

Employment Update

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The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) tracking reports that the FY 2007-08 Waiting List Initiative to provide home and community services for young adults transitioning to adult served 750 of the 800 individuals budgeted for the program as of June 30, 2008. These young adults generally received at least 5 hours of employment or community inclusive support or held a part time job. Based on the approval of additional growth in this program in the FY 2008-09 authorization bill, we expect this initiative to continue in FY 2008-09 although the number of young adults to be funded has still not been finalized.

ODP joined the State Employment Leadership Network, or SELN, in FY 2007-08, and continues its affiliation with the network in FY 2008-09. Funding for ODP participation in the SELN comes from a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) that helps states develop the necessary administrative support structures to improve employment outcomes. The

SELN has been active in providing training opportunities, information on best practices, meetings with other states. SELN staff from the Institute on Community Inclusion and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) has provided ODP with an assessment of its progress and is assisting in a multi-year employment plan that is underway.

ODP continues to issue monthly Employment Updates to its network of interested stakeholders, including provider agencies, employment point persons at State Centers, County Programs and Regional personnel. Families and individuals interested in receiving Employment Updates at no charge can contact Carmen Donegan at 717-705-7986 or cdonegan@state.pa.us.

ODP is continuing to fund employment pilots in 19 County MH/MR Programs during fiscal year 2008/9. These pilots have allowed County Programs to fund follow-along supported employment services for

hundreds of youth and young adults when OVR funding is no longer available.

The State Center Quality Council has identified employment as a quality improvement action for the last few years, resulting in increased and more diversified employment opportunities for people in State Centers.

ODP recently issued two studies relating to community services and employment for adults in the service system. The studies titled: Report on ODP Survey of Employment and Adult Non-Residential Services for State Fiscal Year 2007-08, and Habilitation Survey, FY 2005-06 Survey Cycle, Independent Monitoring for Quality, provide information on individual and family satisfaction and outcomes, as well as program characteristics or employment and other adult community programs. Copies are available on request by contacting Carmen Donegan.

We Can.
We Will.
We Must.
End the Wait!

ODP is continuing to fund employment pilots in 9 County MH/MR programs during fiscal year 2008/9.