

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

The Targeted Population Committee was called to order at 2:36 p.m. by Co-Chair Vanessa Hoffeditz

Name	Present – IVCC	Present – Sterling	Absent
Dan Fitzgerald			X
Carrie Folken	X		
Vanessa Hoffeditz	X		
Dan Payette		X	
Kris Noble			X

OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling): Jo Ann Johnson, Bruce Larson

OTHERS PRESENT (IVCC): Pam Furlan

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to approve the August 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Dan Payette and carried.

Business Meeting

Update on IDES Curriculum

Carrie commented that she heard from some of the IDES staff that the new IDES Curriculum focused more on job keeping skills versus job search. Bruce confirmed by saying that IDES staff will still be available to conduct job search workshops as individuals sign up for them. He stated that IDES staff did attend a webinar that is targeted to serving more chronically unemployed during low unemployment. Bruce said that the module does have soft skills curriculum in terms of how to keep your job and getting along with co-workers. He said that it was his understanding that this curriculum will be presented on an as-needed basis when individuals register. Bruce informed members that he received the power point presentation of the webinar that the IDES staff participated in and would share with members.

Carrie stated that sounds like what she has heard from the Ottawa IDES staff. She noted that the workshop would ideally be done in a group format.

Pam asked if members thought that if the workshop discussed would match what the committee is looking for. She said that the committee was looking to help individuals who are returning from incarceration, veterans and individuals with disabilities to reintegrate them back into the workforce. Pam also noted that the committee is trying to address the challenges by virtue of the populations. Bruce commented that he is not convinced that the IDES curriculum would help members of the targeted populations.

Discussion on Next Steps

Vanessa began the discussion noting that the next steps in the survey and assessment included Working & Marketing to Employers and asked members for their input.

Carrie asked Bruce if IDES had the ability to work with targeted populations and if so what type of curriculum does the staff use. Bruce replied that IDES has the Reentry Employment Service Program and Annual Summit they participate in with the IL Department of Corrections and Federal Prison. Carrie asked if the curriculum was for job seeking skills. Bruce told members that the curriculum used is not standardized but they do cover certain things such as getting their record expunged and being upfront with potential employers regarding their background. Vanessa reminded members of the document that was shared with the committee from the University of IL entitled “Mapping Your Future”.

Members then held a discussion regarding individuals returning from incarceration versus offenders. It was noted that not all offenders are incarcerated for their crimes. Pam suggested that perhaps the committee try to connect with the criminal justice system.

Pam informed members that BEST, Inc. recently received funding for an Opioid Grant that may be used to help some of the individuals in the targeted populations.

Vanessa commented that the committee needs to find out where and what the gaps are in the system and then look at the different curriculum available for these individuals.

Carrie questioned whether the LaSalle County Court System did any type of study and had any statistics available to back up information they may have provided in their Redeployment Grant. She said that she would contact Bill Sweeney to see if he had any statistical information available. Bruce suggested that members contact area court systems to see if they have an idea of where the gaps are in serving offenders.

After a lengthy discussion, members agreed to contact the different criminal justice offices to find out what gaps they are encountering with individuals within their system. Members volunteered accordingly:

Carrie Folken – LaSalle & Bureau County Probation
Rhonda – LaSalle County Probation
Bruce – Whiteside County Probation

Dan asked Pam to put together a bullet point summary of what questions should be asked of these agencies. Pam said that she would put together a snapshot of what to ask and email it out to all members along with a copy of the draft Meeting Minutes.

Referring to individuals with disabilities (physical and intellectual), Vanessa commented that perhaps we need to go back to those agencies that are already providing job coaching and job search curriculum such as Horizon House, Gateway, Streator Unlimited, Friendship Facilities, etc. to learn what they are teaching. Vanessa stated that we are trying to do a “one size fits all” curriculum but are finding out that we may not be able to do so. She said that maybe members need to customize the curriculum that is being used by the different agencies.

Carrie commented that we need to know what point in which the person who needs the help is not getting it. She said we need to know what the gaps are for our particular clientele whether it is an adult, youth, transitional youth, sheltered workshop, etc.

Members agreed that it may be beneficial to contact the organizations and agencies that work with individuals with disabilities to find out where their gaps are. Again, members volunteered to make contacts with the following agencies/organizations:

Dan Payette – Self Help in Sterling, Kreider Services, Rolling Hills, Workshop in Galena and Progress in Ogle County.

Pam commented that once we receive information on the Career Pathway's NOFO from DCEO we may be able to apply for a youth project with some of the topics that members have addressed during discussion.

In regards to marketing to employers, Carrie summarized the discussion by saying that we need to review and reaffirm the assessment survey results again, but this time, the committee members will contact the organizations/agencies that they know to find out where the gaps are and what curriculum they use.

Pam pointed out that the original discussion has sparked a few other discussions. She suggested that the IDES curriculum be reviewed and bridged with other organizations/agencies curriculum that they are using.

Referring back to the first topic of discussion, Bruce told members that the power point presentation that he mentioned may have some information that would be of benefit to individuals of the targeted population.

Vanessa recalled that Matt Sprong mentioned he has a background in working with individuals with disabilities and said that she would reach out to him for some information. She also said that she would contact Gateway Services, Horizon House and the Step Program in Princeton. Carrie noted that the Step Program is part of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Carrie also noted that marketing to employers is the turning point for individuals to get jobs. However, she said that the jobs have to be there first. Carrie stated that marketing to "mom and pop" shops may give someone a second chance regardless of the population they are from. The key, she said, is that they are successful.

In regards to Veterans, Dan Payette pointed out that there are Veterans Assistance Commissions throughout Illinois that may provide some financial support as well as job searching assistance. Pam informed members that a few years ago BEST, Inc. tried to conduct a Veteran's Job Fair only to find out that most veterans do not participate in organized functions. Carrie suggested that Steve Kreitzer with LaSalle County Veterans Assistance be contacted about how to reach out to the Veterans community. Bruce said that he would talk with Jack Kromer and Danielle VanOosten for some information as well. Pam stated that she would send an email to Steve Kreitzer. Dan Payette said that he has some contacts with Military Affairs and will send the links to Pam.

In summary, members agreed to reach out to the individuals/organizations/agencies that were mentioned above and send the results to Pam and Jo Ann. The list of bullet points and copy of the Meeting Minutes would be sent to members along with an explanation of the homework needed. Between December 18 and February 2020 the results will be compiled and sent to members for further discussion at the February 19, 2020 Targeted Population Committee meeting.

Vanessa asked if the committee wanted to hold off working on the employer side of the project for now. Members concurred noting that they are not the experts in working with employers and suggested that at a future meeting a few employers who have the experience in working with the targeted population be invited to address the committee. Pam commented that she recalled the Assessment Report identifying a few employers that would fit the description.

Next Meeting

After discussion, it was agreed to cancel the December 18, 2019 Targeted Population Committee Meeting. However, members were reminded to send their information to Pam and Jo Ann by December 18, 2019.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Vanessa Hoffeditz motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dan Payette and carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson