

CLALLAM COUNTY'S WORKING AGE ADULT POLICY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING MINUTES 7.13.05

PRESENT:

Willie Burer (County), Debra Terry (DDD), Bonnie Hurd (parent), Theresa Burrett (Concerned Citizens), Rayna Abrahams (Concerned Citizens), Linda Middleton (Concerned Citizens), Jeanne Griener (Concerned Citizens), Tami Davis (People First/Self Advocate), Charles E. Jesse (TSI), Jenny Jensen (People First), Roxanna Jensen (DDAC/parent), Peter Ripley (DDAC), Cindi Kirchmeier (Morningside), Janel Parker (The Arc), Lisa Phillips (DDAC)

FACILITATOR: Chris Christian

Why are you here?

- ◆ DDAC role
- ◆ Offer input/suggestions
- ◆ Learn from others
- ◆ Take what wasn't working and make it into something cool
- ◆ How this policy gets implemented affects what my staff need
- ◆ DDAC role, learn, observe and help
- ◆ Contract language – Where is it already? Can we learn? Guidance
- ◆ Here to learn
- ◆ Employment service provider, community member – of benefit to people in community, inclusion, integration
- ◆ Find out about policy- How can it help me?
- ◆ Learn about policy. Be in driver's seat.
- ◆ How to most benefit people we serve.
- ◆ Be ready by 7/01/06 to be vendor and have employees ready to go
- ◆ Where will my daughters fit?
- ◆ Will all programs look alike?
- ◆ Legislated into place?
- ◆ Very excited to create something unique in Clallam County. That will be unique to individuals and will be outside the box.
- ◆ Better understanding of what's coming and how to keep us in the running?

What is the Working Age Adult Policy?

- ◆ What requires communities to do this?
- ◆ Pathway for people to have employment. Everyone joins the path at a different place.
- ◆ Very unique to each individual. Not a category we decide who fits/doesn't
- ◆ Person-driven
- ◆ It's got to work for everybody
- ◆ Opportunity to develop uniqueness and foster it

- ◆ Highlight one policy- Ages 21-62: in order to receive a paid service, will have to be on a pathway to employment
- ◆ No longer recreational-oriented
- ◆ Make sense, employment-driver; get somewhere
- ◆ Serves everybody
- ◆ Serves everybody where they are with employment
- ◆ Serves everybody where they want to go with employment
- ◆ Everybody wants to know what the rules are. How long can you be on pathway? Who decides? Specific contract language?
- ◆ What do we need to get better at?
- ◆ What resources are already there?
- ◆ Exceptions to Rule? Who decides? What does it look like?
- ◆ Focus on the value of work
- ◆ Process or mechanism to get people on the pathway
- ◆ While it is tempting to just know the rules and get going, don't do this! It is new and ambiguous. This kind of thinking got us where we are now. It will become institutionalized.
- ◆ Be flexible, unique and successful

What are other communities doing?

- ◆ Gave out handouts for Grays Harbor, Yakima and Kind County
- ◆ No matter what pathway; there needs to be a planning process
- ◆ Person-Centered Planning with an employment focus. Person Centered Planning with a residential focus and a flavor of employment; Plans of Care (DDD's) are a global look. We could have all of the above, none of the above, employment-focused that may include other aspects of life, but it is employment-focused

Who is responsible for the plan?

- ◆ Person-focused
- ◆ DD Case Manager
- ◆ Vendor
- ◆ Reasons why doing employment
- ◆ People-focused
- ◆ Start in school with transition plan
- ◆ Doesn't have to be employment provider
- ◆ Achieve someone's dreams, goals and ambitions. Starts at home and school. County makes the policy.
- ◆ Can't family/individual do their own plan? Seems like conflict of interest to have vendor do the plan
- ◆ Don't limit people to poverty if they can walk in the employment door.

What are our fears?

- ◆ Same boxes, different names
- ◆ Not able to open doors wide enough- wouldn't be able to be creative
- ◆ Not enough time
- ◆ Job ready in 6 months - not gonna happen!

- ◆ How long is path?
- ◆ Person-driven- doesn't have to have time limits
- ◆ Systemic receptivity for variation

What Skill Sets are Needed?

- ◆ Innovative
- ◆ Break through thinking
- ◆ Creativity
- ◆ Able to take time to understand person and figure out how to use their skills in community
- ◆ Vendors – all need training; all need a different focus, all of us need to be trained, DVR
- ◆ Able to come back in a year or two and re-vamp
- ◆ Flexible
- ◆ Commitment to excellence

Next meeting focus?

- ◆ Where Next?
- ◆ What Else do you Need?
- ◆ How can someone get on the Path?
- ◆ Planning?
- ◆ How can we be an agency who does this?
- ◆ Decision about exceptions/ who will be Community Access? Who will be Pathway?
- ◆ Training and resources
- ◆ How to become a “provider” of “pathway” services- even when we already are doing this work?

REMEMBER:

- ◆ It is a process, not an event
- ◆ Encourage to be a positive process