

Group Memory
Bridges Project Steering Committee Meeting
July 12, 2006
Department of Rehabilitation
2000 Evergreen Street, Sacramento

Facilitator: Loran Vetter
Recorder: Lisa Harris
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes and Advisory Committee Business may also be accessed on the internet: www.allenshea.com/BridgesAdvisory.htm

Members Present: Linda O'Neal, Irvine USD Bridges Project; Gerry Strickland, Capistrano USD Bridges Project; Lynn Smith, Riverside COE Bridges Project; Bobby Menn, Saddleback Valley USD Bridges Project; Gail Hunt, Newport-Mesa USD Bridges Project; Joyce Montgomery, Vallejo USD Bridges Project; Richard Rosenberg, Whitter UHSD Bridges Project; Michele Shimek Ca. Dept. of Education; Margaret Mack, Workforce Investment Board; Betsy Crandall, Alta Regional Center; Amy Williams, BPAO; Peter Meleiu, Social Security Administration; Bill Allen, Allen, Shea & Associates; Bryon MacDonald, Ca. Workgroup on Work Incentives and Healthcare Paul DeMange, Independent Living

Members Absent: Lana Fraser, Department of Rehabilitation; Peter Mackler, Dept. of Health Services; Harold Curtis, Department of Mental Health; California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office representative; National Youth Leadership Network representative; Shayn Anderson, EDD; Betty Mosher, Dept. Health Services; Pam Hawkins, United Advocates for Children; Sandra Beckley, SSA; Joe Hennen, SPI Project; Sonia St. Mary, Dept. of Social Services; Cynthia Abbott, HUD; Sandra Waterhouse, Dept. of Labor

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. beginning with introductions.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Bridges Project Data Collection Update – Bill Allen

Revision 6.0 of the Bridges Data base is complete and working. The new version includes the Participant Action Plan. Data collection from the Action Plan will begin in approximately one month.

The Bridges Project staff timesheet categories are being revised to simplify time recording. A draft of category definitions will be emailed to project sites in the near future.

The monthly and quarterly reports were reviewed. (attachment)

Data is reflecting that there is a lower involvement in work activities in participants over the age of 22. Most of these participants are Regional Center clients. Areas that impact the choice to work post high school for these participants are:

- Placement on work crews results in a lower wage than competitive employment
- Transportation issues (long rides to get to and from work)
- Placement in sheltered work settings

Bridges projects would like to coordinate services with Regional Center to continue work post high school for these participants.

The results from the survey on agency collaboration will be presented in an executive summary. The Bridges sites chose the agencies to be surveyed. The next survey will be chosen randomly. SSA is being asked for approval to get feedback from the SSA claims representatives that are associated with the Bridges sites.

CDE Update – Michelle Shimek

A parent resource information page has been developed in conjunction with SEEDS (Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems) as part of the Special Education Division's (SED) Verification Review parent input process. The Bridges Project has been added to this resource page. The resource page is available at the individual Parent Input meetings and on the SEEDS website.

The Secondary Transition portion of the CDE Special Education State Plan was shared and distributed as an FYI about new data collection requirements and other agency involvement.

In the 2004-05 school year SED began collecting additional transition data through the California Special Education Management Information System (CASEMIS) related to transition services language in the IEP. Reliable data may not be available until at least two years after the initial data collection year. Workability Program data will be merged into the CASEMIS system.

The IDEA 2004 now requires a Summary of Performance for all special education students who are exiting the system due to graduation with a diploma or due to exceeding the age of eligibility. A sample of a nationally ratified Summary of Performance model template was shared and distributed. There was discussion regarding the definition of transition services and measurable transition goals.

CAP Update – Amy Williams and Stacey Wittorff

CAP staff are developing a packet of information for transition age youth. It should be ready in the fall. The Bridges Projects site requested to get a preview of the draft.

WID Update – Bryon MacDonald

The Youth - School to Work version of DB101 benefit calculator will be released for beta testing November 1, 2006.

DB 101 Benefits-to-Work Calculator Press Release was discussed.

SSA Update - Peter Meleiu

SSA claims representatives are monitoring the Bridges Project participant exclusions. However, sometimes it is difficult. It is suggested that the sites should also monitor the participants exclusions to ensure that they are being applied accurately.

Regional Center Update – Betsy Crandall

Areas of interest currently within Regional Center:

- Self Determination services
- Autism Spectrum – resources and training

DDS received funding increases. It is unsure how the funds will be distributed.

SB1270, authored by Senator Chesbro, will increase work services funding within the supported employment legislative language for DDS to fund for benefits planning services.

Workforce Investment System Update – Margaret Mack

The ITOP Plan was discussed.

Funded by DOL grant. Designed to improved transition service to transition age youth and map resources. There are 3 demonstration sites:

- Ventura
- Shasta
- San Francisco

There will be a state interagency team review.

The plan will be available for review and comment until July 27, 2006. The plan will then go to the Labor Secretary for review.

Suggestions:

Develop an implementation guide

During the implementation phase incorporate the Mentoring Project, as they are already performing the proposed activities.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2007 Department of Rehabilitation Central Office - Sacramento

Adjourn – 12:15 p.m.