Cesilee Coulson

Cesilee@gowise.org

State of the Art...
The Art of the State
What is needed to maintain and grow thriving community based services?
• Strong sense of the value of work in everyone’s life and the belief that everyone has something to contribute to the community
• Written values and public documents
• Start and build with the people who are willing
• Follow the energy…the power of ‘Yes’
• Clear mission and vision of everyone working in good jobs
• Strong leadership and continual stakeholder involvement
Know the why...

- One of the best investments government can make
- Participation in our society is harder when you are poor
- Speaks to the human need to contribute and participate - a job, a place in the community and friends
- An issue of quality of life and opportunity - a social justice issue
What strategies are needed when and where will the resources come from?
Build Long Term Relationships

“Building a network of services to insure that all students with developmental disabilities have access to employment, appropriate formal and informal job supports, or additional educational opportunities as well as other needed community supports or linkages.”
Development and Growth

- Core training plus complimentary & specialized training
- Statewide and local goals for outcomes
- Investment in development over time
- Systems need plans to continually evolve to meet the needs of today and tomorrow
- Be Bold– Make strong commitments
What is the role of training and technical assistance? How do you invest in it?
The Role of Training and Technical Assistance

1. Cover the system to include people with disabilities, families, schools, agencies, government, employers and the community.

2. Build awareness through information and education: lots of information.

3. Borrow heavily from anyone and everyone that has a good idea. Look outside of the public social service system too.

4. Train, develop, mentor, advocate and innovate.

5. Targeted approach to capacity building driven by data to maximize resources.
Investing in Training and Technical Assistance

1. Supporting providers to be innovative and competent
2. Funding & contracting strategies promoting valued jobs
3. Build a professional service for employers and job candidates to rely on
4. Collaboration with system partners so youth start work at typical age
5. Partnerships leveraging every possible resource
6. Promoting public and private sector employment
7. Getting the word out and telling the story
How do you support and encourage new ideas?

- Shift the focus from policy/rule to implementation
- Residential vs. Employment
- Fund and grow expertise for Technical Assistance
- Honor and face our fears
- Fund and honor innovation
- Rebrand and develop 21st century case management
- Include families and self advocates at all levels
- Educate your community
Opportunities are created at the national and state levels, but what really happens is in the community. We can change our communities, it is much harder to change a state or a nation.