

EmploymentFirstMaine

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft Version

Date of Meeting: Friday June 13, 2014
Time: 11am – 1pm
Location: MDOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta
Facilitator: Betsy Hopkins

Present

Name/Affiliation	Name/Affiliation
Betsy Hopkins, VR	Rick Langley, DRC
Debbie Gilmer, APSE, Syntiro	Lisa Sturtevant, OADS
Leticia Huttman, SAMHS	Christine McKenzie, MMC
Lisa Soucie, High Hopes Clubhouse	Jan Breton, DOE
Kim Moody, DRC	Brad Strause, AlphaOne
Chris Robinson, VR	

Discussion and Issues

1. Update from Business/Employer work group

Lisa: Business/employer survey has gone out, and received 75 responses in a week. Has gone out through the Chamber, SHRM (human resources org). Diversity hiring coalition still needs to send it out. Kevin to send to CRPs, and out to his business list. Unfortunately left Aroostook County off! Ann fixed asap. Went out to general Chamber, and to president of Kaplan University, some businesses not familiar with, etc.

Goal to have survey live online til June 30. Will keep circulating it through that date. Target is 200 responses. Hope to have results to share at July 8 meeting.

Every person. Every talent. Every opportunity.

One of the recommendations coming out of Vision Quest has been re business engagement, recommending community action teams. Teams with specific purpose. Idea is to work within Maine Business Leadership Network, bring in Griffin Hammis, run project through BLN. Go into Maine BLN contract this fall. Look at ongoing.

Business group is developing a tool to assess three state agencies re their work on business to business engagement. Use SurveyMonkey to survey this summer?

For July agenda: would like time to present preliminary results on business survey, maybe 20 minutes. And a discussion re recommendations coming out of group based on this info, and the Vision Quest assessment and recommendations.

2. Update from Data work group

Christine, group co-chair: They have identified 3 primary questions for SAMHS, DOL, re how employment is addressed, how often, when in the process. Trying to establish some clear answers and find uniformity around this. When asked? When services given? How supported once given?

Debbie: Steve Hall said 98 percent of disability dollars spent on something other than employment. Ask the departments about that percentage – total spending versus what is dedicated to employment?

Lisa reported that she presented to Comm. Mayhew's management team and data issue came up there. Aspire created an employment data dashboard. Don't know what data elements are, hadn't heard of it before. Sheldon asked re DHHS needing consistent employment outcome measures; looking for recommendations as to what they should be tracking. Labor was there in the morning, OADS, SAMHS, children's services. They would love guidance on what to track, what constitutes good outcome measures. Can we follow someone through education, to VR, to work...at points in time?

Also, can we track benefits usage as a quality outcome measure?

OADS has one employment database, and that is being expanded into tbi, physical disability data too.

Debbie: EFM likely policy recommendation re need for consistent outcome from data. If everyone was collecting same outcome measures across programs would have apples to apples measurability. (ie is transportation access a question across settings?)

Kim: DRC is working with OADS re language in 21 and 29 waivers, re enforcement language. Need to meet with Lisa and others on this, as have talked with Jim Martin and he is into this.

Lisa: As new CMS rules come out, issues of choice are important. Will need to have situational assessment before saying want to stay in a program, etc. 21 and 29 language, needs to be consistent across waivers (TBI, ORC waivers, etc.)

Talk to other EF states re what they did to push for good data?

Another perennial data hurdle: no longitudinal info at DOE. Can't track kids?

3. Update from Capacity Building work group

Debbie: Presented copies of "I Want to be Like Poppin' Joe" book re customization, business development and ownership. Dave Hammis worked with Joe, who owns his business, has 7 employees, is fully off SSA benefits. Uses owner's draw to buy health insurance. Nice success story, well presented in this book. Ideal for schools.

More provider surveys are in; shared some preliminary data last month. Leticia, Kevin, and Lisa sent out to list of providers who hadn't responded yet. Top priority so far: EFM 101 – what does it mean? Gail and Bethany drafting concepts re values, pathways to EFM 101...considering webinars, info sessions, day long trainings, targeting different audiences (self-advocates, employers, educators, parents).

Policy ideas: all providers must be CRPs. Work support providers should be CRPs. MaineCare rules would need to change to require this. What about 200 providers not talking about employment? Large agencies receiving millions but segregating, not promoting real employment options.

4. Update from Communication work group

Rick – Communication plan for EFM being revised, reviewed next Tuesday. To share with larger group at next meeting.

Discuss with full coalition ideas for promoting, celebrating EFM at 6 months and going forward. Success stories? Develop e-bulletin to share updates etc.? Reminder to work group leaders to send calendar updates re meetings for posting.

5. Update from Policy/Legislation work group

Kim: Karen assisted group in developing charter. Survey has been developed, for the EFM group, assessing what people need from policy work group. Will announce it in July and distribute.

Thinking about cloture and likelihood that EFM will be submitting some legislation, not yet clear what that will look like. Between the policy survey, Vision Quest state assessment, our ideas we'll develop goals and strategies.

6. Update from Transition work group

Jan: Group is finishing up project definition plan, is 2 meetings away from complete.

Also: what are our coalition goals? Workplan for steering committee moving forward? Way to identify overlapping goals? This part of a larger "retreat" for EFM?

7. Planning/Housekeeping

Membership:

Rick reviewed membership roster. He will clarify status with a few people who are listed as members but not attending. Lisa will get info re BLN and Maine Manufacturers reps.

Departmental updates for the future:

Lisa to report back on rules changes; SAMHSA grant update from Leticia.

Planning:

- a. Plan to report back on Rhode Island summit convened by feds. June 27 event. Karen and Valerie going. Invites to commissioners only?
- b. October will be one year of EFM. Convene an EFM summit? Have Debbie present on EFM values and research based evidence for EF practices? State of the State overview?

Agreed to plan an October event, maybe in synch with DOJ rep. at DRC dinner, perhaps hold on October 17th? Free? invite-only? Discuss EFM a year later. Get Patty Cassidy to present maybe along with Steve Hall, on Discovering Personal Genius. Debbie to check with Patty re availability the week of October 17.

- c. Re August Steering Committee meeting: due to unavailability of many members, agreed to reschedule from Friday August 8 to Friday August 1, from 9-1130am. Same location. This meeting will be in part a facilitated discussion around what is “bubbling up” for EFM...recommendations? Policy ideas? Where are we at re our deliverables for this initiative? How are Vision Quest recommendations fitting in to that plan? Use this time to prepare draft of recommendations for full coalition to consider in September? Request will go out to work group chairs in advance re recommendations, next steps.

Next Meeting: Full Coalition Meeting

Date of Meeting	Friday, July 11, 2014
Time	11am to 1pm
Location	MDOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Frances Perkins Room

