

Moving Employment First Forward in WI at the local & organizational level



What is an EF CAT?

The Employment First Initiative wanted to support efforts to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities at the local level through

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS or
CAT's

Our Starting Point

- LCS has led Community Action Team for 3 yrs.
- Started with a Community Conversation
 - Great way to engage people
 - Any group can coordinate/host a CC
 - Excellent way to kick-off an initiative

Creating a Framework

- Community Conversation framed focus for CAT
- Created 3 sub-committees to target efforts to engage:
 - EMPLOYERS
 - POLICY-MAKERS/LEGISLATORS
 - SELF-ADVOCATES, FAMILY MEMBERS, SCHOOLS

Sub-committees developed action steps and moved forward on plans by meeting about one time per quarter.

EMPLOYERS

- Float and marketing materials for 4th of July Parade – large event in Racine
- Video highlighting success stories and including employer testimonials
- Expansion of employer network for tours, job shadows, work experiences



Policy- Makers/Legislators

- Face-to-face meeting with Mayor
- Participation in Take Your Legislator to Work Day sponsored by the WI BPDD
- Attendance at Disability Advocacy Day in March (also sponsored by the WI BPDD)
- Hosted Legislative breakfast in April 2014
- Will host another this month – *legislators made request to do this again*

Self-Advocates, Families, Schools

- Presence at Racine Unified School District Meet and Greet event to share information with students and families
- Participation at transition events in the area to display and share information about Employment First
- Engagement of school personnel in Community Action Team



Organizational Shifts

- Clarified Philosophy of EF – new applicants told of intention to support integrated jobs
- Training for Employment Specialists
- CESP (Certified Employment Support Professional) Certifications
- Celebration of Employment Successes
- Opportunities for all employees to explore options in the community
- Added E-Now! And a position to support community exploration
- Survey indicated that 90% of supported employees want an integrated job



Wrap-Up

- We want to leave you with our 2014 celebration video

www.lcsraccine.org

- Questions?

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