



Supported Employment Committee 05-16-2022

Attendees: Becki Koehler, Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska; Kristen Larsen, NCDD; Carla Lasley, VR; Phil Gray, community activist; Cheryl Montgomery, Northstar Services; Jen Meintz, Hands of Heartland; Alana Schriver, NASP

1. Discussion on Medicaid Insurance for Workers (MIWD)
 - a. NILC also has a supported employment subcommittee; their lens is physical disabilities, but there is overlap. They are looking into whether or not the number of people using MIWD is increasing as a result of recent legislation
 - i. Not sure if people in charge of program fully understand it
 - ii. Lack of robust training
 - b. Solution: DHHS needs certified work incentive coordinators (CWIC)
 - c. For training/more information on MIWD, reach out to Easter Seals
 - i. Virginia Commonwealth also has an 8-week online training program
 - d. SGA = Substantial Gainful Activity; currently \$1350/month in Nebraska
 - i. A raise in wages puts people on SSI at risk of losing benefits or limit number of hours someone can work
 - e. Another issue is people who were disabled but not receiving SSI before the age of 21; they need a way to qualify more easily
 - f. Are 'tickets to work' working? Nebraska seems to have high numbers in comparison to other states
 - g. PAS plans can and should be used to save up for items such as a car
 - h. Major issues to focus on:
 - i. Training – both staff and families
 1. Should be on-going
 2. Learn to distinguish different silos: SSI vs SSDI, Medicaid vs Medicare, etc.
 3. If a presentation by Easter Seals at a NASP meeting, focus on WHY staff needs to understand these things and how to secure training for your staff
 4. Arizona's 'Disability Benefits 101' is NOT a good resource and NOT recommended
 - ii. Familiarize ourselves with commonly used work incentives
 - iii. Benefits planning should be offered as a waiver service
2. VR Rate Study Update
 - a. Contract ends June 30th
 - b. Training and implementation will begin January 1, 2023
 - c. Carla reached out to Dr. Mills to ensure communication between the two studies (Dr. Mills with NCDD study); these two studies will not have the exact same sample pool
 - d. Would like to see improved coordination between VR and DDD
3. NCDD Study Updated
 - a. Second round of data collection began May 2nd
 - i. Reports due in early June
 - b. Promoting results-based incentives rather than fee for service model