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Free Webinar: Braided Funding Strategies for Better Employment Outcomes



Braided Funding Strategies for Better Employment Outcomes

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 12:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Developing high-quality employment outcomes requires taking an economic development approach to providing employment services. Providing high-quality employment services also requires being resourceful when developing a number of flexible funding strategies. Come join us as we discuss flexible strategies to fund both individual job seekers and community rehabilitation providers (CRPs) in continuing to advance employment outcomes during such turbulent times.

Corey Smith



Corey Smith is a senior consultant for Griffin-Hammis Associates, Inc (GHA). He provides consultation and training for customers around the country. Smith also works with the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and a number of universities, states, provider associations, community rehabilitation providers (CRPs), high schools, and families. He provides consultation and training on customized employment, supported employment, self-employment, alternative funding, and organizational transformation. Current projects include work with the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania on the rollout of customized employment and the implementation of Employment First in both rural and metro areas. Smith is also playing a lead role in GHA's new project, which involves working with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on improving self-employment outcomes for people with disabilities. In 2014, Smith received the Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Dave Hammis Innovation Award for his work in customized employment and braided funding strategies. Smith has 30 years of experience in directing highly successful supported employment programs in Pennsylvania and Michigan. During this time, he helped a number of organizations transform from facility-based workshop and day services to fully integrated employment programs.

Randy Loss



Randy Loss's professional career started in 1991 in Southwest Pennsylvania as a counselor at a wilderness camp serving school-age youth who were adjudicated. His next steps in his career path were working at a sheltered workshop, being a supports coordinator for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and finally, working as a developer/coach until the late 1990s. He then became a field operations manager for the Pennsylvania Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which assists individuals ages 55 and older with low income in gaining community integrated employment. From 2002 until 2017, Loss was a program specialist at the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) administrative offices. He managed many programs, including supported employment, centers for independent living, and home, farm, and vehicle modifications. He also provided policy and tuition assistance (TA) support for services for veterans and individuals who had one or many of the following challenges: criminal records, traumatic brain injury, and mental health and substance use challenges. Loss was the lead staff member on several state vocational rehabilitation (VR) projects intended to improve employment outcomes for students, youth, and adults with disabilities involved with the criminal justice system. He was the OVR liaison to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the State Board of Probation and Parole. Loss was a council member of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council for seven years. In 2018, he was a national TA consultant working with six state VR agencies nationwide to support transition services for opportunity youth such as those who left school early, were in the criminal justice system, were single and pregnant, and/or were in minority populations. He provided national trainings and presentations to enhance the skill set of VR professionals to better serve students with disabilities and their families. Loss is currently the Employment First lead for the Pennsylvania State Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). His current work with OMHSAS is promoting Employment First within this agency and providing TA to providers, mental health (MH) case management, and community partners on evidence-based practices approaches to vocational services, including supported employment and education for individuals with a diagnosis of serious mental illness (SMI).

Susan Schonfeld



As Executive Director of Community Integrated Services (CIS) for over 30 years, Susan Schonfeld has overseen the agency's remarkable growth from a university pilot program into the region's largest supported employment agency, which serves over 2,000 people annually in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. Schonfeld has become a "go-to" source of information and expertise in employment services for people with disabilities. She has worked on Senator Bob Casey's Employment Roundtable, sits on the board of Pennsylvania's Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE) chapter, and works as a consultant for other states and organizations on implementing effective community-based employment models. Schonfeld was the recipient of the National APSE's Best Practices Award in 2014; it was earned for her unwavering commitment to the best interests of people with disabilities along with her contributions to the Employment First movement. Schonfeld earned a bachelor's degree in special education from the College of New Jersey and a master's degree in psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University.

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