**Top Ten Takeaways**

Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP)

Federal Briefing on Interagency Coordination

August 9, 2018

1. In order for effective interagency coordination and systems change to occur, decision makers from key agencies need to be present and engaged.
2. When all systems work together, they can achieve a “no wrong door” approach to seamless service delivery for job seekers including job seekers with disabilities.
3. MOUs are useful policy documents that help outline specific agency roles and responsibilities to achieve valued outcomes. The document formalizes interagency coordination and assures uniformity and equity across the state and helps keep all partners engaged and accountable so that no person falls “through the cracks”; through EFSLMP, dozens of multiagency MOUs have been developed.
4. Money talks, and MOUs provide a great vehicle to demonstrate to taxpayers that they receive a good return on their investment. Annual and biennial budgets often hinder state legislators from looking at a good return on investment strategy over multiple years, which provides even greater motivation for MOUs and a unified state agency Employment First agenda with aggregate outcomes and impact to be shared with the legislature.
5. ODEP has developed Vision Quest, a nine-month three-phased process that helps state teams develop multiple types of state policy and guidance including interagency MOUs, draft legislation, Executive Orders, and new rate structures under a state’s Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waiver program.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| VQ Phase # | **1** | **2** | **3** |
| **SME Actions** | Assessment of existing policies and policy recommendations | Development of Policy | Policy Implementation |

1. Collecting essential data sets across multiple agencies and systems helps states develop a baseline for which they can track progress or lack thereof with respect to results and outcome rather than outputs. A collaborative state Employment First data collection processes can be orchestrated by a multiagency MOU.
2. On-going meetings and communication opportunities for diverse interagency stakeholders coupled with multiple mixed-media information sharing pathways are essential elements of robust interagency coordination and knowledge translation. These opportunities and information dissemination efforts extend beyond MOU creation and allow for strategic problem-solving and real-time assessment of qualitative and quantitative data associated with systems change during the implementation stage.
3. American Job Centers, with support of other state agencies (i.e. through braided funding) can utilize customized employment as a strategy to help individuals with disabilities obtain competitive integrated employment.
4. ODEP will be releasing an MOU Guide by September 1, 2018 outlining the steps to developing interagency MOUs and providing examples of effective MOUs developed through Vision Quest.
5. The [Data and Resources to Inspire a Vision of Employment](http://drivedisabilityemployment.org/) (DRIVE) Website has a hub of statistics (both national and state-level) about people with disabilities in various systems such as Workforce Development, Mental Health, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education. Additionally, DRIVE posts all state policies relevant to disability employment and allows users to compare state statistics and policies side-by-side; information gathered from DRIVE can assist states as they apply for grants or other sources of funding to help their Employment First efforts.