

Florida Statewide Quality Council Employment Quality Improvement Initiative

2014-15 Quality Improvement Initiative

Statement of Problem: People with I/DD want to work in integrated settings and experience community life as people without disabilities. However, the employment rate for adults with I/DD is far less than those expressing a preference for integrated work. According to Florida's National Core Indicator data, Adult Consumer Survey 2012-13, the proportion of adults receiving services who have a job in the community is 10 percent. The proportion of people who do not have a job in the community but would like to have one is 42 percent. See NCI website, chart generator at <http://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/charts/>. NCI data does not include those on waiting list for services who are working or who want to work.

Quality Improvement Project: Create and distribute educational information for stakeholders (Supported Employment staff, Vocational Rehabilitation staff, individuals with I/DD, Waiver Support Coordinators) to promote and expand integrated jobs for adults with I/DD in Florida.

Strategy 1: Critique 3 employment resource websites for user experience and prepare a guide for targeted users. Guide may be in PowerPoint or other electronic format for ready distribution.

Status: Websites selected. Committee members assigned to critique. Critiques expected for October QC meeting.

Website address:	To be reviewed by:
http://careersourceflorida.com/	Don
http://www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com/	Jose
https://abilitieswork.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx	Patrick

Next Steps: Figure out structure for website critique. Draft guidance that is accessible to targeted user(s).

Strategy 2: Identify vision and strategies of disability-friendly companies for inclusion in QC developed educational materials

Status: Committee member, Don, assigned to review companies. Companies selected: Mary Kay Cosmetics, WellCare Health Plans, Publix, Winn Dixie, etc.

Next Steps:

Strategy 3: Include stories of individuals both employed and looking for work in educational materials and the barriers to employment encountered and supports needed to keep job

Status: Two individuals identified: 1) man on waiting list, labeled as challenging behaviors, who is currently employed and 2) man (Patrick) who has had several jobs and currently looking for work

Next Steps: Create an outline to tell stories succinctly

Strategy 4: Request face to face meetings with one or more Chamber of Commerce offices. Discuss employment educational materials and ways to promote employment among small businesses in the local community.

Status: Paula volunteered to lead this as she has been successful with partnership of an ADT with local businesses.

Next Steps:

Strategy 5: Participate in Florida's Employment First initiative as Grassroots member(s). Members meet monthly by webinar. Coordinate QC educational and advocacy efforts within context of broader coalition, "This group includes representation of teachers, family members, people with disabilities, self-advocates, transition specialists, community rehabilitation providers and others who are interested in keeping their communities informed, identifying barriers and facilitators, and suggesting activities to improve competitive employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities." <http://www.fddc.org/Employment>

Next Step: Identify one or more QC members to participate in Grassroots monthly calls.