

Employment Committee Minutes

30 August 2012

Present: Baker, Coyle, Hagen, Kvasnicka, Rasmussen, Rathjen and Vohland

Excused: Paesl

Guests: Mason and Delaney

Next Meeting:

1. Discussion with Mark Mason about the role of soft skill training with transition students.

From our discussion the following points were suggested:

- Need to identify from employers the soft skill issues they observe
- Need to educate staff about the value of having good soft skills
- Are there videos available that we could use with students identifying appropriate soft skills?
- Can we work of soft skills under assessment?
- What do the schools provide in terms of soft skill training?
- Need to integrate, rather than create a new program

Next steps:

- Mark will ask transition staff what is going on in the schools now
- Get a list from employers of common soft skill issues
- Jim will explore videos that train to appropriate soft skills for high school age
- Develop an employer panel for a Monday meeting to discuss soft skills with staff and how they address them
- Mark will visit with the Transition Advisory Council and the Parent Council for suggestions

2. Motivational Interviewing:

The committee reviewed the staff guide developed with Don Crouch. Don is going to present MI to new placement staff at the September 18 Brown Bag lunch. The committee decided that all placement staff should be given the opportunity to attend, and have them review the MI staff guide and give feedback.

3. Electronically Filled Documents with Signatures:

The committee reviewed the Job Search Agreement, and following a suggestion from staff will recommend that the OJT cover letter and the Consent forms for Paid/Unpaid OJE also be reformatted. We looked at the Next Action Step and Weekly Job Search Record but did not feel it would be beneficial to have them adjusted.

4. SRC Survey:

Reviewed the survey the SRC is contracting to visit with businesses that have not/or stopped working with Nebraska VR. Placement staff has submitted names of companies that meet these criteria. This survey will take place in October with the results available in November/December.

5. State Staff:

No suggestions were made for topics concerning state staff. Angela Baker later suggested John W. Quinn as motivational speaker. Mr. Quinn has CP and has not allowed it to define his life. Jim will share this information with the State Staff committee.

6. Update on Job Seeking Skills power point:

Sandy Ham updated the committee on the changes that have been suggested by staff. The committee made some further recommendations. The committee felt the changes and the updates were appropriate.

7. Disability Awareness Month:

Made suggestion to Marketing Committee that we handout the stylus we are buying for staff. We thought business people would like the look and feel of the stylus, pen and flashlight combination and would be careful to not lose it. We can easily put our logo on the side.

8. QE2:

Committee had no suggestions after using QE2. Despite the issues in rolling it out, we felt it was an improvement over Quest.

9. File Reviews of Placement Staff:

Committee believes there is a value in doing these quarterly. Their one suggestion is to have Jim visit directly with the placement person after the review to get their immediate input. This can be done via Face Time or IChat if Jim is doing the review from another location.

