

Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
Thursday, October 31, 2013, 9 a.m. – noon
Prairie Rose Room – Prairie Hills Plaza
1237 W. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND

Members In Attendance

Barb Murry, Tina Bay, Vickay Gross, Gerry Teevens, Cheryl Wescott,

Members Absent

Jerry Houn

Others Present

Tom Alexander, Russ Cusack, and Patty Wanner

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of NDCC 50-06.1-16

Russ Cusack facilitated the meeting and began with a welcome and introductions, followed by a review of North Dakota Century Code 50-06.1-16.

Membership

Barb Murry led a discussion on membership. Barb is the first individual to be officially appointed to the committee. Five ex officio members have been nominated and have received paperwork from the Governor's Office. The appointments will be official once the paperwork is completed, notarized, and returned to the Governor's Office. Ex officio members are as follows:

Tina Bay, DHS Developmental Disabilities
Vickay Gross, Protection and Advocacy
Jerry Houn, Department of Commerce
Gerry Teevens, Department of Public Instruction
Cheryl Wescott, DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Three members of the public are yet to be appointed to serve in the following capacity: one community employer representative, one individual with a disability, and one family member of an individual with a disability.

Two nominations have been received to date for the community employer representative. The importance of commitment, experience in hiring individuals with disabilities, being receptive to accommodations, and having a rapport to draw other employers in was discussed. The group agreed both nominees are honorable but one stood out as having hired many individuals with disabilities and has been a past recipient of the employer of the year award. It was noted that DVR is comfortable with either candidate.

Action Item: Patty will forward the Committee's recommendation to the Governor's Office.

One nomination has been received to date for the individual with a disability and one nomination has been received to date for the family member of an individual with a disability. Prior to forwarding a recommendation to the Governor's Office, the members will seek additional nominations. An important factor is finding someone with the ability to commit their time.

Action Item: Patty will create a general application and send it to committee members to forward to stakeholders.

Action Item: Members will seek additional nominations for the individual with a disability and family member and will forward to Patty by close of business on November 30, 2014.

Action Item: Meeting has been scheduled for December 9, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm to review the nominations received. Patty will send all nominations to the members at least one week prior to the meeting.

The question of what it means to be an ex officio member was brought up.

Action Item: Patty will carry the question to Amanda in the Governor's Office to seek clarification on ex officio and whether or not they have the ability to vote. The clarification will be added to the by-laws.

Discussed making it clear in future press releases that the public is invited to attend.

Tom Alexander, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD)

PROMISE Grant

Tom provided an overview of the PROMISE Grant of which North Dakota is a recipient. PROMISE is a five year research grant that will enable North Dakota along with five other states in our consortium to change the lives of youth, ages 14-16 who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families, through improved education and increased employment opportunities.

ND Employment First

Initiative by Minot State University has been active for 3-4 years and efforts are ongoing by Minot State University.

Employment Learning Community (ELC)

NDCPD was selected for state level technical assistance through the ELC. The ELC is a project funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to support systems change that will lead to improved employment outcomes for individuals with IDD.

ND is one of seven states to receive the award. A copy of the award letter dated Aug 7, 2013 is attached for reference. A survey was sent to ND ELC members. From the results of the survey, 13 top priorities emerged from 7 areas, resulting in the strategic goals of the ELC.

The strategic goals of the ELC piggy back the goals and priorities of this committee, as well as the Olmstead Committee (SAMSA). They overlap and relate overall to competitive and integrated employment for people with disabilities. The ELC can help this committee as a working committee.

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

Tina Bay indicated MFP also has technical assistance available to this committee.

The group discussed the need for a visual of these numerous efforts and how they tie together, including Employment First, ELC, Olmstead, Employment Opportunities Best Practice Group, MFP,

Promise Grant, State Rehabilitation Council, Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. It is important for this committee to be aware of other efforts for consistency.

Action Item: Tom agreed to develop a matrix with a brief description and focus of each effort. This will assist in identifying overlapping goals and priorities.

Budget – Lynn Derman

Lynn provided budget information for 2013-2015 Biennium. The total budget is \$39,594 with \$27,594 general funds and \$12,000 other funds. The \$12,000 other is the estimate for the hang tags. As of September 30, 2014, the balance in DOT for the hang tags was \$1,522.

We have latitude within the operating budget to move money around within line items.

Previously, the hang tag money was utilized to fund extended other. DHS will find other funds necessary to fund extended other since this money is now being directed to the committee.

By-laws

A copy of the first draft by-laws was distributed and tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Action Item: The group agreed to review the draft by-laws between now and the February 2014 meeting. Areas needing further discussion will be communicated via email, utilizing Patty as the 'hub' for the information.

2014 Meeting Dates

The committee agreed to meet quarterly with a 3 hour standard duration, to be modified as necessary based on the agenda. The quarterly months will be offset beginning with the month of February and will be scheduled the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9 am – noon. 2014 meeting dates will be February 19, May 21, August 20, and November 19.

Additional Agenda Items - Barb Murry

Barb drew attention to "A Better Bottom Line: Employing People with Disabilities Blueprint for Governors" by the National Governors Association. Barb asked members to take time to read the executive summary and goals the Governor has put together.

Discussed strategically invite members from the Governor's Office based on future agenda items.

Barb requested the remainder of the agenda items be rolled forward to a future agenda.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the Prairie Room at Prairie Hills Plaza, 1237 W. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND.