

# **PATHWAYS TO CAREERS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETING May 26, 2016**

## **Audio Transcript**

Michael Morris

Context: Onondaga pathways to career demonstration project and Onondaga community college is a collaboration between OCC and BBI at SU and wide array of public private partners in the city of Syracuse including the workforce development system, education agencies, and other disability agencies as well . We're hopeful for those joining us for the first time is that this community of practice is really a peer learning opportunity. We invited projects and technical assistance groups that stretch from the work of this project at OCC which is funded by office of disability employment policy implement program (ODEP) at US department of labor and many other projects including (mentions roll call) projects funded by RSA which include 4 projects focused on inclusive carrier pathways with Georgia, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Virginia vocational rehabilitation? We also believe some people joining us may be with the TA team that works on disability employment initiative (DEI) funded by employment and training administration and working cooperatively with ODEP as well there may also be some DEI projects that join us. Focus today is using OCC program which started more than a year ago, as a space where we can share what we have learned. Also focusing on student recruitment as well as cross system coordination and collaboration

Roll Call

4 Vocation rehabilitation projects

Georgia – Laurie Tutin, Rita Young,

Kentucky – Emily West, Joe Ashley

Nebraska – Michael Ruska, Steve Zackarta

Virginia – Tish Sheriff

TA team with DEI – Miranda Kenedy, Dave Mayer

DEI –

ODEP –

Pam Williamson –SEADA

Mid Atlantic ADA - Marian Russels?

Windtec with Georgia and Kentucky - Tamara Alen

Windtec - Rachel Emerson

Meera Adya

Alen Galliger

Meera

Review of first meeting: Meeting archived in website. Federal priority emerged looking at expansion of the capacity of the community colleges to be able to respond to work force needs, came out of drive for career pathways and belief community colleges can fill the need, promotion of community wide partnerships, prepare youth with disabilities to work with high demand jobs. More than Onondaga county. Engage with high schools, career fairs, make them aware and support them in the transition. Examples of activates

students can do, designated administrator, encourage participation in seminars, internal evaluation.

Rita ask: on MOU's can you share or are they bullet points, this is main scope of work, but Meera can add to it, with the restrictions of contract discretion

Status/Challenges: 36 students; dropout rate is high, Syracuse city school district → high poverty, food insecurity is a trigger. When students need access to food pantry through community college, they indicate this are struggling outside which may impact their ability to stay in school, therefore they need more assistance to help them stay in school. Need for recruitment specialist, dual roles wasn't enough.

Dean Sevanus- Recruitment Specialist: OCC is constantly recruiting students, Dean is working closely with the recruitment office to follow their model – recruitment in the 5-county region around Onondaga County. Stay on phone to contact school personnel and organizations that work with persons with disabilities. Spent last two months trying to identify students with special educators that may have not solidified post-secondary education plans yet, get them enrolled. Targeting Fall of 2017

Miranda ask: Emphasis on supporting students while they are enrolled in project, not just being recruited, importance of retention as well as recruitment.

Bring in South Dakota

Flagging students who are a high risk factor of dropping out

Targeting out of school youth, if students are deciding to drop out, it is ok to contact them again after some time

Lori: Also working with technical colleges and the department of juvenile justice. Who touches out of school youth that we may not be thinking about?

Virginia: Working with career pathways programs through adult education programs for the state, help with employment for out of school youth, career readiness certificate.

Tamara Ask: Is anyone using peer mentors?

OCC has incorporated a peer mentorship, they have been used in open houses to share their experiences, possibilities of using them as ambassadors to educate others on the program. Considering starting a club or group around campus.

CA and FL has also used peer mentors, very successful

Open Discussion:

Pam to Lori/Rita: Lets hear ideas about your recruitment, use of apps and social media?

Currently working with web developer, goal is to make it look different – “non-governmental” Hired a social media technologist who is responsible for research and developing strategies to target youth.

Michael M: Use of SCORE – retired executives helping small business/start ups. SCORE has extended to not only retired but active in the work force executives. Way of connecting to other people familiar with social media and app development.

Zack: Reaching out to former successfully close Nebraska BR clients involved in manufacturing, PDL, and IT. List of 1200 individuals who they are contacting to discuss their interest in career advancement through education on job training.

Michael M: Great idea to apply to other states.

Zack: After first get into health care field, reach out to former BR clients, talk with employers about how they can help their current employees advance into what they are doing and cover the expenses.

Michael M: If you know of any other states who would want to be involved email Meera. Focus for call in July?

Unknown: More retention strategies, hearing from South Dakota on what they are exploring