

EmploymentFirstMaine

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft Version

Date of Meeting: Friday, April 10, 2015
Time: 11am – 1pm
Location: MDOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta
Facilitator: Betsy Hopkins

Present

Betsy Hopkins, VR	Janet May, CCIDS
Rick Langley, DRM	Joe Locke, Charlotte White Center
Terry Morrell, DDHLD	Debbie Gilmer, Syntiro, Maine APSE
Lisa Sturtevant, OADS	Rachel Dyer, MDCC
Karen Fraser, BRS	Jeanie Coltart, CDE
Leticia Huttman, SAMHS	Riley Albair, DRM
Kelly Raye, Waban	Christine Rice
Chris Robinson, VR	Steve Hall, ODEP

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Guest presentation:

Stephen Hall, Ph.D. on Employment First – A National Perspective

Steve's PowerPoint presentation is at the main page of our website, employmentfirstmaine.org

3. Work Group reports

Transition Work Group – Janet May

Every person. Every talent. Every opportunity.

Team is currently working on developing more measurable and focused recommendations. Developing assignments at the end of meetings, to promote follow up on discussions, etc. Roberta is bringing in outcomes data for the group. Talking with Libby re WIOA and implications for transition. Challenging conversations ahead. Thinking of convening a subset of the group to do more intensive work, review of goals, etc.

Capacity Building – Debbie Gilmer

What are next steps re recommendations they've developed? What now? Looking at year by year recommendations, and guidance would be helpful. Maybe work group chairs can talk and compare plans?

Karen: based on requests from work groups, we've developed a plan to have Betsy, Karen and Rick talk with chairs, and make up an action plan re the next steps and recommendations work we've already done. Betsy will send out scheduling request.

Also, discussions re recruiting for committees? New assignments to find members?

Policy Work Group – Rick Langley

Expecting sub-minimum wage bill to be printed any day, and scheduling of hearing to happen soon after. Membership should be considering their role in this, spreading information to allies and interested parties.

Interestingly, New Hampshire passed their phase-out last week.

Rick and Debbie will talk re a plan, and reach out to members/allies.

Business Engagement Work Group – Lisa Sturtevant

Re Letter of support for BLN. Agreed we'd put Lisa's email statement on letterhead. Jeanie has helped with year 2 recommendation re Maine as model employer, she has definite opinions on that discussion.

Event at Samoest on May 7, where a business panel on hiring diversity will happen. This is a human resources organization event.

Chamber will be hosting a breakfast on work accommodations, presented by Job

Accommodation Network. Also, an ADA celebration with JAN will be held June 17 at Hilton Garden, Lewiston. EFM will be represented there – mostly business attendees, funded by Chamber/BLN.

Data Work Group – Rachel Dyer

No report.

Communication Work Group – Karen Fraser

Planning happening re development of action plans, consultation with work group chairs, to develop next steps on recommendations etc. Also, developing success stories template for purpose of outreach with public, promoting EFM.

4. Other Business

Cost of Care revisions and impact on employment – Riley Albair

Riley presented a memo to EFM (see action alert at employmentfirstmaine.org, main page) re a MaineCare rule change impacting work incentives. This issue, re the earned income disregard, has already negatively impacted 40 people that we know of. This change is contrary to EFM law, and DHHS employment policy. Riley is seeking input from impacted individuals and concerned parties as we seek to reverse this rule change.

Transportation problems and employment – Lisa Sturtevant

Lisa presented a copy of a consultation conducted by Lisa Mills, Ph.D., under the auspices of ODEP sponsored work with the Maine team, outlining changes to Maine transportation policy. The analysis document is posted as an action alert on employmentfirstmaine.org, main page.

Lisa Mills had earlier provided an analysis of Maine’s HCBS transition plan, through the lens of EF, and the second part of that consultation was asking for a review of an issue that had come to light in the last 2 months re transportation. Re non-emergency medical transportation, money was taken from 21 and 29 waivers and used to build the NET. In a webinar last fall with a person from MaineCare overseeing the NET, participants were told that as long as plan included transportation as needed to integrate into community, people could access it, including where there was no MaineCare service. People going to jobs,

Family, church, etc., MaineCare has been allowing. When Brian left that office in December, interpretation of the NET changed. MaineCare is now more narrowly defining it. Re rides where no MaineCrae service is involved, those rides are stopping. Asked Mills to consult under her ODEP time. She looked at Sec 113, 21, and 29 and did analysis of those services. 4 page report made public today. When they built the NET, left off a key phrase “and” statement. Now defined as only going to MaineCare approved services. There is a discrepancy in what was removed from 21 and 29 and the NET program. Lisa Mills makes 2 recommendations: 1. Look at doing emergency rule making, 2. Put transportation back into 21 and 29. People can't get to work now as no waiver service provided. Lisa asks that we read report, disseminate it before our May 8 meeting. Concern that's service was taken away from waivers and stated would be provided elsewhere. Not clear where dept. is leaning in terms of solution to this. On agenda for next time? Agreed appeals are an option, people may be referred to DRM.

Success stories

Asking of steering and larger coalition group that they provide EFM with stories of successful work outcomes and career planning successes, for sharing with the public. Betsy: counselors share success stories regularly. Make that a part of our intro time at EFM?

Debbie: recent acre training, people do informational interviews. Everyone seems to start out scared about it. When they report out, seems to be favorite part of training.

On agenda – add this to welcome/intros? Janet: have a “for instance” to illustrate what we're looking for?

Next Meeting:

EFM Coalition Meeting

Date of Meeting: **Friday, May 8, 2015**

Time: **11am to 1pm**

Location: **MDOL, 45 Commerce Drive, Frances Perkins Room**

Call-in option: **888.909.7654, PIN 978057**

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