DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
2025 East River Parkway Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Wednesday, December 7, 2022
12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT
Lee Shervheim, Council Chair
Dan Reed, Vice Chair
Wendy Berghorst (virtual attendance)
Jason Blomquist
Dupree Edwards
Amy Hewitt
Lesli Kerkhoff
Mary Martin (virtual attendance)
Katie McDermott
Chris McVey
Garrett Petrie
Kate Quale (virtual attendance)
Connie Rabideaux (virtual attendance)
Jenny Santema (virtual attendance)
Reid Scheller
Brittanie Wilson

MEMBERS EXCUSED
Michelle Albeck
Jenny Arndt
Lisa Emmert
Kay Hendrikson
Abdi Matan
Jillian Nelson

GUESTS
Tom Pearson
Jenn Purrington

STAFF PRESENT
Stephanie Nelson
Paul Nevin
Colleen Wieck

I. CALL TO ORDER

Lee Shervheim called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Shervheim asked all members to introduce themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.
MOTION: Wilson moved, seconded by McVey to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the October 5, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.
MOTION: Reed moved, seconded by Wilson to approve the Minutes for October 5, 2022 Council Meeting and the Minutes for the special meeting of the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

V. PROGRAM—EMPLOYMENT FIRST MINNESOTA – Chris McVey (VRS, DEED) and Lesli Kerkhoff (DSD, DHS) introduced today's program as well as the speakers that were joining the meeting virtually from Douglas County (Alexandria area) and Tom Delaney from the Minnesota Department of Education. The Douglas County local representatives included: Andrea Chirhart, Kelly (Irish) Luedeke, Andrea McFarlane, Kristin Berneking, Julie Perschick, and Amanda Jensen-Stahl.

Amanda Jensen-Stahl presented a PowerPoint presentation and that is attached to the Minutes of today's meeting.

Overall, three state agencies have joined together to get better employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Tom Delaney spoke about the business of education and tapping human potential. The primary driver of this initiative is self-determination and begins with person-centered thinking, planning, and driven services.

During Amanda's presentation several key points were made including:

- It is important for state efforts to be aligned, to follow federal guidance, to fulfill the promises of the Olmstead decision and Olmstead Plan, and to make employment a priority.
- With the various funding sources, this makes the work complicated. This is not a new program but a shared commitment. By working together, we can deliver seamless and timely competitive integrated employment.
- One way to increase access and equity is the involvement of an advisory committee early on in this initiative. This initiative began on July 1, 2021.
- A graphic depicted the overall design, with the large categories as Engage, Plan, Find, Keep for adults. The graphic is modified for youth in transition. Individuals do not need to go through each step consecutively, they can skip steps.
- The waiver was amended to pay for employment exploration, employment development, and employment support.

- One of the Council members provided an anecdote about working with a county and being told she needed to complete paperwork. EDOCS is an online portal and the county official didn't realize that the Council member was aware of the online system. The exchange represents a power imbalance. There is a lot of gatekeeping and individuals with disabilities have to learn "magic words" rather than transparency in the entire system. The workforce crisis has caused waiting lists for services.
- There are several resources available, and questions were asked about languages, Plain Language, and accessibility of materials for those without internet connections.
- A Council member asked about how the information is getting out to families and all three agencies are committed to dissemination through all channels.
- One Council member asked if list serves could be filtered by disability when disseminated.
- One of our Council members, Dupree Edwards was interviewed by Kevin Kling from TPT about his employment experiences.
- The Douglas County speakers then discussed their experiences in working together collaboratively. They described the working relationships, how to meet people with disabilities and listen to their choices, and how Employment First gave them the tools they needed. They learned how to tap into financial resources for employment exploration, how to be person centered and how to help each other help people.
- One Council member asked about the transition programs and who does what when. They discussed getting to know the local resources from each of the departments and putting together a person centered plan with the supports that are needed.
- One Council member noted that services are ultimately finalized by people without lived experience and advocated for presence of self advocates throughout the process.
- One Council Member asked what the planned recourse will be for people to take if they are not satisfied with services received.
- One Council member asked if we are continuing to talk about people as "them" and how services have always told people to trust them. Are there people with disabilities in leadership positions? The response was that first the state agencies had to get their stuff together and then keep improving. Another member asked about those who may not be able to advocate for themselves, will they fall through the cracks? Please refer people to the Minnesota Disability Law Center in those cases.
- One Council member asked if this is the time for a united legislative front because of the $17 billion surplus. Now is the time to ask for funding.
- VRS has two funding tracks in place to pay rates for services. Information is now available to describe who pays for what. Employment services is funded as a priority.

