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Disabilities Committee Meeting May 10, 2017 Community Quest

Attendance:

Nina Stolzenberg
Candace Titanski

Laura Natale
Gary Scarpa

Elizabeth Denham
Donald Campbell

Tina Baez

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order @9:45am by Elizabeth D. Candace T. gave a clarification on the information that was submitted by Kurt O. Please find additional information/clarification regarding minutes from the Disability Committee's meeting in February 2017.

With regards to comments made about CODI's janitorial program, I want to clarify that these are considered to be set-aside jobs. Set-aside jobs are not considered to be competitive integrative employment. Set-aside jobs require a certain amount of disabled and non-disabled workers as per requirements of these federally subsidized contracts/positions. DVRS has never (even before WIOA) been allowed to provide supported employment (job coaching, long-term follow along services) for these jobs. Supports were provided on the job by supervisors or non-disabled individuals. These positions are meant to provide the opportunity to obtain skills while working and earning money. Ideally, when a worker has obtained skills and is ready to work with less intensive supervision, then he/she could be referred to DVRS and seek competitive employment.

What has changed under WIOA is DVRS not being able to close cases for individuals who work at set-aside jobs as successful rehabilitations/closures. Again, these positions are not considered to be competitive integrated employment. It's important to determine where the consumer's check comes from. With set-aside jobs, ultimately the federal government is funding these positions. An additional correction was made regarding a misspelled name of a committee member in the person of Laura Natale otherwise the minutes were approved.

Laura N. inquired of Candace T. regarding a list of current employment opportunities as this is important to know when endeavoring to place customers. According to Candace T. set aside jobs are not intended for permanency, customers are to be trained and then advanced. Laura N. added that her agency is grant funded for supported employment and will bill for services fee for service. There are other agencies following the same billing pattern as of July 2017.

Donald C. from the Artemis facility explained that the agency assist customers to become job ready. Artemis Center for Independent Living is a center that empowers people with disabilities to make their own life choices and to realize their greatest potential as individuals. Artemis Center for Independent Living is a center that assists individuals with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible.

Our core services include:

Information & Referral: Information about and referrals to services and organizations that can help you achieve your independence.

Advocacy: Staff assist individuals with personal issues to advocate for what they need. Systems advocacy identifies issues that affect others within the community and develop strategies to bring about systems change.

Peer Support: We believe that individuals experiencing the same issues (peers) are in the best position to support one another dealing with similar experiences.

Life Skills Training: Services are designed to assist you in gaining the skills necessary to live independently in your community.

Transition Services:

Youth: Our youth services provide support and guidance to students transitioning from school to adult life with a strong emphasis on employment.

Seniors: Artemis staff can assist seniors living with disabilities to ensure they are receiving benefits and services designed to ensure the greatest independence possible with the goal of remaining within their communities and there is no age limit.

Open discussion:

Facebook page- possibilities of committee information being place on the WDB Website. This would be to display success stories, free resources/services, and upcoming events for people with disabilities. Alicia O. offered to inquire as to the limits of the WDB FB page.

No new updates, meeting adjourned 10:50am. The next meeting is August 9th

