

MIG Sponsored Pathways Projects 2008

Strategic Priority 1: Support the principles of Universal design and the creation and use of assistive technologies.

1. a Project: Inclusive Workplace

Project Description: This project builds on the work of the Inclusive Design Advisory Council and Symposium on development of UD networks and policy goals. It is designed to identify the tools and environments necessary to create an inclusive workplace that maximizes employment for a diverse workforce including people with disabilities. The Inclusive Workplace and the managed long term care system are building blocks of the Inclusive Community.

Project Lead: Ellen Felix

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Project Partners: UW-Madison-Doit, Department of Administration, UW-Madison Accessibility Council, NCHSD/HAD, Pathways to Independence, UW-Madison Facilities Planning & Management, UW-Madison Specialized Testing Services, Blackhawk Construction, Kolbe and Kolbe, Madison Area Community land Trust, UW-Stout-SVRI, UW-Milwaukee Occupational Therapy Department, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

Regions/Counties represented: Statewide

- 1: a 1** Inclusive Design Symposium/Meeting
- 1: a 2** Action plan for 2009
- 1: a 3** UD link added to WorkSource Wisconsin
- 1: a 4** State advisory council
- 1: a 5** Initiate Action Plan developed by steering committee

1. b Project: Assistive Technology Maintenance and Repair

Project Description: Individuals requiring AT for employment often face a significant problem with maintenance and repair of their equipment. This is a problem for employers as well, because of the cost to the business in lost work time and productivity. This initiative will research and make innovations in the process of maintenance and repair of AT. The assessment will analyze who is involved, what the procedures are, who pays for maintenance and repair, and what prevents rapid response when repair of AT is required. The research will inform the development of a stakeholder driven action plan for improving access to maintenance and repair.

Project Lead: Samantha Ninnemann

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Project Partners: ATRC, WisTech, Consumers, RESNA.ANSI, DVR, WI Tech College System, Badger State Industries, and NCHSD.

Regions/Counties Represented: Statewide

- 1: b 1** Web-based portal to ATRC

- 1: b 2 AT Standards developed for standards organizations
- 1: b 3 Demonstration of Econometrics to drive policy
- 1: b 4 Curriculum to WI Tech College System and Badger State
- 1: b 5 Report on Symposium V
- 1: b 6 Presentation at AT Expo 2008

1. c Project: Assistive Technology Resource Center

Project Description: Wisconsin citizens with disabilities report that they have limited information about AT used to improve their independence and employment. Persons with disabilities also lack information about how to gain access to the most appropriate AT equipment, funding options, and training across Wisconsin. The ATRC supports the principles of universal design in the creation, use, and access to assistive technologies to enhance independence and productivity for people with disabilities.

Project Lead: Sarah Lincoln

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Project Partners: UW-Stout SVRI, WisTech, AT Vendors.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 1: c 1 WisTech AC input integrated into ongoing ATRC implementation
- 1: c 2 IT Data Sharing Agreements in place
- 1: c 3 Clear, user-friendly AT materials and resources online/hard copy
- 1: c 4 ATRC link directly accessed through other virtual resources
- 1: c 5 1-800 number with access to ATRC and WisTech and collect data
- 1: c 6 Training materials and announcements
- 1: c 7 AT Demos in four regions – report
- 1: c 8 Commitment from stakeholders for the sustainability of the ATRC

1. d Project: Access Training for Assistive Technology

Project Description: AT Access Training in 2008 of this educational project intends to provide information to approximately 500 vocational, long-term care and health care providers about assistive technologies, funding sources for the same and consumer and caregiver training needs.

Project Lead: Ralph Pelkey

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Partners: UW-Stout SVRI, equipment vendors, professional rehabilitation providers, therapists, healthcare associations and Wistech.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 1: d 1 AT Conference
- 1: d 2 Training Materials, Announcements, and Evaluations from all trainings given

1. e Project: Enhancing participation in Employment Settings for AAC Users

Project Description: Communication is essential for success in the workplace, and access to needed communication for individuals who rely on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) often hinges on strategic and sometimes skilled supports of partners (paid and unpaid) around them. Partners in employment settings often change frequently, and there is a need for ongoing, up to date training regarding support for AAC systems. Traditional methods of accessing training are often not available to all partners when needed. Innovative training methodologies, such as downloadable trainings (e.g., podcasts) are needed to assure essential supports for AAC use are provided.

