition. DDSN will have this data later today and it will be shared with the Task Force
- Research transportation options (all). No reach outs have occurred since last meeting. The group discussed 5310 grants. Most are being used to purchase vehicles. Sharing vehicles is an issue because of insurance. Many ADA vehicles are backlogged because of shortages.

Subcommittee Reports:

- Legal – The committee would like to survey individuals and want input on how best to do that. They might look at site visits. They are looking at creating resource guides that can be shared. They are anticipating an increase in Vocational Rehabilitation referrals.

Kimberly indicated that she will be meeting with Felicia Johnson to help with the transition.

- Stakeholder Impact- The subcommittee didn't meet because we didn't have the survey. Thoyd gave a brief summary of the previous meeting. Kimberly will give Thoyd contact information for Steven Achilles to get his experiences that might help our work.
- Evaluation Monitoring – This group was also waiting for the survey. Margaret outlined their framework.
- Program & Finance- This group did not meet so no new information.

Working Discussion:

Tyler talked about contract negotiations and connecting with the provider network to share successes. Will need to make sure that finance people are included in negotiations to ensure that budget is adequate. Tyler will help with this connection.

Peer to peer resources will be important. Becky & Robb will help ID resources – guides, IQ & A sheets, etc.

How will we monitor what people earn after they transition?

Action Steps

- Share survey results with the Task Force – Kimberly
- Provide SCDOT County Transportation information – Valarie will send to Kimberly

Outreach and Education

- Benefits workshops are planned with Able SC and Disability Rights
- How will we follow people as they transition? DDSN can provide information
- It may be hard to track getting information from families
- Pamela indicates that DEW doesn't get this detailed information when they survey. They are looking at this.

Public Comments

Ralph Courtney gave a brief introduction.

- He asked if the survey included regional centers – Robb said yes they were included
- He asked if the group had looked at helping individuals keep their increased benefits when they earn a wage.
- He did indicate concern about productivity of those with the most severe disabilities
- Need to go back and track individuals from when the bill was signed to make sure we

know what has happened with them to ensure they have what they need.

David made a motion to adjourn and Darline seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 pm

Next meeting is February 12, 2024 at 12:30 pm.