



Collaboration Discussion

for Vocational Rehabilitation and Intellectual/Developmental Disability state agencies

Introduction

The basic question to address about the relationship between VR and DD systems is: **Why collaborate?** When this question was discussed at the June 2024 network meeting, the common reasons to collaborate came down to **maximizing resources** and **streamlining services** to more effectively meet people's needs. Your state may have additional context-specific reasons to collaborate.

The harder question is: **How do we collaborate?** The June cohort discussed what healthy collaboration looks like and what strategies could be used to initiate and nurture the relationship. This discussion guide offers questions to deepen the expectations and understanding of collaborative partnerships between systems, including Education.

***Use guide to compare notes with cross-agency counterparts. Fill in as many fields possible and consider all for discussion on a regular basis, and particularly during changes in services, staffing, legislation and oversight.**

Agency Name and Contact Name:

Agency Contact Information (address, email, phone):

What do we need to learn about each other to collaborate meaningfully? What information, resources, or aspects of our service model should be shared to enhance service delivery?

What competencies can be jointly addressed, and what training(s) should be available?

How can expectations, values, and goals be aligned?

How will questions, uncertainty and disagreement be handled?

How can the partnership keep individuals and families engaged in pursuing meaningful competitive integrated employment (CIE) outcomes?

Should regular meetings be scheduled to enhance partnership? What kinds of meetings and how often? Who should be involved and why?

Additional questions or considerations?



The SELN is a joint program of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services.

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