

# DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

September 2013

## Monthly Narrative Report

<b>DEI State Project</b>	Minnesota (Department of Employment and Economic Development)
<b>Name of Person (completing report)</b>	Lynn Douma
<b>E-mail Address</b>	Lynn.Douma@state.mn.us
<b>Contact Phone #</b>	651/259-7536
<b>Date Completed</b>	October 15, 2013

### A. Ticket to Work/Employment Network (EN) Activities

Note: local level Ticket to Work EN activities are included in the local activity section below.

- The EN has a total of 75 Tickets assigned: 73 Tickets assigned prior to the start of the DEI project and 2 additional Tickets through the DEI project. To date \$62,138 in payments has been made to the EN (from the pre-DEI Tickets). A handful of additional Ticket Holders with assignable Tickets have been identified; DRCs are in process of explaining TTW and securing agreement from the Ticket Holders to assign the Tickets to the EN.
- State DEI staff participated in the web seminar: DEI Sustainability Model: Maintaining Disability Services in the Job Center Using Ticket Revenue offered by NDI on 9/10/13.
- State Co-Lead participated in the monthly All Workforce EN call hosted by Maximus. (9/26/13)

### B. State Level Activities

#### DEED

- State Co-Leads met with Gary Lewis, Dept. of Labor Federal Project Officer for the grant, via conference call to discuss progress to date. (9/16/13)
- State Co-Leads facilitated Shared Vision for Youth State Team meeting and provided an update to the team on the DEI project. (9/20/13)
- State DEI team developed a draft Power Point presentation giving an overview of Minnesota's DEI project, Partners for Youth, for review by the DEI steering committee at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- State DEI Co-Leads participated in the DEI State Lead Peer Exchange conference call. (9/23/13)
- State Co-Leads participated in TA conference call with DJ Ralston from NDI on 9/25/13 to check in and determine future TA needs. Subsequent TA call scheduled with DJ and Mary Lynn Revoir to discuss questions relating to implementation of Ticket to Work on 10/11/13.

## **PACER Center**

- PACER staff communicated with State Co-Leads by email several times this month.
- Newsletter article “Innovative project offers more services and supports for youth in transition” appeared in the Fall 2013 issue of the *PACESETTER*. The *PACESETTER* is sent to a mailing list of over 126,000 subscribers and is also available on the web at <http://www.pacer.org/newsletters/pacesetter/fall2013.pdf> (see page 6).
- Submitted a draft of an online needs assessment survey for MN DEI stakeholders with a focus on PACER areas of expertise to State Co-leads for review.

## **C. Local Level Activities**

### **Minnesota Valley Action Center (South Central WSA)**

- Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) attended Ticket to Work related activities including:
  - *DEI Sustainability Model: Maintaining Disability Services in the Job Center Using Ticket Revenue* - National Disability Institute (NDI) webinar. (9/10/13)
  - Ticket to Work TA Office Hours (9/12/13)
- DRC identified two Ticket Holders using signed consent form during the month; Tickets are currently assigned to Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- Throughout the month the DRC participated in the following activities:
  - Attended regional staff meeting for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. (9/10/13)
  - Attended South Central Youth Council. (9/11/13)
  - Attended Greater Mankato Community Transition Inter-Agency Committee (CTIC) meeting. Gave presentation on the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) and CTIC with Jayne Spain from Minnesota Department of Education. (9/23/13)
- At all of these meetings the DRC was able to make connections to providers that will benefit youth served through the initiative. Representatives from several local and regional agencies were present at these meetings. The formation of Integrated Resource Teams (IRT) was discussed. Information was shared on how the participation of those around the table can benefit the youth served.
- Attended MVAC Employment Services Staff Meeting, consisting of Vocational Advisors and Family Resource Coordinators who work with youth and adult programs in Region 9 for MVAC. Presentation was given regarding internal process/referral for DEI and *Guideposts for Success*. (9/24/13)
- Attended *IRT TA Office Hours* hosted by National Disability Institute. (9/25/13)
- Two IRT meetings were held; one included DRC, Vocational Rehab Counselor, youth’s Work Experience Supervisor and MVAC Vocational Advisor. DRC was able to connect with other resources as well and bring them to the table at the IRT meeting, per request of the youth. The second IRT involved DRC, Youth Counselor and youth and a follow-up with the youth’s parent.
- A third IRT was scheduled with DRC, youth, MVAC Vocational Advisor, youth’s Mom and VR Counselor. This meeting was postponed due to youth’s incarceration. DRC and Youth Program Coordinator visited the youth in the detention center and will continue to work with youth, family and VR counselor. Communication between all parties will continue.