VI. <u>GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE</u>

Vice-Chair Brittanie Wilson explained that the Committee spent time updating the RFP for training conferences and the RFP for Partners in Policymaking. They also will review the RFP for the Treat

People Like People campaign. They spent a lot of time on improving language about inclusion and accessibility.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair Reid Scheller reported that the group participated in a round robin discussion of a study for 2023 about employment and possibly the ADA. The group discussed possible research questions.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Council appointments – All members have been notified if they are eligible to apply for a second term or if they are going off the Council. Please apply within the next few months. The Governor's schedule is to look at our appointments in April. All outgoing members serve until a successor is appointed.
2. Final allocations to grants and contracts—in today's packet is a final list of goals and funding levels because we added some funding to one of the grants at the last meeting.
3. Mobile Museum – Since the last meeting our mobile museum has made ten stops beginning with Metro State University and most recently at the Wentworth Library in Dakota County. We want to keep this initiative going because of the positive public feedback.
4. Annual Report – In today's packet is the 11-page Annual Report, which is a summary of how we spent the grant funds. The Annual Report is required by the federal government.
5. Business Results – In today's packet are the Business Results that show performance results in graphic form. If you go to the Executive Summary some results were affected by the pandemic while other results stayed level or improved.
6. PPR – The Program Performance Report is very close to completion and will be submitted soon.
7. Per Diem Policy – The per diem policy is in today's packet. As you recall, Senator Hoffman wanted to make sure that our public members could collect $55.00 per meeting. This is simply a reminder of the policy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shervheim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Reed and second by Edwards to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting ended at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director

DD COUNCIL E1MN PRESENTATION

12/7/22

Presenters

Amanda Jensen-Stahl

- Manager of Interagency Partnerships and Business Engagement, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Ryan Merz

- Employment Coordinator, Disability Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Overview

Goal: Introduce and share the work of the E1MN partnership to advance employment first outcomes

Agenda

- Why is a state partnership needed?
- What is E1MN?
- What has E1MN accomplished?
- What is ahead for E1MN?
- What does E1MN mean for me?
- Time for questions

Why is a state partnership needed?

Motivations for partnership

- Employment supports span multiple state agencies
- Federal guidance sets responsibilities for each of our programs
- Minnesota's Olmstead Plan calls on our state agencies to work together
- Minnesota's Employment First Policy grounds us in shared priorities

Overall Motivation

Employment supports for people with disabilities span multiple state agencies, which can be complicated for all involved.

E1MN coordinates and brings things together to help the system make more sense.

What is E1MN?

E1MN: A STATE-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT FIRST

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Working together to deliver a more seamless and timely employment support system

Our vision...

Align our systems so that our common customers get seamless and timely supports to make informed choices and meet competitive integrated employment goals.

Shared values and principles guide the way!

Key strategies

- Plan and improve services
- Remove barriers and confusion
- Improve access and equity
- Support each other
- Coordinate communication and training

Areas of Work

- Service Sequencing
- Referral Process and Customer Flow
- Provider Alignment
- Training and Communication
- Tools and Resources

What has E1MN accomplished?

