Local Leaders Summit

More than 40 Local Leaders team members from across Ohio met on Thursday, November 21 to participate in a Summit held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center during OCALICON 2013. The event provided an opportunity for representatives from seven Ohio communities to share their experiences as participants in the Local Leaders process. Team members, from both small and large counties, discussed their accomplishments and challenges in advancing the Employment First Initiative locally.

Among those in attendance were county board of developmental disabilities staff, education professionals, community employment providers and others from Clark, Coshocton, Fairfield, Fayette, Greene, Knox, Lucas, Montgomery, Pickaway, Stark, Tuscarawas and Warren Counties.

For the past several months, each of these teams has been working with a professional facilitator who is guiding them through a needs assessment process. The first step for these teams was to identify the roles and relationships that exist among key partners in their community. Next, the teams evaluated their community and the existing or lacking resources. Now, the teams are entrenched in assessing six topical areas – family/caregiver involvement, improving preparation of youth and adults, person-centered planning, employer engagement, provider competencies and skills and interagency collaboration.

The next step in this process is to identify and implement strategies that can be

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Check out our upcoming events.

www.ohioemploymentfirst.org
Employment First Data Collection

The Employment First Data Collection System is on track to launch in early 2014. This statewide system was a Taskforce recommendation, and is being developed with expert guidance from Dr. Robert Cimera, an associate professor at Kent State University and the Director of the Institute on Outcome Analysis. Members of the Advisory Committee Data Workgroup will assist with beta testing later this month, before it’s made available to county boards of developmental disabilities and employment service providers throughout Ohio. The system will capture the number of people with developmental disabilities who have community jobs, wages earned, hours worked and factors that lead to success, allowing the state to make policy decisions that are data-driven. The system is Web-based, and will be quick and easy to use.

Web-based Supported Employment Training Launches

As mentioned in last month’s Update, Ohio’s Orientation to Supported Employment Web course is now available. The training launched statewide on November 19 and in a little over a week, more than 240 employment support professionals throughout the state had registered. This training, which provides an overview of such topics as career planning, marketing and job development, on-the-job training, benefits planning, and development of natural supports, is a requirement to provide services as part of the Employment First Partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

To register, follow this link: https://trn-store.com/oh-courses-entry/course-auth-registry.php.

More information can be found on the Employment First Website at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org.

Employment First Promotion

Do you write local newsletters, have success stories or other Employment First marketing materials? Send them to us! As the initiative gains momentum, we would like to share the great efforts taking place throughout the state to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities and host them on the Employment First Website.

Please send your success stories, resources or links to EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Upcoming Events

OACB Annual Convention
Columbus, December 4-6

Ohio Disability Employment Initiative, Customized Employment Training Series
Various Locations, Through December 10

People First Ohio Conference
Wilmington, Ohio, March 13-15 2014

For more details on these events, visit www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Advisory Committee
Advocacy & Protective Services Inc.
Arc of Ohio
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Disability Rights Ohio
Governor Kasich’s Office
Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC
Kent State University
Ohio Association of Adult Services
Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Ohio Disability Employment Alliance
Ohio Provider Resource Association and other service providers
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency
Ohio Self Determination Association
Ohio SIBS
Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
People First of Ohio
The Ohio State University Nisonger Center
University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities