

Job Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center

Targeted Technical Assistance Forum

**Developing a Business Relations Structure: Lessons Learned from VR Trailblazers**

Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX

March 3, 2016

AGENDA

8:30 Welcome and Introductions; Meet the JD VR TAC

Linda Mock, Senior Policy and Program Specialist, Institute for Community Inclusion, School of Global Inclusion and Social Development, University of Massachusetts-Boston

9:00 Objectives for the Day and Overview of Business Engagement Concepts

Jeanne Miller, Director, University of Arkansas CURRENTS

9:30 Panel 1: Three State VR Agency Experiences

Cynthia Fairwell, Business Relations Specialist, Delaware **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Joe Xavier, Director, California Department of Rehabilitation

Denise Verchimak, Director, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

10:30 Break

10:45 Business Relations Units: What We Know so Far from the Demand Side RRTC

Dr. Susan Foley, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Community Inclusion, School of Global Inclusion and Social Development, University of Massachusetts-Boston

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Panel 2: Three More State VR Agency Experiences

Hugh Bradshaw, Employment Services Manager, Vermont **Vocational Rehabilitation Division**

Melinda Paninski & Robert Mejia, Business Relations Team Leads, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Mark Schultz, Director, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation

1:30 Six State Roundtables – Open Forum

Participants will visit one or more state agencies of their choice for an in-depth Q & A session.

2:00 Break

2:15 Six State Roundtables – Open Forum

Participants will visit one or more state agencies of their choice for an in-depth Q & A session.

2:45 Six State Roundtables – Open Forum

Participants will visit one or more state agencies of their choice for an in-depth Q & A session.

3:15 Break

3:30 Alabama’s Story: An Interview with the Longest Standing Business Relations Program

Peggy Anderson, Administrator, Business Relations program – READI-Net, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

Interviewed by Kathy West-Evans, Director of Business Relations, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

4:15 Wrap up

4:30 Adjourn