Project Lead: Jackie Wenkman

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Project Partners: UW-Madison Communicative Disorders Department at the Waisman Center.

Regions/Counties: Statewide use after local development

1: e 1 IRB approval

1: e 2 Creation of Training Website for podcast location

1: e 3 AAC systems for 3-5 consumers in work settings

1: e 4 6 Podcast training modules for AAC support in employment

1: e 5 Pre and Post evaluation tools

1: e 6 Lessons Learned Paper

Strategic Priority 2: Improve the number of exceptionally prepared and qualified employees available for the 21st century through the development of a seamless system of education and training, focused on self-determination and natural supports for students with disabilities at all educational levels.

2. a Project: Natural Supports for Youth Birth to 22

Project Description: This continuing project expands the number of students with disabilities receiving the information and skill training necessary to achieve employment goals. Children and youth with disabilities continue to experience lower levels of involvement in activities, organizations and life experiences compared to their non-disabled peers, resulting in a lack of skills that contribute to employment outcomes. In addition, many youth and their families are unable to access employment supports and lack awareness of employment options. This project will help youth realize their career potential by providing training and skill building in leadership, self-advocacy and social interactions and by developing the knowledge of families, schools, employers and the community to envision students with disabilities in the workforce.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Project Partners: Disability Rights Wisconsin, 16 school districts in Wisconsin, UW-Madison, Waisman Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities,

Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative, Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 2: a 1 Summary of Mini-grant School program activities and data
- 2: a 2 On-line training modules with video vignettes on natural supports
- 2: a 3 Training Modules for Families
- 2: a 4 Outline of two-part training package for para-professionals
- 2: a 5 Training materials for service coordinators on helping families set up natural supports.
- 2: a 6 Training materials from Summer Institute
- 2: a 7 Recommendations/Strategies for Implementing Natural Supports

2. b Project: Youth Development and Leadership

Project Description: This project will promote meaningful youth involvement by affording the Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative (WSTI) Youth Leadership Council members an opportunity to provide the youth perspective and voice in groups that serve youth. These meaningful opportunities will provide adults with insight into the unique abilities and strengths of the participating youth, allow for shared decision-making between youth and adults and effect change within the communities and the institutions or systems that are charged with youth's well-being. The Youth Leadership Council will model meaningful youth involvement and leadership which will, in turn, impact effective transition planning in systems and lead to improved employment outcomes for youth with disabilities.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Project Partners: WSTI, DPI, CESA 11

Region/Counties: Statewide

- 2: b 1 Youth Leadership agenda, trainings and Plan for Sustainability
- 2: b 2 Video posted on WSTI Website
- 2: b 3 Annual Conference Materials and Attendees
- 2: b 4 Council meeting minutes and decisions
- 2: b 5 Community of Practice on Employment and Youth Leadership
Minutes and plan

2 c Project: Professional Jobs for Individuals with Disabilities

Project Description: This project is intended to assist a significant number of individuals with disabilities who have graduated from vocational technical schools and four year colleges, as well as terminal programs (law, medicine, PhD) and are currently unemployed and underemployed. Individuals and their families have tried to seek assistance from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and their County Providers to find appropriate employment in the workforce. The primary County network of providers has been funded by community aides for people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, or for people with alcohol and

drug abuse issues served through the Chapter 51 system. The provider network is primarily made up of facility based community rehabilitation programs that provide training, nonintegrated sheltered work, day services, or supported employment. There is a secondary, but somewhat small network of agencies providing community-based supported employment services. Therefore, many providers will not take on such an individual and do not have the expertise in placement or job development for this kind of employment. The potential for engagement in professional careers by individuals with disabilities is complicated and will require a multiple tier approach to system change which could be piloted in the University and Technical System. This project is a pilot designed to see the significance of a “head hunter” working with students with disabilities, who have other supports in place. A study of the efficacy for this practice vs. standard disability placement practice is being completed.

Project Lead: Samantha Ninnemann

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Project Partners: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Madison Area Technical College, Blackhawk Technical College, UW-System, Wisconsin Technical College System.

Regions/Counties: Southeastern Wisconsin

- 2: c 1 Placement of 30 students and positions and salary roster
- 2: c 2 Evaluation report regarding employer contacts and relationships
- 2: c 3 Toolkit for replication
- 2: c 4 Comparison study of students using EL and those independently becoming employed.

2. d Project: Facilitation function social-communication skills with adolescents with Aspergers

Project Description: Development and implementation of a service delivery model for adolescents with Asperger Syndrome that will lead to improved practical communication skills and social competence critical for the workplace. The training and community integration is contracted through the Communicative Disorders Department at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire using a specific model developed by Sacred Heart Hospital.

Project Lead: Sarah Lincoln

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Project Partners: UW-EauClaire, EauClaire MCO; Community Integration Project.

Regions/Counties: Northwest

- 2: d 1 Modified Toolkit to include adults
- 2: d 2 Deployed expanded website
- 2: d 3 Functional Screen Recommendations
- 2: d 4 Transferable Program, implementation Model, Toolbox, and Employer Training Model

Strategic Priority 3: A system of unprecedented collaboration among all service providers, with a person-centered focus and a specific plan for a unified system which serves both employers and people with disabilities, resulting in a more productive work environment.

3. a.1 Project: Expansion of Integrated Employment and Self-Determination in Wisconsin

Project Description: Although the benefits of integrated Employment and Self-determination for people with disabilities are clear, there continues to be a lack of individualized approaches to employment along with a corresponding over-reliance on sheltered and/or segregated work environments. This project aims to increase use of the principles and practices of Integrated Employment and Self-determination in Wisconsin. To make these principles increasingly accessible to all persons with disabilities, this project will work collaboratively with the Wisconsin Key Long Term Care Initiative to expand Managed Care statewide...work with the key systems change initiative in Wisconsin... Expansion of the following: Managed Care, Community Integration Initiative, Developmental Disabilities Initiative, Physical Disabilities Initiative, and Brain Injury Initiative.

Project Lead: Ann Sievert

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Project Partners: Division of Long Term Care; Self-Directed Waiver; Brain Injury Council; Developmental Disabilities Section; Community Integration Initiative; Progressive Industries; People First; UW-Madison Rehabilitation Psychology Department; Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, Institute on Community Inclusion, Creative Employment Opportunities, Work Opportunities in Rural Communities, Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Managed Care Organizations in Wisconsin, Employment Resources Incorporated, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, College of Direct Supports, Porchlight,

Region/Counties: Statewide

- 3. a1 1 Reports, recommendations, and framework for systems change
- 3. a1 2 Outcome based member-centered planning toolkit for MCO's
- 3. a1 3 SDS conference materials
- 3. a1 4 Organizational Change Manual for natural supports, best practices
Member training materials, and trainer materials
- 3. a1 5 Report on College of Direct Support and effectiveness
- 3. a1 6 Video on Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises
- 3. a1 7 Provider toolkit for conversion to integrated services in employment

- 3. a1 8** Module for members to train job coaches and supports through CDS (College of Direct Support)
- 3. a1 9** Report on expansion of Three Legged Stool Model
- 3. a1 10** Materials from regional trainings to educate consumers, families, guardians about integrated employment options, the benefits of work and how work incentives and long term care system and other programs can assist them in obtaining integrated employment
- 3. a1 11** Design and Begin Implementation of plan that will support ongoing, sustainable training and technical assistance in the areas of SDS and Integrated Employment as Managed Care expands.
- 3. a1 12** Materials from statewide training for managed care organizations, providers, consumers, families on strategies for using Self-Directed Supports to achieve desired employment outcomes
- 3. a1 13** Lessons learned/tools and resources developed by Managed Care organizations participating in pathways integrated Employment Projects, targeting systems change that promotes increase consumer choice and promotes integrated employment options in Managed Care organizations
- 3. a1 14** Report of progress/deliverables/measure of success achieved by MCO's participating in the pathways Integrated Employment Projects
- 3. a1 15** Overview Presentations on the option of supported self-employment will be provided to members and stakeholders involved in integrated employment outcomes throughout the state. Training materials and resource information will be developed and distributed to attendees. Monthly written reports will be provided to DHFS on activities by region
- 3. a1 16** Continue to provide full day trainings and team-based technical assistance to MCO, DVR and provider agency personnel during the implementation of person centered business planning. Monthly written reports regarding activities and progress by region will be provided to DHFS
- 3. a1 17** Interactive Listserve and Website (stand alone or linked to APSE)
- 3. a1 18** Data report of service costs and outcomes related to supported self-employment ventures developed through training and technical assistance under MIG project

3. a 2 Project Name: Micro-Enterprises

Project Description: During the 2007 MIG contract year, a manual for consumers and a manual for case managers was developed for the purpose of self-help in developing a micro-enterprise either owned by a consumer and operated at home or owned by a couple of consumers and operated out of space outside the home. This year, the consultant for those manuals will work with communities and MCO's throughout the State to give hands-on technical assistance for the purpose of increasing the number of Micro-Enterprises in Wisconsin owned by people with disabilities.

Project Lead: Ann Sievert

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Partners: Progressive Industries, MCO's, Consumers

Region/Counties: Statewide

- 3a 2 1** Contact log and micro-enterprise plans from MCO consumers who were piloted

3. a 3 Project Name: *Career Planning for People with Brain Injuries*

Project Description: This project is intended to make service providers knowledgeable regarding traumatic brain injury and train them in specific strategies to help persons with brain injury obtain and maintain integrated and competitive employment.

Project Lead: Ann Sievert

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Partners: APSE, VA, Mayo Clinic, Wounded Warriors, Brain Injury Association of America.

Region/Counties: Statewide

- 3.a3 1** Day Long Training agenda's, materials, and evaluations
3.a3 2 Session and materials from presentation on National Webnar
3.a3 3 agendas, materials, evaluations from Statewide training of providers on Career Planning Process specific to Persons with Brain Injuries (Curriculum developed in 2006)

3. a4 Project: *Community Integration*

Project Description: The goal of the Community Integration Initiative is to establish regional support teams that assist stakeholders in their efforts to develop sustainable systems of services and supports at the local level for people throughout Wisconsin who have developmental disabilities. It is recognized that one of the strongest ways that people are acknowledged as valued members of their communities is through the contribution they make to those communities as productive workers, business owners, and consumers. The CII will take the lead working in conjunction with the Vocational Specialist Consultants to develop a sustainable and replicable model for expanding job development in integrated employment for persons with developmental disabilities. Four expert job developers will mentor/train/consult with current job developers to expand and diversify jobs for people with developmental disabilities beyond the typical food and cleaning industries.

Project Lead: Ann Sievert

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Project Partners: Bureau of Long Term Support, Work Opportunities in rural Community, Creative Employment Options, Progressive Industries.

Regions/Counties represented: Statewide

- 3. a 4 1** Agenda's, training schedule, evaluations from training that uses the Job Specialist Training Curriculum for CII teams developed in 2007.

3. a 4 2 Completion of the Best Practice Report from 2007

3. a 5 Project Name: *College of Direct Supports*

Project Description: The intent of this initiative is to join with UCEDD and WCDD in creating a statewide system for consumers who choose self-directed waivers to be sure that their choice of supports is received from a trained and qualified provider. The modules that MIG is supporting are related directly to support on the job and job coaching.

Project Lead: Ann Sievert

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Partners: University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at UW-Madison Wiasman Center, UW-Oshkosh-Career Services, Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, University of Wisconsin-Rehabilitation Counseling and Special Education Department

Regions/Counties: Statewide

3 a 5 1 Job Coaching Module

3 a 5 2 Report on numbers of Consumers using SD Waiver for Supports who were able to use CDS for training of their providers.

3. b 1 Project Name: *Grassroots Empowerment*

Project Description: This initiative is intended to develop the mental health peer support curriculum that was piloted and refined in 2007 to contract-ready standards, conduct returning and new groups among expanded type of sites, and establish strategies for flexible sustainability of the program with leadership by individuals in mental health recovery. Refine Career Path components of principles, contracting/training, wide communications, vending structures, quality methods, and published materials. Include person-centered planning models. Evaluate which Career Path components can meet public and private quality standards. Arrange for credit to be applied to consumers completing CCS-compatible vocation units that meet peer specialist criteria. Research and describe plan for peer trainers to provide Career Path to Recovery in formats including volunteer curriculum, franchise enterprise, etc.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Partners: NAMI, Grassroots Empowerment Project

Regions/Counties: Statewide

3 b 1 1 Progress Reports from Chosen Sites

3 b 1 2 Plan for Sustainability

3 b 1 3 Develop time line for new sites

3 b 1 4 Marketing Plan for Career Path

3 b 1 5 Schedule for publication of units in WI Recovery Clearing House

3 b 1 6 Contract language w/training options

3 b 1 7 Completion of IRB and Research Plan and Pathways approval

3. b 2 Project Name: Career Ladders

Project Description: This project is designed to use a Peer Specialist model to develop and promote a career ladder for persons with mental health and/or substance use issues. It will provide technical assistance, consultation and networking to persons working on certification or higher education to forward the concept of Peer Specialist and Recovery oriented system design. Coordination of educational opportunities and data maintenance will be statewide. The Peer Specialist will partner with the Recovery Coordinator and the Consumer Relations Coordinator in DMHSAS to create and maintain linkages with consumers, peer and stakeholder groups.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Partners: DMHSAS, Recovery Task Force, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Grassroots Empowerment Project, families, State of Wisconsin Mental Health Bureau.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

3 b 2 1 Development of a Sustainability Plan by June 1, 2008

3 b 2 2 Infusion of Peer Specialists in Human Service Agencies

3 b 2 3 Curriculum for the training and education of Peer Specialists

3 b 2 4 Partnership Plan

3. b 3 Project Name: Back on Track Toolkit: Solutions for a Healthy Workforce, Activating Women to Overcome Depression.

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to develop and pilot test an evidence-based toolkit to enhance State caseworker success at helping depressed women seek, obtain and maintain employment. The project will be executed by a multi-disciplinary team organized by the Office of Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton to respond to the Task Force on Women and Depression recommendations.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Partners: UW-Milwaukee Department of Psychology, Lt. Governor's TaskForce on Women and Depression

Region/Counties: Statewide

3 b 3 1 Toolkit for State Caseworkers and Care Management

Organizations or Community Mental Health Service Agencies

3b 3 2 Report on Pilot Use of Toolkit

3 b3 3 Lessons Learned Document and updated Toolkit

3. b 4 Project Name: Model Communities

Project Description: At a time when professional agencies are over-extended and people with disabilities can spend years on waiting lists for services they need today, we must learn how to recognize and strengthen communities' assets. When all people in the community are included, relationships are built that lead to a better quality of life. The

more quality, reciprocal relationships a person has, the more opportunities there are for employment, participation in social and recreational activities, community residential options and more transportation opportunities through car pools and ride shares. Model Communities is designed to identify those strengths and assets of all citizens that lead to a welcoming and inclusive community.

Project Lead: Jennifer Neugart

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Partners: Three Wisconsin Communities, Technical Assistance Provider (Tom Mosgaller) and Research Consultant (Randy Stoecker).

Regions/Counties: Richland County, 2 new sites TBA

3 b 4 1 Application Materials and Job Descriptions for Community Connectors

3 b 4 2 Research Plan and Contract

3 b 4 3 Best Practice Materials

3 b 4 4 Communication Tool for Connectors

3. c Project Name: Regional Initiative

Project Description: This project continues to address local solutions, community based projects, and the involvement of community stakeholders in the role of community connectors. Connections will occur among the various service providers, community members, people with disabilities and their families. Continue the development and implementation of forums for collaboration along with the provision of tools and facilitation needed to foster these new relationships and the development of new programs.

Project Lead: Molly Michels

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Partners: Wisconsin Communities, DVR, DHFS, Independent Living Centers, Wisconsin Technical College System, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Managed Care Organizations, Community Support Programs, WI Recovery Clearinghouse, Long Term Care, Workforce Development, DPI, DOT.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

3 c 1 RFP's for regional grants

3 c 2 Coalition meeting minute, notes, agendas, publicity

3 c 3 Project specific materials/deliverables

3 c 4 Contact Logs, monthly work plans

3 c 5 Training agendas, technical assistance materials

3 c 6 Evaluation Tools and reports

3. d Project: Managed Care Employment Task Force

Project Description: This initiative involves a group of 28 statewide stakeholders appointed by the Administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Long Term Care and charged with developing a comprehensive

set of recommendation to ensure that individuals with disabilities involved in the State's new managed long-term care system have full access to, and support for, integrated, competitive employment. The Task Force meets every two months and has seven issue committees that also meet between each Task Force meeting and involve numerous other stakeholders. Staff to this initiative provide national best practice materials and presentations by national experts to the Task Force so that recommendations are based on a thorough understanding of best practices which exist around the country. Recommendations made by the Task Force will be provided to the Department and will be implemented as part of the statewide roll out of the new managed long-term care system in Wisconsin. The goal is to establish employment as a primary focus within managed care, and integrated employment as the preferred outcome the system should be supporting.

Project Lead: Lisa Mills

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Partners: Division of Long Term Care, Representative for Claimants in Social Security Hearings, University Center for Excellent in Developmental Disabilities, La Crosse County Managed Care Organization, N.E.W. Curative Rehabilitation, Inc., Rehabilitation for Wisconsin, Inc., Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities, Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin, Consumers, Community Health Partnership-Eau Claire, Parent Representative, Bureau of Workforce Programs for the Department of Workforce Development, Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Technical Colleges System, Dane County Department of Human Services, Winnebago County Long Term Support Division, State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Walgreen's Distribution Center, Disability Rights Wisconsin, People First Wisconsin, Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, UW-Milwaukee, Community Industries Corporation, Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc., Grassroots Empowerment Project, Langlade County Developmental Disabilities Services, New Horizons North, Inc., Reach, Inc.

Region/Counties: Statewide

- 3. d 1** Reports and recommendations issued by the Task Force, including a final blueprint report for systems change
- 3. d 2** Minutes, issue papers, and best practice materials from meetings and public comment period
- 3. d 3** Research design/pilot study on measuring the cost effectiveness of integrated versus segregated employment.
- 3. d 4** Plan for implementation of Task Force recommendations.
- 3. d 5** Plan for implementation of statewide data system for tracking integrated employment outcomes within the managed care service delivery system.

- 3. d 6 Plan for development of a comprehensive statewide training initiative.
- 3.d 7 Request for proposal to be used to solicit proposals from sheltered employment providers that wish to shift their organizational focus to integrated employment.

Strategic priority 4 –Employers, policymakers, insurers and people with disabilities are actively and effectively engaged in increasing access to long-term care and other benefits for employees

4. a Project: Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) Evaluation

Project Descriptions: While the three-year evaluation plan has already provided a wealth of information, an extension of some aspects of this evaluation would add value. A substantial base of information is in place. The opportunity to continue in some areas that would benefit from lengthier exploration and to investigate new issues as they arise would only strengthen the effectiveness of the evaluation plan. New topics for extension of MAPP include: follow up survey continuation for twenty-four months, Dis-enrollment data collection, increased investigation of HEC effectiveness, Subgroup evaluation, impacts of MAPP program rules.

Project Lead: Mike Meulemans

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Project Partners: APS Healthcare, Inc.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 4 a 1 CMS Finder File
- 4 a 2 Quarterly Reports
- 4 a 3 Ad hoc reports on special issues
- 4 a 4 Annual Report
- 4 a 5 Monthly program profiles

4. b Project: Work Incentives Benefit counseling (All adults and youth)

Project Description: Through 26 community based agencies a fundamental and critical counseling service is available at no cost for people with disability-based, income sensitive entitlements who wish to increase earnings and savings.

Project Lead: Amy Thomson

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Project Partners: Community-based agencies statewide; Wisconsin Disability Benefit Network (WDBN).

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 4 b 1 Annual Report

4. c Project: Statewide Benefit Coordinator Start-up

Project Description: This project is designed to create coordination statewide for the acquisition and provision of benefit counseling. Wisconsin's Medicaid agency, the Department of Health and Family Services funds and administratively supports several hundred benefits counselors, segregated into three current programs by consumer population. In keeping with the Pathways Strategic Priority 4, the Department will bring these programs under clear, central control through the creation of a classified, permanent Statewide Coordinator position. Policies, practices, training, planning, service goals, outreach and other aspects of these programs will become more uniform, resulting in a fully comprehensive, consistent statewide program with stable funding, a more stable workforce, greater availability of benefits advisement for consumers at all points in their lives and economics of scale that reduce costs. The department intends to fund his position permanently and will address this when planning begins for the next biennial budget for 2010/2011.

Project Lead: Holly Laux O'Higgins

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Project partners: Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), Employment Resources, Inc. (ERI); Wisconsin Disability Benefit Network (WDBN); Wisconsin's Aging Networks; Wisconsin Elder Law Center; Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

4 c 1 Annual Report

3 c 2 Training Curricula and support materials

4. d Project: *National role and Function Study of Benefit Counseling*

Project Description: This project is designed to produce a systematic process for collection of data intended to validate the essential job functions, knowledge and skill domains of benefits specialists. The goal is to establish minimal competencies to practice in this profession, to pave the road for the establishment of a code of professional conduct, standards of practice, specific content for educational and professional development to continuously upgrade the level of competence, and, ensure quality service to the consumers of benefits planning and assistance.

Project Lead: Cayte Anderson

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Project Partners: UW-Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI); UW-Madison Rehabilitation and Special Education Department

Regions/Counties: National

4 d 1 Survey Instrument and Survey

4 d 2 Data Analysis

4 d 3 Final Report

4 d 4 2 Manuscripts for Publication

4 d 5 Presentations for National Conferences

Strategic Priority 5—Design and provide effective and practical incentives for employers to hire individuals with disabilities through education, partnerships, mentoring and legal assistance.

5. a Project: WorkSource Wisconsin

Project Description: The creation and provision of effective and practical technical assistance and accessible, on-going supports for employers who intentionally and successfully employ and accommodate people with disabilities. This is a comprehensive resource center for business and employers. It is intended to address questions and informational needs around recruiting people with disabilities, ADA requirements, job restructuring, available assistive technology, tax credits and other incentives. Information is available via an interactive website and a staffed 800#. Direct assistance is available as well as are facilitated linkages to the many existing resources in Wisconsin and nationally.

Project Lead: Mike Meulemans

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Project partners: University of Wisconsin Stout; Business and Consumer led Advisory and Steering Committees; employers; Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Regions/counties: Statewide

- 5 a 1 Documents evidencing continued and on-going employer and Stakeholder input
- 5 a 2 Training materials and manuals
- 5 a 3 Report on Employer Training outcomes
- 5 a 4 Log of all employer contacts and interactions as consultant
- 5 a 5 Long-term Sustainability Plan
- 5 a 6 Monthly activity reports
- 5 a 7 Report on the Technical assistance hotline

5. b Project: Sensory Impairments Employment Initiatives

Project Description: This projects designed to improve work opportunities for persons with sensory disabilities through collaboration with employers and outreach and training as self-advocates for job-seekers, including students, who are deaf and hard of hearing. Through provision of resources and training by the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) employers will have necessary tools to create and maintain employment opportunities for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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Project partners: Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 5 b 1 WorkSource materials for employers on employment

- 5 b 2 Training for employers- agendas and participation and evals
- 5 b 3 Training Manuals

5. c Project: Mental Health Stigma Reduction

Project Description: Persons with mental illness, like many people with disabilities, are discouraged from gainful employment by the prevalence of stigmatizing beliefs and attitudes as well as systemic and environmental barriers and disincentives. Yet employment opportunities are an important part of recovery, allowing persons with mental illness and their families to live full and productive lives, and to contribute and work in their communities. Research shows that, in addition to providing accurate, evidence-based information, the most effective way to change attitudes and beliefs about mental illness and to combat stigma is through one-to-one contact with a person who has a mental illness or family member who can share their experience.

Project Lead: Mike Meulemans

Contact E mail: meulemj@dhfs.state.wi.us

Contact Phone #: 608-264-9896

Project Partners: WUMH, SMHSA, Eliminating Barriers Initiative (EBI)

Regions/Counties: Statewide

- 5 c 1 Report on survey results from employers
- 5 c 2 Data Collection and Report on Working Persons
- 5 c 3 Reports, agenda, attendees, and evaluation on presentations and trainings

Strategic Priority 6 –Create an informed public and employer community through increased public awareness, strategic outreach, public relations campaigns and partnerships.

6. a Project: Local Collaborations

Project Description: This project seeks to increase consumer awareness by improving the level of cooperation, networking, and information sharing among professionals who work with people with disabilities at the county level. The professionals are part of the long term care system. County pilots will serve as models for future expansion.

Project Lead: Ellen Felix

Contract E-mail: felixes@dhfs.state.wi.us

Contact Phone #: 608-267-7206

Project Partners: UW-Extension, County Professionals, Agencies and Organization Partners.

Region/ Counties: Statewide

- 6 a 1 Agendas and meeting notices
- 6 a 2 Evaluation design and progress
- 6a 3 County Specific names, mission statements, action plans and completed projects.
- 6 a 4 Year end report

6. b Project: Information Dissemination

Project Description: All products and materials will be sent to CMS through Ellen Felix. They will be branded as pathways and credit the MIG Grant. These will be made available in paper and electronic formats.

Project Lead: Ellen Felix

Contact Email: felixes@dhfs.state.wi.us

Contact Phone: 608-267-7206

Project Partners: UW-Extension

Regions/Counties: Statewide