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MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, DSN Boards
CEOs, Contracted Private Providers
Employment Providers
Day Program Directors

FROM: Janet Brock Priest, Associate State Director-Operations 

DATE: April 10, 2024

SUBJECT: State of the State: Strategies to Improve Services and Revenue

Did you know:

- South Carolina is unique in its approach to supporting people with disabilities toward employment?
- Other states achieve much greater success when supporting people with disabilities toward employment than South Carolina does?
- In fifty-four (54) other states and territories providers like you contract with and are paid by the state's Vocational Rehabilitation agency to support people with ID/RD and ASD toward integrated, community employment?
- SCVRD can take credit for your successful employment outcomes for up to a year after an individual has terminated services from SCVRD?

Recent reviews of DDSN and by extension, you, (as part of DDSN's network of providers), have been criticized of the modest number of people who are DDSN-eligible and competitively employed. This criticism comes without acknowledgement of the uniqueness of the service-provision landscape in the state and without acknowledgement of the many successes that you, as providers, have achieved.

Because being employed can positively impact the wellbeing of most people, learning ways to better support people with disabilities toward employment is an important topic for learning and consideration.

DDSN will host an event featuring a national expert, Teresa Grossi, the Director of Strategic Developments at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University, Indiana's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities. Dr. Grossi's research and teaching background spans many years with a focus on secondary transition services, integrated employment and community living for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Grossi will share proven national strategies and engage state leaders in conversations about the state of employment services in South Carolina.

We hope that you will join your colleagues to learn about possible revenue streams, participate in a brainstorming session, and develop an action plan to meet the growing demands. Executive Directors and CEOs of providers delivering Employment Services – Individual are strongly encouraged to attend along with staff who oversee this service. Space is limited to two (2) staff per agency and registration is required. Each individual attending will need to register individually and please do so by April 22nd. Please note that lunch will be provided. When registering, you will be asked to make lunch choices.

This event will be held:

Date: May 2, 2024
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Location: Embassy Suites Columbia Greystone -Salon D
200 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

[Click Here to Register for the State of the State: Strategies to Improve Services and Revenue](#)

Please contact Susan Davis at Susan.Davis@uscmcd.sc.edu or 803-606-3815 if you have questions.