ENGAGE, PLAN, FIND, KEEP FRAMEWORK

Adult Services

Primary funding source for people on waivers who are not enrolled in high school or age 18-21 transition programming

- Waiver (DHS)
- VRS/SSB (DEED)

E1 MN ADULT

Engage

Waiver employment exploration services

Results in:
An informed choice

- Barriers and concerns addressed
- Lived experience
- Risk/benefits of choice

Waiver (DHS)

Plan

Waiver employment development services (planning phase)

Results in:
Preliminary employment goals

- Portfolio to springboard job search

Waiver (DHS)

Find

VRS/SSB job search and stability services

Results in:
Competitive, integrated employment

VRS/SSB (DEED)

Keep

Waiver employment support services

Results in:
Maintaining employment

Waiver (DHS)

ENGAGE, PLAN, FIND, KEEP FRAMEWORK

Student Services

Primary funding source for students on waivers:

- Waiver (DHS) + School Districts
- VRS/SSB (DEED) + School Districts

E1 MN YOUTH

Students enrolled in high school or age 18-21 transition programming

Engage → Plan

School and VR Transition and Pre-Employment Transition Services

Engage and Plan results in:
Graduating with a person-centered plan for post secondary education, employment, and independent living

VRS/SSB (DEED) + School Districts

Find

School work-based learning programs and VRS/SSB work-based learning and/or job search and stability services

