

EmploymentFirstMaine

Coalition Meeting Minutes *Draft Version*

Date of Meeting: Friday May 9, 2014
Time: 10am-noon
Location: MDOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta
Facilitator: Betsy Hopkins

Present

Name/Affiliation	Name/Affiliation
Gail Fanjoy, KFI	Dick Brown, Charlotte White Center
Jim Phipps, Iris Network	Christine Robinson, VR
Karen Fraser, BRS	Lisa Sturtevant, OADS
Betsy Hopkins, VR	Leticia Huttman, SAMHS
Jan Breton, DOE	Janet May, CCIDS
Rachel Dyer, MDDC	Bethany Goding, Mobius
Denise McCarthy, VR	Ann Godsoe, Goodwill NNE
Linda Larue Keniston, MACSP	Tyler Ingalls, SUFU
Sally ____ Milestone Creativeworks	Ann Long, MPF
____ data group	Riley Albair, DRC
Avery Olmstead, business work group	Rick Langley, DRC

Discussion and Issues

1. Betsy – Update re Vision Quest project

Betsy briefed the group on the latest technical assistance and guidance from area experts Stephen Hall and Abby Cooper. Maine continues to participate in monthly Maine-only call and monthly multi-state conference

Every person. Every talent. Every opportunity.

calls. Betsy and Debbie discussed Steve's practice, when he worked in Kentucky, of engaging in "listening tours" – traveling counties, meeting program and agency staff. Some need here for the same, reaching out on EF 101. We need a plan to promote bringing community together around EF objectives.

On the all-state call, Gail gave a presentation on her work. There has been movement in the states toward creative community committed to work, with help from Steve, Abby, Lisa Mills, and others. Steve identified Maine as having strength in this area and demonstrating momentum.

2. Business Work Group report – Lisa

The employer/business engagement group has developed a survey tool for initial outreach and data gathering. Will be posting to web. Printed color copies with EFM logo of business survey for face to face filling out.

At HR conference, Valerie distributed surveys there. Looking at doing same at local chamber meetings, etc. Putting into electronic version and the chamber has agreed to distribute. Maine Manufacturing Association also to distribute with their membership. Goal is to get 200 responses. Hope to have data from these for July Coalition meeting? The survey asks things like what is helping, what is getting in the way, using a scale to rate what's working. Question too re resource allocation, resource ownership. If you had 5000 bucks would you be interested in hiring? Talking to Chamber re resource ownership too.

Debbie: \$77 million in PASS potential in Maine that could capitalize businesses.

Hoping to start a conversation about different types of employment opportunities.

Tyler: Communication is an important need. Communication styles are diverse, there are challenges. Agreed these sounded like important capacity building issues, re job matches, skills matching, etc. Tyler to get involved with that group.

Lisa: After survey, will be looking at surveying 3 state entities re what they are doing re business/employer engagement work. DOE, DOL, DHHS: what resources are you putting into business engagement? Get a baseline re what's happening. Probably be a Survey Monkey thing to 3 departments.

3. Capacity Building – Debbie

Debbie presented a PowerPoint on results from her group's survey of providers. Better response from mental health than DD community. Report to be posted on EFM page. Emailed the survey with a link re EFM, survey to CRPs list, to Lisa's work support list, Leticia's MH supporter list.

Tyler: adaptations/accommodations discussion a part of this? Lisa: Rule change effective July 1 should reflect that change.

Debbie and Bethany have summarized data for EFM. Will ask what EFM wants from survey, what data needed and will get that out to group.

Included a question re "what do you need to implement EF in your shop?" Technical assistance? Response was that people need information, info sessions, EF 101. Also, information for parents, providers, case managers, etc. Also, need more info for people with brain injury and supporters. It may likely take more than one person at an agency to fill this out, may not be a single person with all this info. Survey is posted on EFM website.

Regarding capacity building work plan, group has revised project definition and new deliverables are developed. Next time will review final versions of project definition for approval from group.

4. Data work group – Rachel

Rachel reported that her team's plan has been drafted and they've had a chance to look at initial information that was collected. Getting to the point where team understands this stuff, now hoping to make things understandable by people who aren't walked through it!

OADS is currently tracking 12 elements and reporting out on 3 specific measures for performance based contracting, via Office of continuous quality improvement. One element being tracked is due to EFM act.

