AUDIENCE: Supports Coordinators and Supports Coordination Supervisors

PURPOSE: To advise those SCs who still need to fulfill required training hours for 2016 of some of the available Professional Development opportunities available through the Office of Developmental Programs.

DISCUSSION: As a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), ODP has collaborated with SELN and developed five webinars on the Support Coordinator’s role in facilitating employment discussions.

All five webinars have been recorded and are available on the SELN website:

http://www.selnhub.org/pennsylvania

The webinars available are:

Building Capacity to Support Individuals Seeking Community-Based Employment I – 2015 – 1 Credit Hour

Can be accessed here: https://umb-ici.adobeconnect.com/p7cu4oi3qa8/

The first in the series, this session discusses how the Supports Coordinator’s role is integral and instrumental in moving the employment agenda forward. The session reviews the struggles SCs experience to meet daily compliance requirements and having time to keep the focus on improving outcomes related to employment.
Building Capacity to Support Individuals Seeking Community-Based Employment II – 2015 – 2 Credit Hours

Can be accessed here:  https://umb-ici.adobeconnect.com/p1m6kzu5744/

In Building Capacity to Support Individuals Seeking Community-Based Employment II, participants learn more about how ODP is working to help Supports Coordinators best engage with individuals and families who are seeking meaningful, community-based lives including employment. The webinar includes a discussion on progress being made in this area and ideas for improving the current individual service planning process for the individuals they support.

Competitive Integrated Employment III – 2016 – 2 Credit Hours

Can be accessed here:
https://umbici.adobeconnect.com/p36jmmessl2/?OWASP_CSRFTOKEN=54c36f73fb5d2b2a59f054cab24a4a4e4c8e755cfabe78d83096ff4adea537da

The third webinar in the series continues with an online training about the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program. Three certified community work incentives coordinators presented and answered questions about WIPA.

Building Capacity to Support Individuals Seeking Competitive Integrated Employment IV – 2016 – 2 Credit Hours

https://umb-ici.adobeconnect.com/p1l4e5nbp0h/

Session IV focuses on building capacity to improve employment outcomes across the Commonwealth. ODP is committed to building a support system which assists individuals and families to experience fulfilling employment in the general workforce.

In late October 2015, a new resource, the “Pathway to Employment Guidance for Conversations” (referred to as Guidance for Conversations) was shared with Supports Coordinators (SCs) and Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs). Today’s Supports Coordination role presents many challenges. SCs and SCOs who have been able to adopt new practices and behaviors are helping individuals and families experience better outcomes. The goal is to help Pennsylvania’s SCs and SCOs learn how to use concepts from person-centered career planning to:

1. Improve individual plan meetings and interactions with team members
2. Weave in a focus on integrated employment opportunities where possible
Session 5: Advancing Employment Options for People Supported through ODP’s Intellectual Disability & Autism Services: Using Available OVR Resources – 2016 – 2 Credit Hours

https://umb-ici.adobeconnect.com/p8jqed5k004/

Knowing what services and resources are available through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is critical to advancing competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals supported through ODP’s intellectual disability and autism programs. ODP and OVR released a new joint bulletin (00-16-02) on April 1, 2016 clarifying when to make referrals to the OVR, and what process should be followed when making referrals to OVR.

The fifth webinar provides an overview of OVR services, and focuses specifically on information reflected in the joint ODP-OVR bulletin. The session addresses common questions and the following learning objectives:

- How supports coordinators across different systems can advance integrated employment outcomes for the people we support through the use of available resources, including vocational rehabilitation services
- When to refer an individual to VR, and when a supports coordinator should use various home and community-based waiver services to support competitive integrated employment, or self-employment without a referral to OVR
- How to navigate various systems in the most efficient timeframe possible
- Addressing other common questions related to available services

In order for the courses to count towards professional development, the following conditions must be met:

- The course should not have been used already in 2016 as required training.
- If taken before, the SC and their Supervisor agree that taking a course again would serve as a helpful refresher
- Participation documented by the signing of an affidavit by the SC and their Supervisor being placed in the SC’s training record with the date of completion and webinar topic/session completed.

As always, if there are questions, you may direct them to:

RA-pwodpsctraining@pa.gov