Results in:
Competitive, integrated employment

VRS/SSB (DEED) + School Districts

Keep

Outside school hours:
Waiver employment support services

During school hours:
School transition services

Results in:
Maintaining employment

Waiver (DHS) + School Districts

Trainings, Tools, and Resources for Support Professionals

Trainings

- E1MN Core Training
- Service Provider alignment webinar
- On demand trainings

Tools

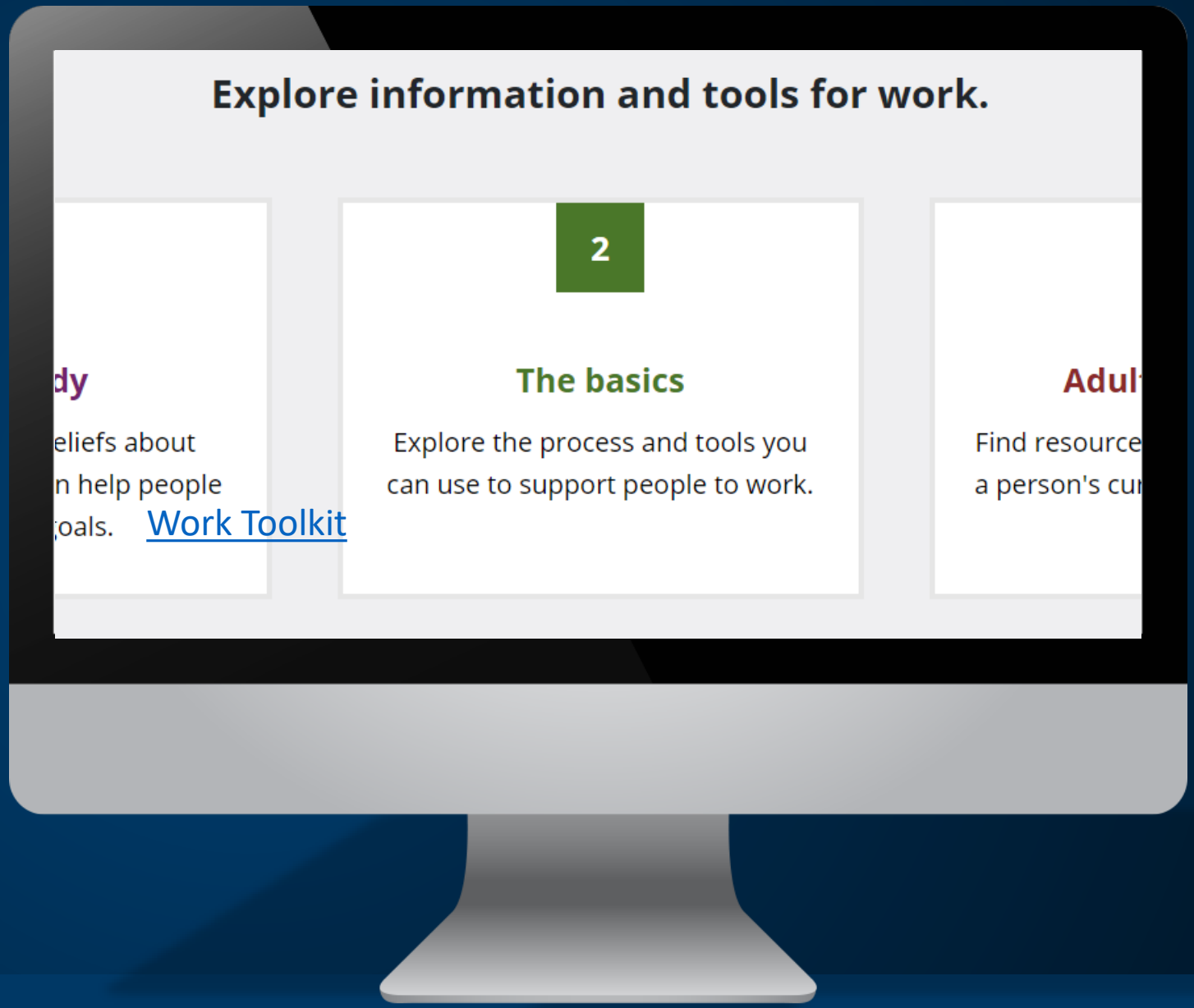
- My Vault
- Work Toolkit

Resources

- Frequently asked questions page
