

EmploymentFirstMaine

Employment First Maine Coalition

December 11, 2015

Present: Betsy Hopkins, Elaine Ecker, Rachel Dyer, Jeannine Coltart, Janet May, Jennifer Kimball, Jay Collins, Jan Breton, Shannon Hartman, Frank Geagan, Simone Maline, Deb Gilmer, Avery Olmstead, Gail Fanjoy, Lisa Sturtevant, Christine McKenzie, Dick Brown, Tyler Ingalls

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Mills, ODEP Subject Matter Expert

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions/Review of Minutes: no minutes were reviewed.
2. Ground Rules Review: Betsy Hopkins reviewed the EFM Ground rules with the group.
3. Discussion of 2016 Employment First Meeting schedule and focus proposal: The Steering Committee drafted proposal that was reviewed to plan for the use (see attachment).
4. Discussion of the need for a review of EFM Coalition membership in January 2016, to include a desire to ask members to recommit for the last year of the formal Coalition as we develop a plan for the future. Elaine Ecker asked that this be added to discussion in January and also that recommendations from 2015 be posted for all groups on the EFM website.
5. Officer slate vote: Elaine Ecker-President, Simone Maline-Vice Chair, Rick Langley-Secretary, slate brought forward, seconded and voted upon- passed as a majority vote.
6. Membership slate vote: Richard Brown, Shannon Hartman, new members brought forward, seconded and voted upon-passes as a majority vote.
7. Lisa Mills Review of Vision Quest 2015 Policy Analysis and Recommendations:
Dr. Lisa Mills called into the EFM Coalition and gave an overview of the report and recommendations for Home and Community Based Services that support employment first initiatives.
The first section of the report focuses on the National landscape as it relates to the Employment First work going on across the country. (Pages 1-19)
The second section focuses on a Profile for Maine (Pages 20-31)

- 1915i development recommendation, ensuring Career Planning is a separate service should be available.
- 1915c add Career Planning to ORC Waiver and ties them to the CWIC services.
- Issuance of guidance what services support employment in waivers.
- Review and update all state HCBS policies pertaining to person centered planning and assessments- include training.
- discussion of transportation and need for changes to support employment
- rate setting within HCBS programs need to incentivize competitive, integrated employment, including more outcome based fees- including use of new guidance from CMS on outcome based payments.
- Alignment of Medicaid/VR to continue and joint review of providers is a strong message and should continue.
- Develop a thoughtful multi-year plan to facilitate access to competitive, integrated employment of those currently in subminimum wage.
- Begin tracking of an integrated employment status of all people with disabilities in HCBS settings.
- DOE partnership with an Employment First outcome during student planning.
- Increase provider capacity in preparation for 1915i needs.
- Propose to increase VR straight state dollars to support people in long term employment who have no other funding source.
- Embed customized employment approaches into the workforce development system.

Overall discussion and questions during the presentation by Dr. Lisa Mills from EFM members regarding HCBS, Workforce Development and other customized employment.

8. Employment First-ODEP Washington DC, on December 9th, 2015; Betsy Hopkins and Deb Gilmer attended to represent Maine. The TA Plan will be posted on the EFM site and please review and share for January 2016. This is the kick off to the last year of EFSLMP and 19 states receiving support through the Mentoring Program to implement Employment First.