- Benefits of the Integrated Resource Team were realized in each of these meetings. In each instance new resources were discovered and new connections were made. This includes the one scheduled but not yet held. Through the scheduling, connecting and communicating we discovered other resources and will have a plan for support for this youth during the time in the detention center, and more importantly, upon his release.

#### **Workforce Development, Inc. (Southeast WSA)**

- DRC attended CTIC meeting and presented with Jayne Spain from Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) on the CTIC role in DEI. (9/14/13)
- DRC attended Joint Public Forum in Rochester with representatives from MDE, Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living (SEMCIL), Vocational Rehabilitation, State Rehabilitation Council-General and Statewide Independent Living Council. (9/25/13)
- DRC continued to work on IRTs and promoting the Guideposts for Success. (ongoing)
- DRC and partners planned on additional meetings for collaboration
- DRC worked with case managers on enrollment into the DEI project.
- DRC/WDI staff enrolled 16 youth in the DEI project.
- DRC reviewed and signed DEI Youth Action Plans and reviewed paperwork in all areas.

#### **Rural MN CEP**

- Two Tickets have been assigned to the EN through the DEI project. Three additional Ticket holders have been identified. Two have had a Work Incentives Intake done. One other was referred to RMCEP by a DEI participant.
- The DRC spent time during the month preparing for a Ticket to Work training scheduled in October.
- The DRC attended CTIC meetings in Alexandria and Brainerd, presented the strategic objectives of the DEI project and answered questions about how to implement these strategies collaboratively. Jayne Spain from the Department of Education facilitated the DEI-sponsored event. (9/12/13 and 9/18/13)
- Two IRTs established, one in Blackduck and one in Baudette. Both candidates were placed on work experience within days of the meeting. KeyTrain was integrated into the participants' Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to increase their reading and math skills. (9/5/13)
- IRT established in Bagley. Participant placed on work experience and KeyTrain implemented as part of IEP in classroom. (9/11/13)
- Identified nine prospective DEI participants currently enrolled into RMCEP intensive employment services with the youth coordinator in Detroit Lakes. The youth coordinator will begin setting up IRT meetings immediately. (9/12/13)
- The DRC presented a Work Incentive Practitioner Fee for Service proposal to the RMCEP management team. This is part of a strategy to generate revenue to sustain the DEI enhanced services when the federal grant ends. (9/16/13)
- Conducted Work Incentives Intake for possible Ticket assignment. (9/17/13)
- Established two IRTs in Little Falls. Goal for one is to provide support while attending Central Lakes College. The other is to establish direct hire at a local business. (9/18/13)
- Established IRT in Moorhead, integrating KeyTrain into IEP. The participant is already

on a worksite working 10 hours per week after school. (9/30/13)

- Throughout September, the DRC worked on planning and coordinating a two-day DEI training to be held at Camp Ripley, MN for RMCEP staff from throughout the nineteen county service area. Presenters include the Director of Youth Services from DEED, the State Co-Lead of the MN DEI, the MN Transition Coordinator from VRS, Two Regional Managers from VRS, several representatives from PACER Center and two highly respected disability champions who will tell their inspirational stories.

**PACER Center**

- PACER staff continued working on curriculum notes to accompany the curriculum under development. Some revisions to PowerPoint slides on *Social Security and Benefit Planning for Transition-Age Youth* were made based on feedback from State Co-Leads and information from Joani Werner, MN DEI’s partner from SSA, has been incorporated into the working draft.
- PACER staff and Joani Werner from SSA co-presented parent training *Social Security and Benefit Planning for Transition-Age Youth* on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, MN and Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji. Attendance figures are in the chart below.

				Professionals	Parents	Youth	Totals
09/18/2013	Alexandria	Benefit Planning	DEI	6	14		20
09/30/2013	Bemidji	Benefit Planning	DEI am		6		6
09/30/2013	Bemidji	Benefit Planning	DEI pm		9	2	11

- Finalized plans for PACER staff to speak at Region 2 training at Camp Ripley on the topics of working with multicultural youth and their families, the *Guideposts for Success*, and Assistive Technology.
- PACER staff contacted the 2 additional DRC’s to schedule Assistive Technology trainings in the 2 remaining WSAs, to be held in Rochester in October and Mankato in November.