



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
LANSING

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VENDELLA M. COLLINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 6, 2016

Nick Lyon
Michigan Department Health and Human Services
235 South Grand
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Director Lyon:

Thank you for being the State Champion for our Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) initiative. As part of our agreement with ODEP I would like to share the ODEP technical assistance year-end report for presentation to the People Group.

The ODEP initiative aims to advance systems transformation related to Employment First in Michigan. It is working for the establishment of statewide policies that promote increased opportunities for competitive integrated employment among people with disabilities. The Lieutenant Governor's Executive Order No. 2015 -15 Employment First in Michigan compliments the goal of the ODEP EFSLMP initiative.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and its collaborative partners want to thank you for championing this initiative and receiving this report. We will continue to work to make competitive, integrated employment a reality in Michigan!

If you would like additional information regarding this initiative please contact me at 517-284-7292 or collinsv1@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Vendella M. Collins
Executive Director

cc: Lynda Zeller
Elizabeth Hertel

ODEP Employment First Initiative Year End Summary Report

The U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), has initiated the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP), a cross-disability, cross-systems change initiative, which provides a platform for multi-disciplinary state teams to focus on implementing the Employment First approach with fidelity through the alignment of policies, coordination of resources, updating of service delivery models, to facilitate increased integrated employment options for people with the most significant disabilities.

Under the leadership of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, Michigan has participated in the initiative since January of 2015.

Accomplishments (FY2015-FY2016)

Since its implementation in Fiscal Year 2015, the Michigan EFSLMP has provided over 526 hours in intensive technical assistance training from subject matter experts which has led to the following results:

- Forty front-line direct service professionals trained in customized employment strategies and other effective practices that lead to increased competitive, integrated employment outcomes for individuals with significant disabilities.
- Eight provider organizations receiving executive leadership consulting to guide them in transitioning their business focus from the provision of segregated service delivery models to approaches that lead to integrated employment and other community-based outcomes for individuals with the most significant disabilities. The participating providers are the following: Community Enterprises of St. Clair County – Port Huron; Do-ALL- Bay City; Goodwill Industries of West Michigan – Muskegon; Goodwill Industries of SE Michigan – Adrian; MMI Industries - Mount Pleasant; MRC Industries-Kalamazoo; ROOC Inc. - Roscommon; and TRICO Industries – Iron Mountain,
- Over 313 individuals with significant disabilities who were either participating in or at risk of being placed into a facility-based day or work program were placed in a competitive, integrated employment opportunity at minimum wage or higher in the first six months of 2016, through the eight provider organizations receiving ODEP technical assistance.
- A 'Super' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the first of its type in the nation, was signed with the goal to increase the number of students and youth with disabilities transitioning from school to employment, as well as post-secondary education intended to lead to employment. Signatories included Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services), the Workforce Development Agency, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs on behalf of the (Bureau of Services for Blind Persons), Michigan Department of Education, and, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. The MOU is the frame work for the work that will occur in local communities.

ODEP Employment First Initiative
Year End Summary Report

- Four local sites have begun the implementation of a “Seamless Transition to Employment” pilot, where local interagency teams are collaborating to provide early, intensive services and supports for students with disabilities, leading to competitive employment or post-secondary training at school exit.