

**TARGETED POPULATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday, February 19, 2020**

The Targeted Population Committee/Workgroup held a Conference Call in lieu of a regular meeting. Carrie Folken began the discussion at 2:33 p.m. by saying that the October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes were enclosed with the materials, but would not be acted on until the next meeting. She said that if anyone had any corrections to those minutes, to let Jo Ann know.

Name	Conference Call Participants	Absent
Dan Fitzgerald	X	
Carrie Folken	X	
Vanessa Hoffeditz	X	
Dan Payette		X
Kris Noble	X	

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson, Bruce Larson, Jack Kromer, Mark Krupke, Patrick Sweeney, Joel Torbeck

Business Meeting

Update on IDES Curriculum

Bruce informed members that the 2 offices that were piloting the IDES Job Search curriculum in a classroom setting are now presenting it one-on-one to individuals. He said that IDES is no longer presenting this curriculum in a group setting but only one-on-one.

Bruce told members that he is still trying to get more information from the Whiteside County Probation Department but has not receive any response. Pam asked if IDES staff still visit Sheridan Correctional Center to help those individuals that will be released soon. Carrie thought that they did but was not certain how often. Vanessa said that Tri-County Opportunities does visit with the individuals at Sheridan Correctional Center when they are invited to provide them with information about the services that they offer. Jack commented that there is nothing on the IDES calendar for anyone to visit Sheridan Correctional Center. Pam asked if anyone visited with Thomson Correctional Center. Jack responded when invited the IDES staff does visit with those individuals that are scheduled for a release. Bruce commented that Michelle has been invited to go to Thomson to do mock interviews with individuals. Jack mentioned that he has been working the Tammy Nehr Korn (BEST, Inc. Business Relations Representative) to interact as a mediator between a convicted individual and an employer. He said that they have not talked with the Parole Board yet to see if this is possible, but it would be something that IDES and BEST, Inc. could offer them.

Pam asked members how they would like to proceed in working with individuals with a criminal background. Bruce said that when it comes to an individual on parole or probation they usually end up moving back to the area where they came from, which is normally not in our local workforce area. He said that it did not appear that we could augment anything more than what Parole or Probation Department is already doing.

Carrie suggested that members consider doing a Podcast similar to the NCI Works Industry Briefs. She said that Podcasts can be tracked to confirm that they are being viewed and the information is getting out to the individuals who need it. Kris commented that for some they have barriers such as transportation

and child care that limited them participating in events in an office. She said that the Podcasts would give them the ability to get the information on their schedule. Kris said that Podcasts is a way to provide resources to probationers that is realistic for them to accomplish.

Members then discussed the Podcast topics to be considered. Vanessa stated that it would be challenging for those individuals with intellectual disabilities to view a Podcast. Carrie commented that the format of a Podcast may not be for everyone but thought it would be a benefit to most. Pam stated that the first Podcast could be of general job search techniques followed up with specific information for the targeted populations.

Joel then provided members with an overview of the Adult Redeploy Program in which he presents Job Search Workshops to individuals referred by the LaSalle County Probation who have been determined to be ready to return to work. These workshops include basic job search techniques, as well as specific strategies for those with a criminal history. As an example, Joel said that the Podcasts could include information on Job Search/Interviewing techniques followed by Expungement/Sealing of Records.

Carrie stated that Podcasts are beneficial for marketing because you can put them on the website(s) and view them when it is convenient. During discussion, members felt that the Podcasts would be a good venue to get the information out to individuals with a criminal background and veterans. Members also mentioned that for the Veteran community a Podcast translating their military information to the world of work would be beneficial.

Discussion then turned toward the affect that the Podcasts would have on the individuals with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities. Dan informed members that there is an extensive community practice on the internet now that uses the webinar podcast format. He said that the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has a wealth of information on aiding people with intellectual disabilities to obtain employment. Dan said that their website is geared for the "train the trainer" approach and suggested that maybe the podcast could be formatted specific to resources available in our service area. Another source, Dan said is the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. He said that it's called "A Review of Successful State Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes among People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities".

Members agreed to move forward with the development of Podcasts for individuals with background issues and Veterans. Pam told members that BEST, Inc./NCI Works has an agreement in place for the recording and uploading of the Podcasts. Pam said that if anyone had any information to share to let her know.

Moving on, Dan asked about the bullet point summary that was mentioned on the Agenda. Pam said that she prepared the bullet point summary after the October meeting in an effort to research if there are any gaps in the criminal justice system, veterans groups, and organizations/agencies that work with individuals with disabilities. Vanessa commented that she was going to suggest to create subgroup to work with other members to pull together the gaps and review the curriculum that is already available. As an example, Vanessa said that on the IDES Veteran's website there is all sorts of links posted but they are not in one central location. She said that it can be overwhelming for an individual trying to find what they are looking for. Carrie commented that the information could be put on the NCI Works website with a Targeted Population page with the appropriate links and/or Podcasts. Mark commented that their office is continually talking about the trends and younger generation with the technology changes. He said that they/we have to adapt to how the younger generation is seeking knowledge.

Pam asked members how they would like to proceed. She asked Joel to coordinate the Podcasts. Carrie and Vanessa suggested that both methods be utilized. Pam then stated that we could develop an

“industry brief” type of document that would provide links to access sites, job tips, etc. Members were then asked to volunteer to help move these projects along.

- Joel – Podcasts
- Dan Fitzgerald, Vanessa Hoffeditz, Mark Krupke – Individuals with Disabilities
- Jack Kromer, Bruce Larson, Danielle VanOosten – Veterans
- Patrick Sweeney, Carrie Folken, Bruce Larson, Rhonda Krueger, Thomas Brown(?) – Offenders/Individuals with a criminal background

Vanessa informed members that on the IDES website they are constantly adding new stuff and encouraged members to take a look at the “My Next Move” page. She said these are some of the basic tools we don’t want to overlook when preparing our document.

Joel commented that he will begin working on the “General Podcast” first and then move on to the targeted population categories.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Public Comments

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson