

Task Force on Eliminating Subminimum Wage
December 18, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Felicia Johnson, Rebekah Griffith, Margaret Alewine, Thoyd Warren, Tyler Rex, Pamela Jones, Valarie Bishop, Robb McBurney, Amanda Hess

Guests: Bonita Benson (staff for Rebekah) and Marly Saade

Legislative Staff: Rebecca Wieseahn

Everyone indicated that they have access to the google docs and that they have or will put minutes and other information there. The website is in process, waiting for all previous agendas and minutes to be posted.

The member from the Department of Education went out December 11, 2023. There were no questions or comments.

Subcommittee Reports:

- Legal – They are exploring possible benefits workshops and other areas but are awaiting the DDSN Survey results to inform their work.
- Stakeholder Impact – The group is also awaiting the DDSN Survey results. Robb McBurney gave a brief report. 14 responses received so far. This covered many of the 14c providers. Barriers included transportation (especially rural areas), loss of benefits, education about opportunities for integrated employment.
When providers talked with individuals they found that many don't want to keep working. Concerns include lack of jobs in rural areas, negotiating contracts and transportation.
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Want to look at survey results. Looking at formal reporting 2xs per year.
Program & Finance – Only 2 people able to attend the last meeting. Steven Achillies from Gigi's Playhouse anticipated at next subcommittee meeting.

DDSN Reporting – Robb gave additional survey information and answered questions. All on track for ending subminimum wage by 8/24. No concerns raised that can't be addressed. The biggest barrier is transportation from surveys received so far. There is a need for family education, possible funding. The regional centers were included in the survey. There were no requests for strategic assistance in transitioning from 14c. Should have full results before January 8, 2024 meeting. Rough numbers down from 937 to around 403 (about 2 weeks before this meeting). There are lots of transitions planned for January and February. They will share the DDSN report to the General Assembly when it is complete.

Areas of interest included: Medicaid transportation and other possibilities; State Data Report; Get #s by provider; identify any issues.

Action Steps: 1) Get DDSN Report on the Survey, 2) Preview Legislative Report; Get a clear report on where 14c providers are at in their transition, 4) Research transportation options (all).

Public comments: Marly indicated that provider feedback indicates that individuals are not being given skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment.

Next meeting is January 8, 2024 at 12:30 pm.