WIA/DYS: BEST PRACTICE PROFILE

Workforce Area: Greater New Bedford

Program Description: WIA in-school and out-of-school programs

Vendor/Provider: New Directions (Framework services) and MY TURN (vendor) (508) 979-1700

Area of focus: Case management, mentoring, GED and job readiness preparation

Were there specific challenges around enrollment that you had to address:
There are no enrollment challenges. This program will have an extensive waiting list.

Effort that drove this collaboration:
New Directions and MY TURN have been working on developing relationships with DYS providers since 2000-2001 in an effort to meet required numbers for out-of-school enrollments.

Case managers have built relationships with many DYS providers and developed a consistent referral base and method of contacting DYS youth.

Examples of collaboration include: providing job readiness workshops to DYS youth at the Juvenile Resource Center, providing direct referral to summer work program from Juvenile Court, developing relationships with the New Bedford Drug Court and Key Program.

New Directions and MY TURN staff have participated in local collaborations and initiatives such as Pathways to Prevention and P21, which also included DYS staff and juvenile court staff and judges. New Directions and MY TURN staff developed relationships with DYS providers and coordinated seamless referral process. DYS Caseworker II is also a member of the youth council.

Were there special accommodations made in your program design for this population?
DYS referrals may receive additional assistance with the eligibility process. The level of case management and mentoring services provided to all youth participants is determined on an individual basis and many DYS youth require intensive case management and mentoring when first enrolled.

How do you account for and measure DYS youth participation?
New Directions (MOSES) and MY TURN database tracking.

What percentage of WIA youth served is from DYS?
Approximately 12% of our WIA youth are serviced by DYS.

Any Additional information:

Completed by: Wendy Andrade Date: January 3, 2006