

# ODEP/HSCF Annual Alliance Report

**Year I: September 23, 2011 – September 22, 2012**

9/22/12

## I. Alliance Background

Date Signed 9/23/2011

### Overview

The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and the HSC Foundation's National Youth Transitions Collaborative (the Collaborative) signed a formal Alliance agreement in recognition of the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to promote the employment of youth and veterans with disabilities. Through this formal agreement, ODEP and the Collaborative intend to provide the Collaborative's members and other stakeholders with information, technical assistance and access to resources that will help build the capacity of regional and national organizations to empower youth and returning veterans with disabilities to create a self-directed path to employment.

Through the Alliance, ODEP and the Collaborative worked together to achieve education, communication, and outreach goals.

- Communicating new policies and effective disability employment practices to employers via the ODEP and the USBLN Web sites.
- Providing speaking and exhibiting opportunities at ODEP, USBLN, and Federal Interagency Partners Work group events.
- Collaborating with other Alliance participants on employer issues that are identified through the Alliance Program.
- Disseminating ODEP training and education materials to USBLN and Collaborative members.
- Identifying and working with ODEP to provide expertise on key industry issues as they pertain to the employment of people with disabilities.
- Identifying activities that demonstrate, evaluate or replicate model disability employment strategies.
- Promoting ODEP-funded technical assistance services, such as the Job Accommodation Network, National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth, and the National Employer Technical Assistance Center.

- HSCF's National Youth Transitions Center will serve as a WRP Recruiting site on October 16 2012.
- Convening or participating in forums, round table discussions, or stakeholder meetings on employer leadership issues to help forge innovative solutions in the workplace on recruiting, hiring, retaining and promoting people with disabilities.

The ODEP/HSCF Implementation Team members for Year I:

HSCF: Jessie MacKinnon, Vice President, Program and Partnership Development; Ryan Easterly, Manager, National Youth Transition Initiative/HSCF Contributors: Richard Luecking, Chair, National Youth Transitions Collaborative Leadership Council and President, TransCen, Inc.; Curtis Richards, Vice-Chair of National Youth Transitions Collaborative Leadership Council and Director, Center for Workforce Development - Institute for Educational Leadership

ODEP: Laura Ibañez, Policy Advisor, Workforce System Policy Team and Alliance Coordinator; Sara Mahoney, Business Development Specialist, Policy Communications & Outreach Team and WRP Lead; Patrick Cokley, Policy Advisor, Employer and Workplace Policy Team; Cherise Hunter, Research Analyst, Division of Policy Planning and Research/ODEP Contributors: Jennifer Kemp, Policy Advisor Team Lead, Workforce System Policy; Carol Dunlap, Business Development Specialist, Policy Communications & Outreach Team.

This report covers the period commencing with the date the Alliance was signed on 9/23/2011 to 9/23/2012.

## II. Implementation Team Meetings

During the first year of the Alliance, four in-person meetings were held at the new facilities of HSCF (the National Youth Transitions Center). The first implementation planning meeting convened on December 12, 2011. This was an information sharing and brainstorming session generating ideas in three primary areas: Strategic Communications (disseminate policy products/develop materials/raise awareness); Building Capacity; and Tapping Youth (WRP/test products).

The second meeting was held on February 8, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to review the new Alliance work plan. The third meeting was held on March 29, 2012 to provide updates and discuss planned Alliance activities for example the National Youth Transition Center will be added as a WRP recruiting site; on April 11, 2012 Alliance representatives met with representatives of the

ODEP Partnership for Public Service Alliance; on April 24 2012 the Alliance's Implementation team held an education and outreach strategy planning meeting, and a meeting with the Federal Interagency Partners Workgroup on May 24, 2012.

A fourth Alliance meeting was held on August 7, 2012 at HSCF, during which a draft survey to the Collaborative members was reviewed. The purpose of the survey is to determine the extent to which the members have specific knowledge of ODEP policies and resources.

As a result of the meeting, the following actions were adopted:

### III. Events and Dissemination of Information

During the first year of the Alliance, an informal after-work hours intern event was held at HSCF's National Youth Transition Center on July 31, 2012. The event was open to interns with disabilities in the Washington DC metro area as well as career professionals who are interested in mentoring and/or sharing their perspective with interns. The event provided opportunities to network, practice essential soft skills and provided information on workplace accommodations. Approximately 40 interns attended. The event was well-received and efforts are underway to replicate this important networking event during the second year of the Alliance.

Information was disseminated among the constituents of each organization. For example, on January 20, 2012 HSCF sent information to Collaborative members regarding an event explaining how to access more than 2,600 pre-screened, job ready students with disabilities in ODEP's WRP program. Information was also disseminated to Collaborative members regarding the DOL Disability Employment App Challenge, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the ODEP videos which focus on topics that young people with disabilities navigate the job search process, and the DOL Hiring Fair.