**State As a Model Employer (SAME) Task Force**

**June 12, 2020**

**Members Present:** **Members Absent:**

Bambi Polotzola GODA Lisa Vosper BoR

Cheryl Schilling DOA Nancy Watkins CRT

Ken York LRS Tanisha Matthews DOC

Julie Hagan OCDD Proxy- Rosemary Morales Quintin Taylor LCTCS

Sue Killam LSUHDC

Kaffia Arvie LWC Proxy - Daphne Stewart

Cindy Rives LDH Proxy- Ashley Young

**Agency Designees Present: Others Present:**

Doug Bordelon DEQ Johnny Manela BRCC

Beverly James GOHSEP Rachel Pollock SME

Amy Dawson GOHSEP Jamar Ennis GODA

Brandi Conway LDR Jessica Lewis SILC

Burgundy Cummings SOS Melanie Washington SICC

Stephanie Fontenot DOA Nicole Flores FHF

Andrell Ward DOTD Warren Chauvin LRC

Alex Hayes DOTD Christy Johnson OCDD

Rose Angelocci Melissa Bayham LRS

Beth Ashley Jefferson OBH

Gaynelle Franklin

Sharon Herbert

Rikki David

Members of the task force took a few moments to review the March 2020 meeting notes.

**Survey**

Bambi encouraged members of the Taskforce to share recommendations and ideas to improve the survey participation and layout. A survey design and marketing committee was formed. Doug Bordelon (DEQ) mentioned that someone in his department will assign someone to work on the marketing and visual layout of the survey. Sue Killiam (LSU HDC), Ken York (LRS), and Stephenie Fontenot (DOA) volunteered to serve on the survey marketing committee.

It was mentioned during the last SAME task force meeting that each participant agency would create an agency plan, and make it competitive among agencies. Rachel Pollock suggested that the survey has a question regarding the impact their disability has on their life outside of their employment.

The concern was expressed at the last SAME taskforce meeting that some agencies do not have the technology to reach their clients. Agencies must develop a plan to allow their employees to complete the survey. It was mentioned that the survey link can be sent to cellular phones in the event that the potential participant cannot participate via personal computer.

It was mentioned that collection and processing of the survey data is a major undertaking. Bambi asked the SAME taskforce for suggestions to improve the collection of survey data. Sue volunteered to help with the survey data.

The survey will be disseminated by the middle of July.

**State Agencies participating in Pilot receiving Technical Assistance**

DOA: Working with BRCC in its pilot program, and will work with Rachel P. for more ideas to reach the target population. The department is currently working with its directors to improve efforts to attract and hire the targeted group of potential job seekers.

DOTD: Has taken advice from Rachel P. Created more linkage, and has reached out to Montana for more advice. The department is currently working to create more positions and opportunities. The department would like to work with other agencies to figure out the challenges with retention and recruitment. It was mentioned that the challenge is to create and tailor internships that create jobs afterwards.

LDH: Ashley Young mentioned that the department will work with OPH and their new onboarding committee to implement retention and recruiting techniques. The department is determining linkages in filling certain jobs. The department is working with their supervisors to provide flexibility for job activities.

**State Agencies providing employment services to people with disabilities**

LRS: Ken provided that in 2018-2019, 37 consumers were able to secure employment. In 2019-2020, 30 consumers secured employment. It was mentioned that more details will be provided relative to which agencies hired the aforementioned the consumers at a later time. There will be more discussions with regional managers to ensure that all agencies are on track. Regional employment specialist will be retained in the new future to nature the relationships between the consumers and employers. It was mentioned that LRS will disseminate several success stories of consumers who are able to retain employment.

OCDD: Rosemary provided that the department has been focused primarily on the impact of COVID-19. The department is in the process of updating the MOU with LRS (WIOA), it was mentioned that Behavioral Health will be included. It was mentioned that this MOU could benefit the SAME’s initiative. The department will refocus efforts in the near future.

OBH: Ashley provided that the department is improving the collaborations with partner agencies. The department is seeking opportunities to work with more pilot agencies. It was mentioned that the department is including the work performed on the SAME taskforce in the DOJ agreement.

**Community of Practice Trainings**

Joe Morone will present on Mental Illness and Employment on August 14.

Abby Cooper will present on Internships on July 10. Today she will present on customized employment.