

EmploymentFirstMaine

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting	April 11, 2014
Time	10am-noon
Location	DOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta – Frances Perkins Room
Facilitator	Betsy Hopkins

Present

Name/Affiliation	Name/Affiliation
Betsy Hopkins, Division of Voc. Rehab.	Rick Langley, Disability Rights Center
Rachel Dyer, Maine Developmental Disabilities Council	Leticia Huttman, DHHS/SAMHS
Jan Breton, Dept. of Education	Valerie Oswald, Dept. of Labor
Debbie Gilmer, Syntiro, APSE Maine	Sitara Sheikh, Division of Voc. Rehab.
Jeanie Coltart, Comm. On Disability & Employment	Karen Fraser, Bureau of Rehab. Services
Brad Strause, Alpha One	Ann Long, Maine Parent Federation
Chris Robinson, Division of Voc. Rehab.	Gail Fanjoy, KFI

Discussion and Issues

1. Vision Quest update – Betsy Hopkins

Betsy reported on the Vision Quest project. Maine was chosen as a mentee state to receive technical assistance and policy expertise from ODEP-sponsored experts. Maine participates in conference calls along with Delaware, Rhode Island and Oregon and monthly Maine-only calls with Stephen Hall, our designated policy expert. Most recently, the Maine Vision Quest team heard from Delaware re their i-waiver (or innovation waiver), which serves individuals across disability types, and focuses largely on transition-age youth. For Maine purposes, the team discussed the possibility of an i-waiver with a focus on mental health consumers and employment.

The Maine team has discussed concerns re the Vision Quest process to date, and Have reported back to ODEP that we are seeking specific, focused feedback re policy/ legislative opportunities in promotion of employment first goals. Betsy conducted a call with Serena Lowe and Cheryl Mitchell, and they suggested that written feedback be provided to Steve and that we be directive about what we're seeking from this process. Next call is April 22. Maine provided detailed data so far and got a preliminary analysis but it had holes in it and needs more work. We need to establish goals and priorities for this and focus on what we can turn around, potentially even in next legislative session, being mindful of cloture and other deadlines. What do we want to tackle the first year of EFM?

2. Business Employer Work Group – Valerie Oswald

Valerie reported on the employer survey being finalized by her group. It's in draft form now and being reviewed. Some edits have occurred that aren't reflected in this version yet, ie modifying question re the size of the business, adding what county you work in, etc. This is a very basic survey, in next iteration might expand the survey. Discussed the possibility of adding a question re "interested in EFM?" "interest in hiring a person with a disability?" Plan is to hand this out at the HR conference, distribute through the Chamber, ME Business Leadership network, etc. Employer work group will send out draft to coalition members for review, with plan for distribution.

3. Capacity Building Work Group – Debbie Gilmer

Debbie reported on her groups' survey, regarding the needs of providers for employment first. They have developed a Google survey, to go to CRPs and agencies that provide day service programs. Questions include do you hold a sub-minimum certificate? What services do you provide? Day services part of what you do? Questions provide opportunity to comment. Used definition from EFM act re integrated employment, etc.

Discussed need to use EFM letterhead on surveys and/or on invitation emails that link to electronic surveys.

4. Policy Work Group – Rick Langley

Rick reported on that morning's meeting of the policy work group, where they Discussed amending the group's charter to narrow the scope, from "creating" or developing policy ideas to serving as a clearinghouse for the EFM coalition where issues or policy goals naturally rise from the work of the other groups and the larger coalition, etc. Discussed the importance of the policy group in aiding the coalition

in activities seeking change in policy via rules change, legislative action, etc. and the group's role of helping to assess the venue for change, requirements of legislation, mindfulness of the calendar (ie cloture in December), etc. The group should be used to coordinate coalition response to policy ideas and gather coalition recommendations.

The group discussed the process for development of the EFM coalition report back to the governor and legislature. Role of this group to help promote policy recommendations coming out of the groups – whether they be policy changes, recommendations, practice reforms, and gather and report these ideas.

In scope work includes policies, rules, practices ideas, and deliverables currently include producing a recommendations report. Challenges remain including translating “first and preferred” into real policy.

5. Data Work Group – Rachel Dyer

Rachel's work group is in the process of compiling draft group project definition for next time. Among their challenges, assessing quality of data that is currently available (ie, unmet needs numbers for developmental services equal 80?!).

6. Transition Work Group – Jan Breton

Jan reported that they are holding their second transition work group meeting this afternoon, and Karen will aid in project definition process so that they can report out and share draft next time.

7. Communication Work Group – Karen Fraser

Karen shared the group's elevator speech draft, which Brad took the lead in putting together. Short, focused, non-jargonish. Discussed the need to anticipate questions and have follow-up content available for people who have questions about implications of EF. Agreed we would post this language and review it with the larger group.

Discussed listing members of work groups on website. And to add a steering Committee page with names and contact info.

Group is developing a communications protocol for EF.

Every person. Every talent. Every opportunity.

8. Next Meeting/Other business

Discussed sharing work group project plans at May meeting. Groups should commit to having those ready to share in advance and hopefully finalize in May. Agreed updates would be shared with Rick by May 2 for sending out.

Also: it was agreed that next time and moving forward we would make time for a “hot topic” item for discussion. Next time, Debbie will present on the Rhode Island settlement that has made the news.

Next Meeting

Date of Meeting	Friday May 9, 2014
Time	11am – 1pm
Location	DOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta – Frances Perkins Rm.