

Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

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Washington, DC

Introduction

- Carrie Morehouse: Director of Vocational Services, Work Opportunities; Board President, Community Employment Alliance; Stakeholder; Choice Workgroup that developed the working Age Adult Policy in Washington state
- Work Opportunities
 - Mission
 - History
 - Service Area and Clients served

Successes

Pre-Vocational

- Downsizing Methods
 - No more through the front door
 - Age in place
 - Community Internships
 - Community Employment
 - Agency metrics for PVS

Successes

Group Supported Employment

■ Increasing Hourly Wage Strategies

- Increase productivity
- Renegotiate contracts
- Community Employment

Successes

Individual Employment Strategies

- Enter at this service: Make the others unnecessary
- Customized Employment
- Initiatives
 - ✘ School to Work
 - ✘ Cross County Collaboration
 - ✘ State Agency Collaboration

Challenges

- State Agency Collaboration inconsistent
- Respite Care Issue
- More hours at low pay better than less hours at minimum wage? WA minimum \$9.47

Recommendations

- VR Consistency
- Investment in Technical Assistance/SMEs
- 14(c) thoughtful, but timelimited, phase out
- Business mentoring
- State system reconstruction (employment in addition to, not instead of)