

Workgroup to Help Individuals to Cease Relying on Public Assistance Meeting

December 18, 2014

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

32nd floor Rhodes State Office Tower

In Attendance: Doug Lumpkin (ODJFS); Jody Walker (Vinton Co.), Shancie Jenkins (Delaware Co.), Eileen Dray-Bardon (Columbiana Co.), Kathryn A. Offenberger of (Carroll Co.), Anthony Trotman of (Franklin Co.) and Timothy A. McCartney of (Clermont Co.), David Merriman (Cuyahoga), David Dombrosky (Clark)

Purpose of the Workgroup:

- Reduce reliance on public assistance
- Report due end of March 2015

General Housekeeping:

- Six meeting – two times a month
- Will need to do homework
- OHSI office will support the workgroup as needed
- OHSI office will bring SMEs as needed
- OHSI office will supply any briefing materials
- Notes will be sent out and posted online

General Discussion:

- What might counties what to do to reduce reliance on public assistance
- What public assistance programs: Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, option to explore others. Workgroup discussed and decided to take Medicaid off the table.
- One goal of OHSI is to get mere people employed. We know there are many barriers to employment, ie. drug addiction, lack of housing etc.
- This workgroup may want to address barrier removal
- What are the Governor's and/or Legislature's expectations? Nothing specific
- Should the focus be on current reliance or future reliance?
- Counties have already been reducing the reliance on public assistance (except food stamps). Need to focus on future reliance – focus on youth. Go from welfare to education to work.
- Need a job that makes you self-sufficient.
- Difficult to use funds for economic development activities
- Need input from beneficiaries
- Solutions need to be data-driven
- Need a job to be self-sufficient
- Barrier removal

Defining the Population:



Ideas:

Expunging records for small crimes

Help customers' pass drug screening/test

Possibly focus on short-term solutions focused on able bodies, folks with less barriers

Address the GED issue – why charge – cost is a barrier

Fix WEP – work participation activities create barriers

Start with new applicants, people that have not been in the system before

Focus on TANF and WIA youth, also kinds aging out of foster care

Focus on the education of the children whose parents are receiving services

Workgroup Focus:

- Tentatively, looking at youth aged 24 and below in WIA, TANF, aging out of foster care
- Forward thinking
- Barrier prevention and removal
- Career opportunities – pathway to self-sufficiency

Next Steps:

- Share benefits cliff with workgroup and other homework OHSI is currently working on – OHSI
- Lots of good work going on, need to research best practices – Workgroup members
- WIOA – Need to know the specifics – May help our future focus – OHSI
- TANF/WIA youth data – OHSI
- What's going on in behavior health and drug addiction – OHSI
- Employment data by county – OHSI
- (# of clients with low level offenses that could be expunged) – OHSI
- (# of statewide expungements) – OHSI
- Any GED data – High school drop-out rate – OHSI
- Kids aging out of foster care – OHSI

Next Meetings:

January 8, 2015, 9:30 to 11:30 Rhodes Tower, 32 Floor, Performance Center Meeting Room

January 29, 2015, 9:30 to 11:30 Rhodes Tower, 32 Floor, Performance Center Meeting Room