

The Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) Employment Committee

The Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) Employment Committee held its second meeting at St. Anne's Institute in Albany on May 28, 2008. Thirty-two participants attended the meeting, representing 24 different State, local provider, consumer and advocacy organizations. Ed Placke, Chair, reviewed the charge from the MISCC, as well as the expectation that the Employment Committee will make formal recommendations to close the employment gap for individuals with disabilities through executive, legislative and budgetary action in advance of the October MISCC meeting. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 23 *Opportunities for Collaboration* that were generated at its initial meeting on March 6, 2008.

A broader policy framework discussion ensued. There was initial agreement that New York State needs to develop an integrated policy framework where policy would address the needs of consumers, services providers and employers. As a result of this discussion, the Committee proposed a vision statement affirming "all people can work" and cited the need for more effective marketing to employers through the Business Council and/or local Chambers of Commerce. The importance of establishing a tangible goal, such as increasing the number of employment outcomes by a specific number or percentage, was discussed so that any policy framework can lead to action and measurable results.

Thomas Golden presented the CMS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) information and requested participation of the MISCC Employment Committee to undertake the advisory role as required in the grant. OMH will be applying on behalf of New York State DOH. The Committee agreed to consider this option via e-mail to meet the June 30 submission deadline. Subsequently, the Committee did determine that it would play an advisory role to the proposed Medicaid Infrastructure Grant project, if awarded.

Proposed Collaborative Opportunities

The Committee selected five focus areas for additional exploration and development:

- Advocating for an Executive Order for Public Sector Employment;
- Developing a statewide infrastructure for benefits planning and management, including statewide collaboration on applying for the CMS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant;
- Exploring the options for a "No Wrong Door" service delivery process - easing access to employment services across State agencies;
- Marketing to Employers through a collaborative marketing campaign for employment of qualified candidates who have disabilities; and,
- Reviewing data and funding integration to explore how existing funding and reporting structures across agencies can more effectively fund integrated employment.

The next meeting of the MISCC Employment Committee is scheduled for August 6 at the VESID District Office, 80 Wolf Road, Colonie, New York.