- E1MN Request Form
- Coffee Chats

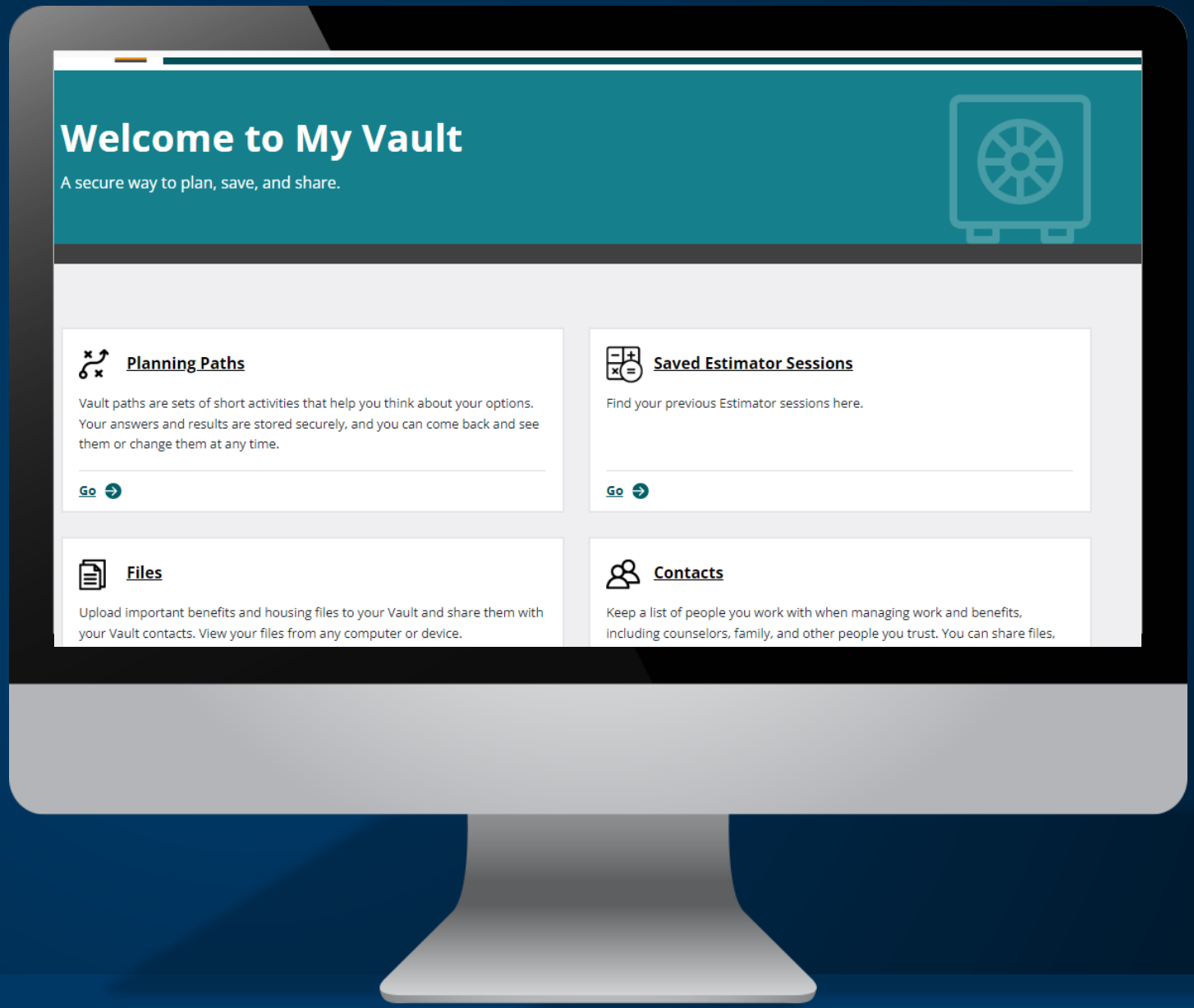
Work Toolkit

- Training
- Adult and Youth Pathways
- Resources and tools



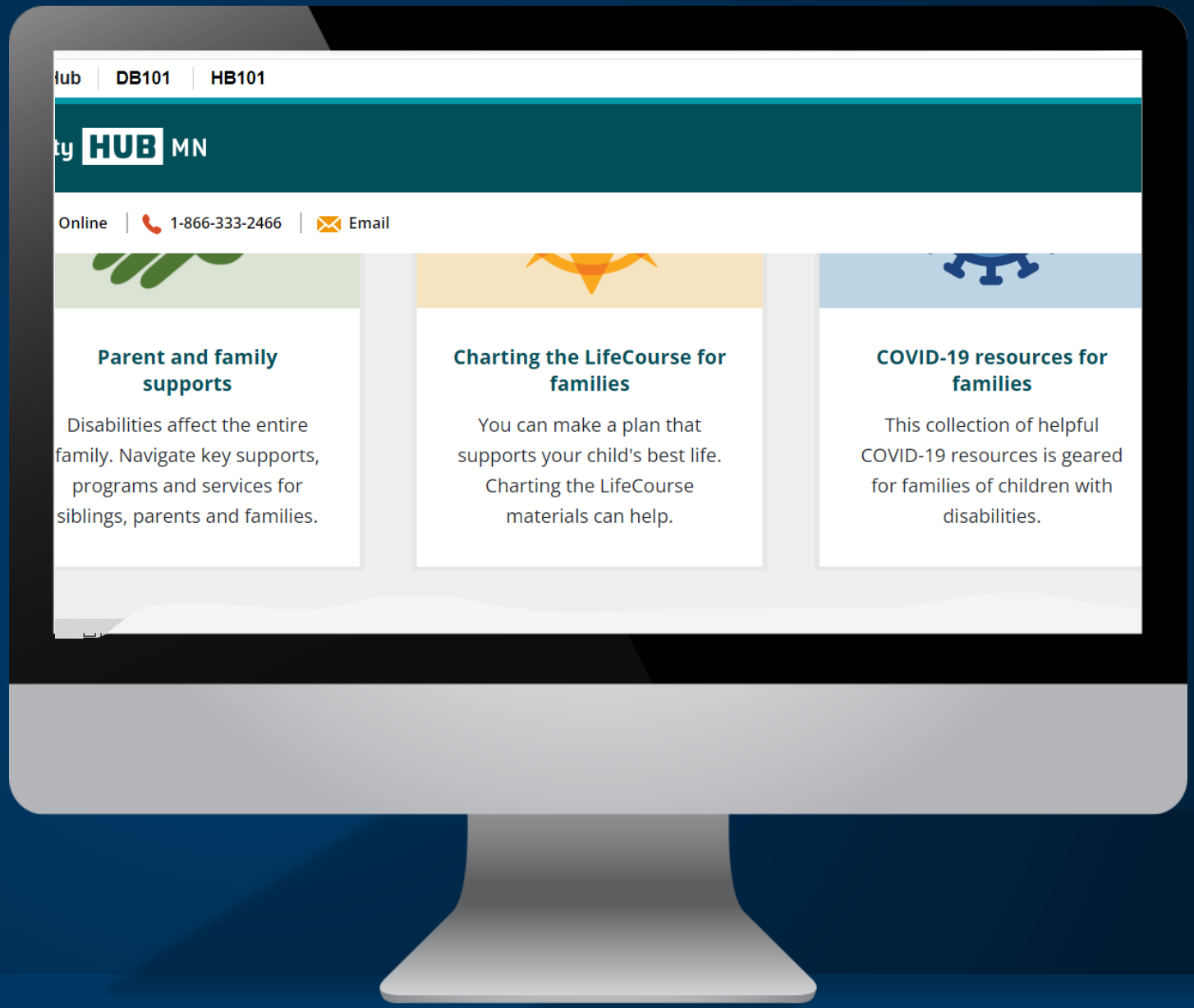
My Vault

- Create an account
- Securely store and share
- Develop employment portfolio with Charting the LifeCourse tools



Resources for Families

- Parent and Family Supports
- Resources for Youth and Adults



Supporting Local Area Collaboration

- Key Contacts
- Regional Collaboration Meetings
- Technical Assistance
- Provider Dual Enrollment

