Project SEARCH: Partnerships
MARO Re:Con The Convention of New Beginnings
November 2015

Overview
• Model Basics
• Partners & Roles
• MI Statewide Initiative
  • Licensing & Technical Assistance Requirements
  • Funding Moving Forward – Next Steps
• Resources & Contacts

Project SEARCH Michigan
Where are we now?
How did we get here?
What is Project SEARCH

- Transition based employment model
- Goal is competitive employment.
- Real-life work experience
- Extensive period of training and career exploration
- Lasting changes in business culture

http://www.projectsearch.us/

Project SEARCH Foundation

- People with disabilities have the right to choose a path toward education and employment. However, while freedom of choice is given, the right to work is earned. **Earning the right to work is dependent upon the student's preparation.**

Simon, Stephen
ADA Quarterly, Fall 1998.

State Level Recognition

- [Image: Health & Wellness Report MI ASD State Plan Autìsm Spectrum Disorders]
Partnerships

MRS MUST BE A PARTNER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATE INITIATIVE FUNDS

Developmental Disabilities Provider

Business

Mental Health

Student

Intern

Vocational Rehabilitation

School-Education

Project SEARCH Michigan

13 Sites

- Bay Arenac – Delta College
- Calhoun – Duncan Aviation
- Dearborn – Henry Ford Community College
- Detroit (2) – Blue Cross & DTE Energy
- Grand Rapids (2) – 5th/3rd Bank & Spectrum Health
- Kalamazoo – Bronson Hospital
- Lenawee – Tecumseh – ProMedica Health System
- Monroe – ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital
- Montcalm Co. – Spectrum Health
- Oakland Co. (2) – Henry Ford W. Bloomfield & Beaumont Health System – Troy
2015-2016 New Sites

- Duncan Aviation - Calhoun ISD
- Henry Ford Village - Dearborn Public Schools
- DTE Energy* - Detroit Public Schools

*started in 2014-2015 meeting licensing & technical assistance requirements

2016-2017 Exploring, Interested, or Targeted Launch

- Ottawa
- Utica / Macomb
- Muskegon
- Midland
- Jackson
- Berrien Springs
- Ann Arbor Public Schools and/or Washtenaw ISD
- Livingston
- Kalamazoo / Western MI University
- Saginaw
- Traverse City
- Wayne – Livonia, Wyandotte
- Oakland County – 3rd site
- Grand Rapids – 3rd site

Benefits of Project SEARCH

73% of Project SEARCH completers are employed
20 hours +
$ minimum wage +

(Based on national data base)
Based on Project SEARCH national data base

### 2015 Employment Outcome Awards

- Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ 110 sites, 26 states, 3 countries were recognized for 60%-100% employment for 2014 completers
- Project SEARCH Employment Definition
  - Employment - Integrated Setting
  - Year Round Work
  - 16 Hours per week or more
  - Prevailing Wage
- **100% - Grand Rapids – Spectrum Health**
- **80%-89% - Detroit Blue Cross Blue Shield**
- **80%-89% - W. Bldg. - Henry Ford Hospital**
- **80%-89% - Kalamazoo – Bronson Hospital**

### Model Basics

Project SEARCH Overview
General Info

- 1997 Cincinnati Children’s Hospital –
  - Erin Riehle & Susie Rutkowski
  - Model: business, education, VR, and mental health

- Licensing Agreement with Project SEARCH Cincinnati
  Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC)
  - Technical Assistance
  - International web-based data system

- Wide mix of rural and urban
- Large districts and very small collaborations

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General Info

- 350+ licensed sites and growing

- 46 states- Find a Program
  - State initiatives

- International
  - UK – England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales
  - Australia, Canada, India, Holland, Israel

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Benefits of Project SEARCH

- Nationally & internationally recognized
- Partnership
- State & National Support
- High standard training
- Inclusion of Disability in Diversity
- Employment Outcomes
Benefits of Project SEARCH – Education Perspective
• Supports State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators
  • B 1 Graduation
  • B 2 Drop Out
  • B 5 Least Restrictive Environment
  • B 8 Parent Involvement
  • B 13 Secondary Transition
  • B 14 Post School Outcomes

Benefits of Project SEARCH for all Partners
• Alignment with the principles of the 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan: A Federal Interagency Strategy
  • Basis for the Michigan transition services redesign
• Alignment with Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA)
  • Larger role for public VR in Transition & Increased coordination with schools
  • Early involvement
  • Increase role in work based learning
  • Connection to PETS

Benefits of Project SEARCH for all Partners
• Alignment of model components to the 2015 2nd Circuit Court Ruling on Internships
• Alignment with the Report to Michigan Recommendations for Systems Transformation Related to Employment First
  • Prepared in support of the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Project & U.S Dept. of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
Partnerships

- Business
- Mental Health
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- School Education

MRS MUST BE A PARTNER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE STATE INITIATIVE FUNDS

School – Work Transition Model

- Program length is one school year
- 10 to 12 student interns - variety of disabilities
- Certified instructor + job coaches
- Last year of high school or school eligibility
- School transportation not provided
- 3 rotations through unpaid internships to develop marketable and transferrable skills
- Business liaison and department mentors offer support and continual feedback to the interns

Outcome is competitive employment
Intern Criteria
• Be at least 18 years of age.
• Have a developmental disability
• Agree the 1-year PS will be the last year of school eligibility.
• Not yet met the requirements for a diploma
• May be diploma or non-diploma course of study
• Meet eligibility requirements for Vocational Rehabilitation (required)

Intern Criteria
• Meet eligibility requirements for mental health services (encouraged - optional)
  • Have independent personal hygiene, grooming, daily living skills
  • Be able to communicate effectively
  • Ability to obtain transportation to the Project SEARCH business site

Intern Criteria
Must Meet Business Requirements
May include-
• Nicotine Policies
• Substance Abuse Screening
• Vaccination / Flu Shot
• Training Modules
• Safety
• Confidentiality
Referral Process

- Students must be enrolled in county ISD or local district
- Work with IEP team/case manager to determine PS as next step
- Follow the site application process
Partnerships

Team Members & Roles

Partnerships

- **Mental Health**
  - Provider Agencies
  - Job Coaching
  - Connection to PCP
  - Follow Along
  - Long Term Supports

- **School Education**

- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
  - MI Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
  - Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)
  - Job Coaching
  - Job Development
  - Job Placement
  - Follow Along

- **Business**
  - Classroom space
  - Departments for Internship Rotations
  - Consideration for Employment

- **Student Intern**

**MRS Must be a Partner to be Eligible for the State Initiative Funds**

- **Developmental Disabilities Provider**
  - **Education**
    - Local or IOD
    - Teacher
    - Transition Support
    - IEP
    - Connecting student & families with agencies

- **Mental Health**
  - Provider Agencies
  - Job Coaching
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- **School Education**

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- **Business**
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Collaboration

- Intern with visual impairment & DD
- BSBP Counselor on team
- Job Coaching in PS & in job placement
- Individual has been employed for 3 years!

Funding: Statewide Initiative to Increase Project SEARCH Sites

Funding Source, Team Readiness, and Application

Licensing and Technical Assistance (TA) Requirements

- Licensing: $300 annual renewal
- Technical Assistance - $15,000 (3 required TA)
- Project SEARCH Program Implementation
  - Program Overview (2 Day)
  - Employability Curriculum, Family Involvement, & Student Selection
  - Employer Education and Internship Development
- Susie Rutkowski – Co-Director, MI TA
Funding

Dept. Community Health → Dept. of Human Services/MRS → District MRS sites

Project SEARCH Sites → Student Intern Supports

Supports:
- Technical Assistance
- Teacher – 1st year
- Job Coaching
- Job Development
- Job Placement
- Follow Along

Funding for Statewide Initiative

$500,000 + Federal Match $55 = $1.8 mil

MRS= Application for Funds

Existing Sites
- Annual Licensing Fee
- Job Coaching
- Job Development & Placement
- Follow Along

New Sites
- Required Technical Assistance for Licensing
- Soft Skills & Job Readiness
- Teacher Costs 100% 1st yr
- Job Coaching
- Job Development & Placement
- Follow Along
Funding Application: MRS District Manager

MRS = Application for Funds
- Collaborative team determines $$$ needs
- MRS District Manager completes application
- Funds for teacher for 1st year
  - Contract MRS & education provider
- Funds for required licensing TA
  - MRS & Project SEARCH contract

Moving Forward: Is Project SEARCH Right for your Area?
Considerations, Contacts, and Resources
Is your team ready?

- Review your data
  - Student numbers, eligibilities, diploma/non-diploma, postsecondary numbers, outcomes...
- Explore community resources - businesses, travel logistics, employment opportunities
- Can you move forward or sustain if the state level funding was not available?
  - Education is willing support the teacher’s salary in full after the first year?
- Are your students/families committed to employment?

Is your team ready?

- Determine interest & commitment of all partners
- MRS and education have agreed to participate in Project SEARCH (PS)
- Fully explore CMH involvement
- Employer is on board
  - Team has a plan for identifying employer
- Team is committed to PS trainings and audit/evaluation of site

Not a linear process

Site launches, collaborative team, interns/families, business is happy... all going great!!!

- Susie in to work with team/state training
  - Opportunity available
- Licensing agreement w/PS taking forever to go thru legal process
- Have committed business
- Education not sure ISD/local district?
- We think we’re interested
- Families not sure about PS as last year
- Need TA training for our team
- Need to start student recruitment
- Think we have business - didn’t work out
- Got all partners, now need business
- MRS on board
- Need education
- Partner
Resources

Learn more about the Project SEARCH Model

- http://www.projectsearch.us

- Project SEARCH – Varnum Award Video
  http://youtu.be/rsHI_4iy1k

Michigan Resources

Contacts

• Cynthia Wright, MRS Consultant
  wrightc1@michigan.gov (517) 281-2738

• Danielle Smith, BS&IP West Region Assist. Manager
  smithd11@michigan.gov (616) 356-0184

• Cathy Schmidt, Special Ed Consultant Oakland Schools
  Cathy.schmidt@oakland.k12.mi.us (248) 209-2504