

Services To Enhance Potential
Consumer Advisory Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2006

Present: Jim Grice, Kenneth Thomas, Kisha Jones, Edna Bragdon, Patrick Houlihan, Jo Ellis, Ronald Krzesniak, David Bourque, Joanne Piestrak, Thomas Turck, Phyllis White, Ebony Carpenter, John Craigie, Linda Williams, Gary Olson, Stan Nizio, Sheryl Anderson, Mark Morabito, Joyce Bridgeforth, GeorgeAnn Witcher, Ywain Highfield, Susan Valasco

Jim Grice, STEP President/CEO, greeted the assembled representatives from each of the STEP Resource Centers. Jim explained that we were there to discuss past, current and future STEP supports and services, how they were going, and what was needed.

Individuals introduced themselves, and the STEP Mission Statement was recited.

Each Resource Center and Community Employment Services then gave their report.

Detroit:

- The new holiday schedule and status of the MCPNs has been discussed.
- They have been involved in the D-WCCMHA Consumer Advisory meetings.
- Their Safety Committee has been very active.
- They are making plans for a DD Awareness month event.
- They would like to have more Volunteer experiences, more community job placements, and more work available in the OES service.

Eastern:

- More work is needed in their OES services.
- More emphasis and support is needed regarding Volunteer and Community activities.

Dearborn:

- The Volunteer program and the Skills Trainer who is running it are very much enjoyed and doing a great job.
- More Skills Trainers need to be involved in the Community Integration Program.

Community Employment Services:

- The Henry Ford Village is a great worksite. They are remodeling the break rooms, we have nice uniforms, the residents are nice, and they throw great parties for us.
- We need more opportunities for community placement and substitutes for enclave and cluster placements.

Northwest:

- We need more paper shredders because we have a lot of work.
- We enjoy the volunteer program and like helping people. More supplies are needed in the meeting rooms.
- The hallway is too congested at dismissal times.
- There are too many people who don't want to partake in community outings.

Western Wayne:

- Break time is too crowded and we need to go to two separate break times.
- We have looked at a number of accessibility issues and we are making progress with them.
- We made a donation to the United Way campaign as well this past year.

Downriver:

- A new alarm system with flashing lights has been installed
- We have volunteer sites located at a hospital and church.
- We need more individuals involved in Community and Volunteer activities.

Dearborn South:

- There is plenty of work available.
- We need "good" work habits explained, and more training on the jobs we have.
- We do not have a volunteer program developed yet.
- Our numbers are increasing and our lunch and break times are crowded.

Ron Krzesniak mentioned that the Community Employment Services goals for 2006 were to get more people involved in their Community via enclave and cluster placements, individual placements and self employment. We would like to see many individuals currently involved in enclave placements move on to individual placements.

Jim Grice summarized the issues that were prominent in the committees' reports as being:

- The need for more STEP staff committed to the Community Integration elements of our services and supports.
- The need to address why people are not readily participating in Community Integration activities.
- The need to address scheduling changes due to the over crowding in some of the Resource Centers.

STEP administrators and consumer advisory committees are expected to initiate actions to alleviate or intervene on these issues.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Bourque