



New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU Presents...

Creating and Operating Services to Support Youth in Transitioning to an Employment Goal: IL/VR Collaboration Project

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Presenter:

David Hancox

Executive Director, MCIL

**METROPOLITAN CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING
+
REHAB SERVICES
WORKFORCE CENTERS**



Project History

- 2007 Meeting between the 8 MN CIL Directors and the MN Director of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Challenge to localize our collaboration efforts to best meet needs of consumers
- Resulted in a collaboration that places an IL Specialist in each MN Workforce Center



Project History, cont'd.

- Past Efforts
 - Yes, similar attempts have been made in the past that were not successful.
 - Literature review of past efforts nationwide
 - What we are doing differently

Project Staffing

- 1 IL/VR Team Manager
- 9 IL Specialists
- IL Specialists are assigned to each of the metro area Workforce Centers
- The methodology is to simultaneously address the VR and IL needs of Consumers



Project Funding

Funding for this program

- Initially a 3 year grant
- Funding source – Voc. Rehab program funds
- Now a recurring annualized grant using Voc. Rehab funds
- Approximately \$1.2 million per year, among 8 CILs.

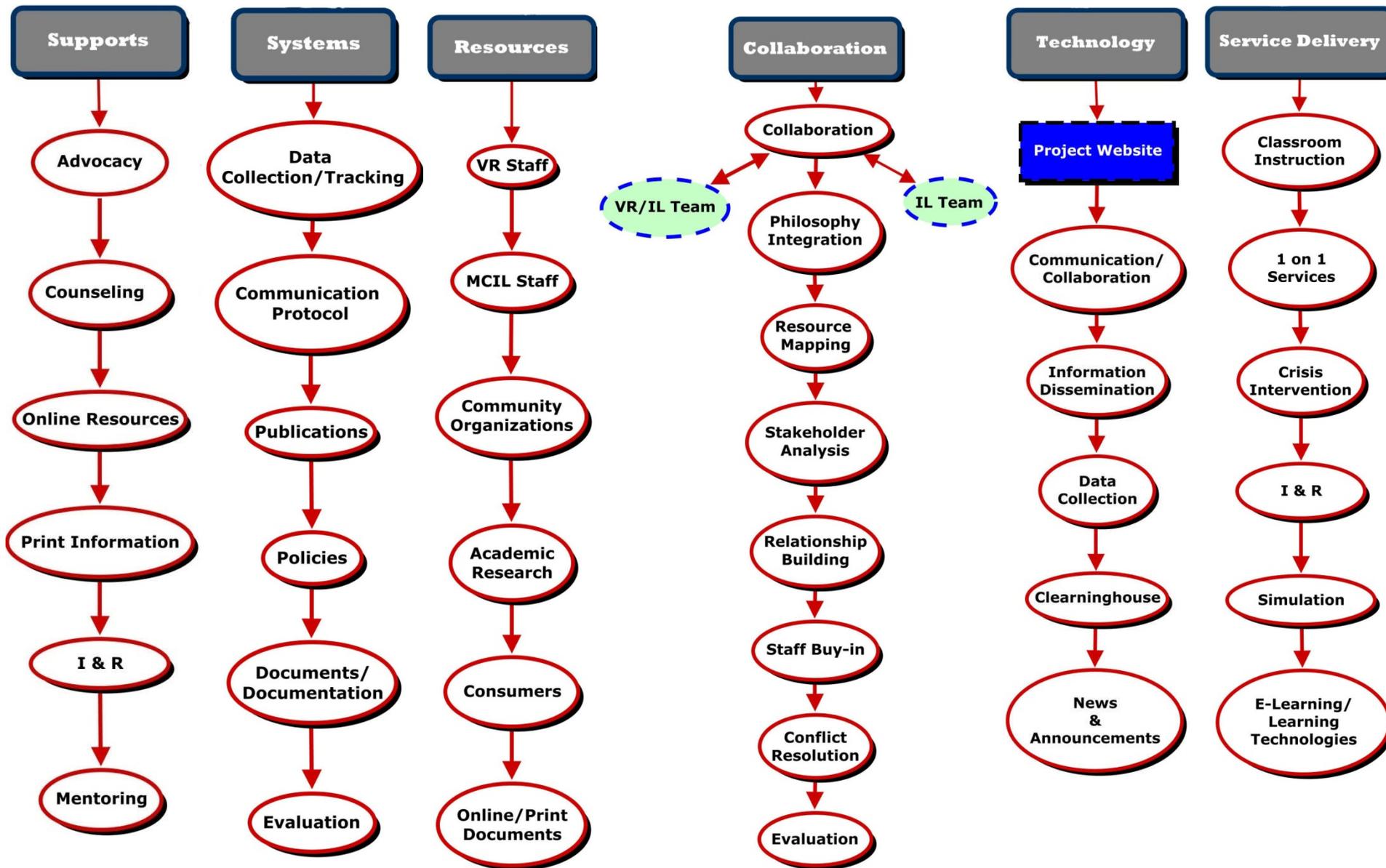


Project Purpose

- **What is the purpose?**
 - “To build local service capacity in mutual partnership to advance the employment and independent living of Minnesotans who require both vocational rehabilitation and independent living to achieve their goals for working and living in the community.”