How it's going: Carver County

- Regular E1MN meetings
- Before meetings: "It was more of a transactional relationship".
- After meetings: "Since the collaboration meetings earlier in the year, the relationship between VRS and Carver County has developed stronger ties and more regular communications regarding common clients and goals."

What is ahead for E1MN?

Youth in Transition Toolkit & Framework - Upcoming

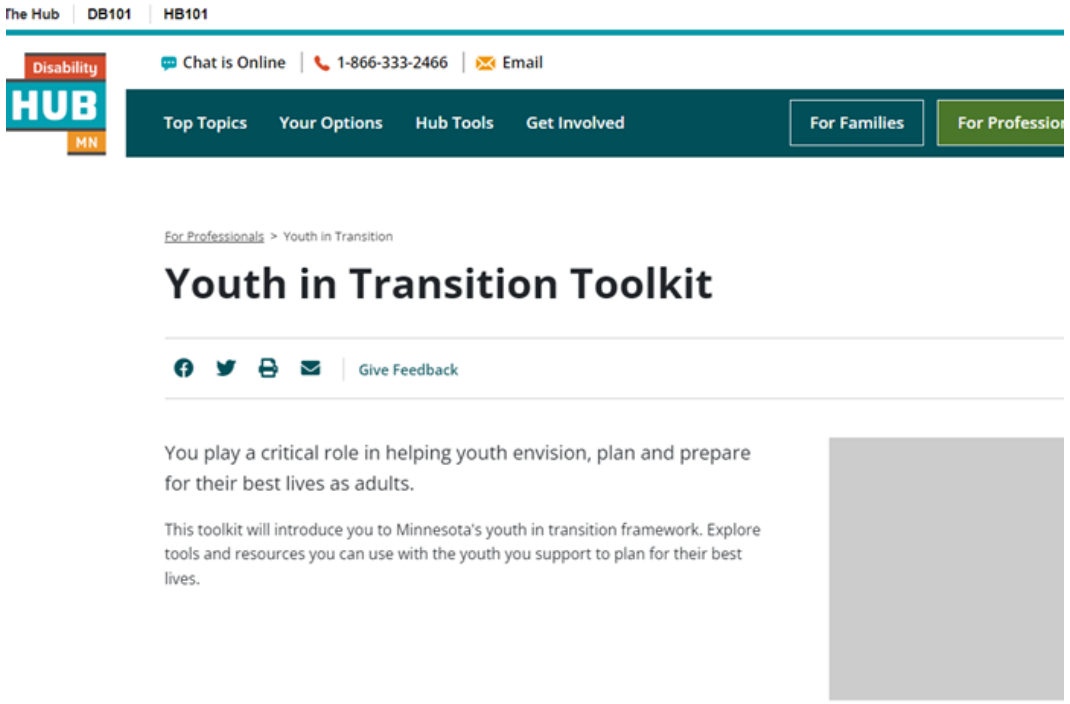
Framework: Build an equitable approach to quality transition programming statewide.

