

PRODUCTIVE LIVING BOARD
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

121 Hunter Avenue, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63124

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Malin, Chairman
William Bolster
Tom Curran
Christine Ney
Anne Tolan

OTHER BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Mary Beth Monafo

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Becky Herschbach, Executive Director
Jennifer Boedeker
Glen Goldstein
Donald Kaufmann
Kim Kopff
Kathy Williams
Anna Zelinske

GUESTS PRESENT: (See Attached)

A quorum was present and due notice had been published. Mr. Malin called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Committee Information Item:

Pre-Employment Update

In FY'17, Kim Kopff reported that three pre-employment projects were experiencing barriers leading to underutilization of funding and/or not meeting the goal for the number of individuals receiving supports.

Representatives from the three agencies were present at the meeting to provide the current status of the projects.

Jane Skinner from Easterseals Midwest spoke about the Project SEARCH internship program, a skills training program dedicated to helping young adults with developmental disabilities learn skills to achieve competitive employment. The 9 month program takes place at a local business where the individuals complete up to three 10-week internships. The program implementation began in July 2017 with team on-boarding, training lab setup, intern selection and internship

development. The first internships began at Centene Corporation in October 2017 and at SLATE/City of St. Louis in December. There are currently four PLB funded individuals in the internship program at Centene and three at SLATE. The plan is to serve 10 individuals during FY'18.

Heather Conan from the Center for Specialized Services provided an update about their pre-employment training program that provides business-based instruction skills to students in their last year of school. The Center, along with SSD and Vocational Rehabilitation have partnered with TAGG Logistics to offer hands-on work experience in the logistics and distribution job sectors to prepare for the transition out of high school and into the work environment. After some initial training, students then complete additional training alongside employee mentors in a specific job. Currently, four students are being served in the TAGG Logistics program. The projected number for FY'18 is eight. A second site has been identified as a host site for an additional four individuals, but there have been some delays with the start of the program.

Richard Coleman from UCP Heartland spoke about the Talent Connect program which is an employer led training program specializing in the hotel/hospitality industry. The goal of Talent Connect is to help individuals get hired in the industry either at the training site or at another hotel/hospitality location. UCP has been successful in obtaining funding from Vocational Rehabilitation for this program, and therefore will not be requesting funding from PLB for FY'19. Richard stated UCP was appreciative of the Board's support of the program, which was essential in getting it launched.

There being no further business before the Committee, the Employment Services Committee adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Becky Hirschbach
Executive Director

As recorded by Kathy Williams, Executive Administrative Assistant

The above minutes were reviewed and approved by Scott Malin, Chairman of the Employment Services Committee.

Guests Present

Heather Cowan	Center for Specialized Services
Donna Gunning	Center for Specialized Services
Kim Marx	Center for Specialized Services
Jane Skinner	Easter Seals Midwest
Cathy Brown	Easter Seals Midwest
Karen Trower	Heartland Industries
Stacey Elster	Lafayette Industries
Rob Libera	Lafayette Industries
Mark A. Keeley	St. Louis Arc, Inc.
Monica Edmonds	United Cerebral Palsy Heartland
Richard Coleman	United Cerebral Palsy Heartland
Jim Guyre	Valley Industries