WFC/IL Project

WFC/IL Project



Services

- Service needs:
 - Transition age, pre-employment, ADA issues, soft skills
- Target population:
 - People with disabilities seeking service from WFC, RS/DEED staff, DEED community partners, others as needs arise
- Service Delivery
 - Staff in center and readily accessible via “right now” status.
 - Between March 2008 and the present, we have served more than 4000 individuals.

Services, cont'd.

- Service Needs:
 - School to work transitions
 - Pre-employment preparation
 - Persons with MI, ASD, Vets
 - Employment related ADA issues
 - Non-vocational skills necessary for successful employment (soft-skills)
 - Others as needed



Partners

- Stakeholders:
 - Individuals with disabilities seeking services from the Workforce Centers
 - RS Counselors - Collaboration
 - MN Department of Employment and Economic Development(DEED)/Voc Rehab staff
 - DEED community partners



Summary: Outcomes

- More than 4000 individuals served in the Metro area since April 2008
- 5% are individuals between 18-22 years
- 57% success rate of successful employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities who participate in the Collaboration services
- 46% success rate of successful employment for Voc Rehab consumers who do not participate in Collaboration services.



Project Layout, 2

- Service Availability
 - IL staff assigned to each center
 - Accessible by cell phone or laptops with anywhere email
 - Understanding of immediacy / “right now” availability



Summary

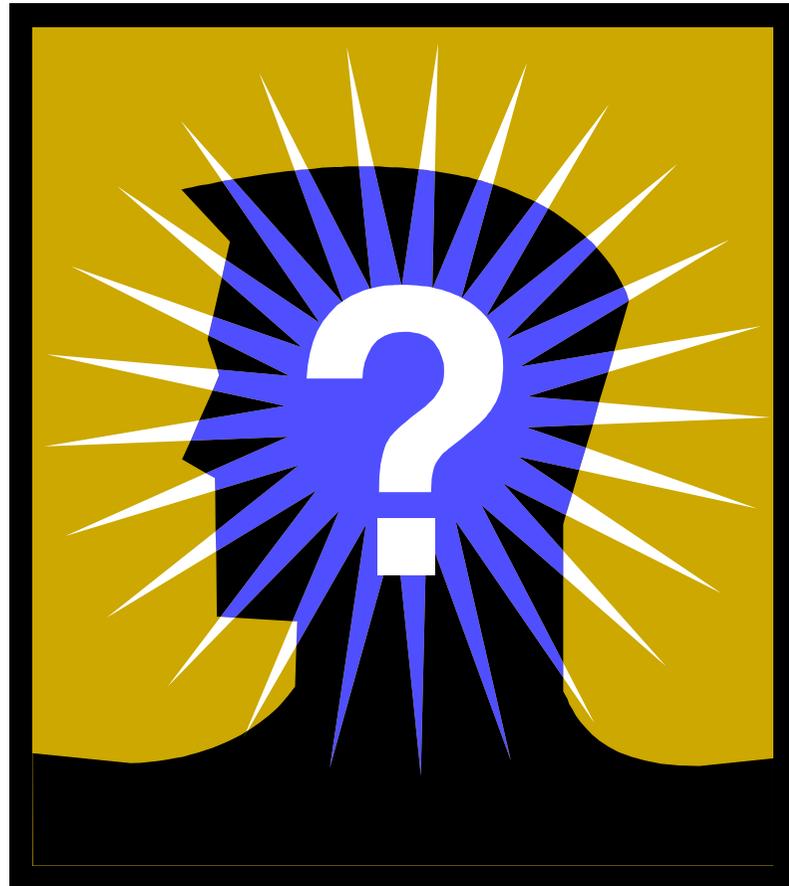
- Purpose:
 - Advance the employment and independent living of Minnesotans who require both VR and IL to achieve their goals.
- Funding:
 - Originally a 3 year grant from R.S. program funds.
 - Continuation funding using program funds
- Past efforts:
 - Yes they have been tried, and tried, we learned, and now we're back with a better collaborative plan.

Summary

This is collaboration, not a competition.



Questions??



David Hancox

Executive Director

Metropolitan Center for
Independent Living

651-603-2012

651-285-7609

Davidh@mcil-mn.org

Purpose of the Project

This program is part of a series of trainings and other activities provided to the IL field by the New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU. The project's purpose is to assist CILs in developing self-sustaining programs that support community alternatives to institutionalization for individuals of any age, and youth transition from school to post-secondary education, employment, and community living.



New Community Opportunities Attribution

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