Not tracking people who are working but not receiving paid supports, or total natural supports. Important data but it's not there.

5. Policy work group – Jim

Jim reported that the group is grappling with the scope of its project. Initial idea of reviewing all Maine relevant policies was daunting. Group has narrowed scope, and is posting final version to share with group.

Policy group has also discussed a survey of coalition members. Re barriers, what works well, ideas for change, etc. Dick: this could become the substance of a report to legislature, or if need to support/block something. Maybe present something this session even? Report in December...

Debbie suggests the two groups (Capacity building and Policy) meet. Capacity group has ideas re training, etc.

Jim discussed the need for policy group to be ready for events in legislative session (6 months til then!) as we need a plan if something quick happens, need mechanism to get group input and empower policy group to respond. Implement a practice re outline steps we're planning, get word out via action alert or similar scheme, let us know if you object, etc. Bills being heard quickly will require action alert type response. Not just post to web, but push the info out there to members.

Gail: we should consider action on relevant federal policy issues as well – Reauthorization of WIA, Section 511 of the Rehab Act, ABLE Act etc. Opportunities to interact with delegation? Bring forth recommendations from EFM on these issues?

Chris: Should look at policy and procedures issues, ie MH long-term supports pay too little. Quick solutions to this? Opportunity to say to people in power, are you aware of this issue? Reimbursement rates are key in solving this.

Need to review where we are spending money and talk about reallocating. Compare budgets re where we set priorities.

Betsy: coalition needs to work to build support for issues that come out of policy reviews like these.

6. Transition work group – Jan

Transition group plans to meet regularly after monthly meetings, at 1pm. Currently group is looking at existing laws/policies re youth and transition as this is a major focus department wide. Looking at barriers to successful transition. Expanded waiver and its impact on employment for youth. Expect to be working with policy and data groups. 12 members met in group last time.

Jan – one concern re tracking kids and transition. Can't currently track kids based on SS numbers. Would be ideal to have real data a year out and more after a student leaves school. Have to report to feds but every state struggles with this data. Making inferences at best.

Debbie: a number of states do track all kids. How do they do it? Kids have ID numbers, student info numbers that don't violate privacy. A friend does that in her state and they have good success with that approach. Authority and funds to do that here? Isn't the SS number issue up to the district? Some do collect numbers? Better luck extrapolating data from that practice?

Should talk with policy group about this.

7. Communication work group – Karen

Karen reported that the group's project definition is done, need to post and review it with group.

Group has developed a communication plan protocol, re planning meetings, allowing for needed accommodation, proper notice etc.

This plan should help the entire EFM project be mindful of access, notification, timely information posting, etc.

We need to be thinking about accessibility of tools and prepare in advance for meetings, and Communication group wants to be a help in making that easy to do.

8. DOE Update

Jan: IEP forms have been revised to better incorporate transition planning. Training has been conducted with schools, just finished follow up cadre training as well. 9 teams exist with regional action plans. Statewide meeting on this October 16 in Brewer.

9. DHHS Update

Lisa: Department is using Discovering Personal Genius tool for career transition planning.

All 4 waivers will have same service definitions, same services, continuity of employment supports. Jan: Many states are using Personal Genius as part of transition planning, overlaps well with DOE.

Patty Cassidy presenting next week and many school personnel are registered to attend. Betsy is going, two people from Iris as well. Gail: Nothing of course precludes hiring Patty to train.

Department has hired a quality manager (Juanita Page).

SAMHS has submitted an application for 5 year grant targeting supported employment programs. 800,000 a year, 5 years. Evidence based employment support work. Hope to hear this summer? July maybe?

10. DOL Update

Betsy: State plan draft on line, open for comments. 95 page state plan.

Every few years DVR does a survey through Market Decisions. Survey of people in service or closed recently. Long survey, re services, etc., feeds a statewide needs assessment. Expecting the results of the survey soon. Have a link re the state plan to send out.

June 11 is APSE and VR conference at Colby College. Combined training, focusing on people coming from corrections system. Theme is "Celebrating Partnerships"

11. Hot Topic Presentation:

Debbie on Rhode island DOJ settlement on supported employment. Handouts and PowerPoint available via email or link is posted on EFM.