Toolkit: Framework will be supported through a Disability Hub Youth in Transition Toolkit.

Videos: Youth with disabilities in employment video series

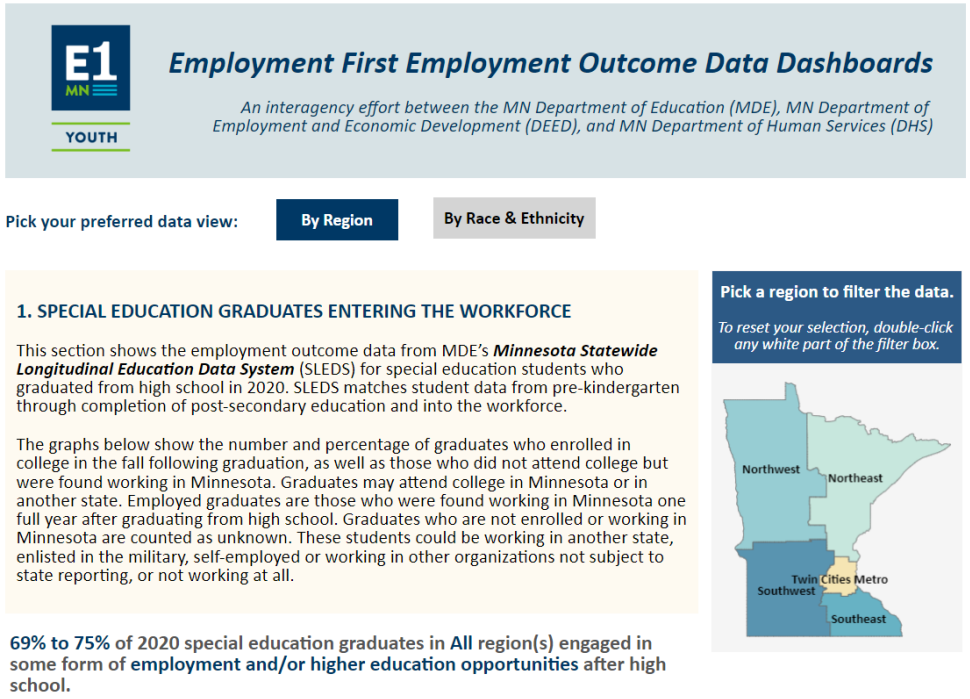
ECBC Pilot: Toolkit and framework will be piloted with 30 school district teams as part of the Employment Capacity Building Cohort

Stay up to date: Sign up for the E1MN Youth Professional listserve



Youth Employment Outcomes Dashboard

- Employment outcomes for transition age youth
- Data from MDE, DHS, and DEED sources
- Filter by region and race/ethnicity



Olmstead Measure: E1MN Baseline

Establish baseline numbers for the first year of E1MN using SFY2022 data.

E1MN baseline will include:

- The number of individuals served by VRS/SSB with a Medicaid waiver
- The number of waiver recipients who received competitive integrated employment outcomes
- The numbers by age, race and ethnicity

System Efficiencies

Person is at the center!

- Align program requirements
- Avoid duplication
- Seamless services

Continue our existing work

- Training
- Youth in transition toolkit
- Technical assistance
- Collaboration

What does E1MN mean for me?

What E1MN means for you

- Whether or not you receive waiver services, employment supports are available
- Expect collaboration amongst your support professionals and ask for it
- Continued work on integrating services

Resources

- Disability Hub MN: Resources for Families
- Work Toolkit - Disability Hub MN
- E1MN website
- MyVault

Youth in Transition: Dupree's story

https://youtu.be/vGmf0cnGLSQ

Questions?

Thank you!

Amanda Jensen-Stahl, DEED-VRS

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