

WELCOME TO....

**The Munroe-Meyer
AmeriCorps
Program:**

*A Unique
Program Serving
and Supporting
Persons with
Disabilities...*



Presentation Objectives:

- Overview the History of MMI AmeriCorps at University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Review of the Mission of MMI
- Involvement of Persons with Disabilities in AmeriCorps goals
- Provide Convincing Information as to why AmeriCorps sites SHOULD involve PWDs
- Discuss Recruitment of Persons with Disabilities
- Identify Barriers to Successful Implementation



Why MMI AmeriCorps???

- MMI – Recipient of National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) grant - 2002
- Goal: Consultation and Technical Assistance to existing Nebraska AmeriCorps programs
- Responsiveness but little “action”
- Needed was a “demonstration model” of integrating persons with disabilities into National Service!

Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation of UNMC



MMI AmeriCorps Mission:

- The Mission of the Munroe-Meyer Institute AmeriCorps is:
“To empower the lives of individuals with disabilities through service whether that is service to individuals with disabilities, community resource management, or providing opportunities for individuals experiencing disability to serve others in the community.”

MMI AmeriCorps: History

- National Service Inclusion Project from AUCD/ICI (\$6,000 – 2002-03)
- Nebraska State Planning Grant (\$20,000 - 2003-04)
- AmeriCorps State Formula Grant (\$450,000 – 2004-07)
- State Formula Reapplication and Award (\$525,000 – 2007 to 2010)

Services For, and With, Persons with Disabilities

AmeriCorps Picnic



Special Education Fishing Derby

Provision of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities to Participate in National and Community Service

MMI AmeriCorps Members (Now Staff)



AmeriCorps – Placements for Persons w/ Disabilities @ MMI

- Recreation Department – Teaching Wheelchair Dance & Camper Supervision
- Speech Department –Designing Augmentative Communication Material
- Psychology & Social Work Departments – Providing Counseling & BH services
- Pediatric Dentistry – Interpreter Services
- Patient Office – Reception/Greeting Services for Consumers

Dave – Team Lead

Ann - Interpreter

Mel – Consumer Advocacy

Kathleen – Patient Support

MMI AmeriCorps – Community Service Placements for Individuals with Disabilities

- SANDS Project-Sportsmen Assisting Nebraska's Disabled Sportsmen
- Community Schools – Teaching Art, Teaching Dance and Serving as Educational Paraprofessionals in Inner City Schools
- Behavioral Health Program – Mental Health Counseling
- Goodwill Industries Greeting & Customer Services
- Training Service Dogs - Noah's Dogs

Service Dog Training



Services to Children in Inner-City Schools



Provision of Services to Individuals with BH Disabilities in Underserved Areas of Nebraska, particularly Rural Communities

MMI AmeriCorps: BH Services to Rural Communities -

2004-07 Collaborating Service Sites:

- Easter Seals of Nebraska-York, Nebraska
- Fremont Pediatrics Plus-Fremont, Nebraska
- Good Neighbor Community Health Center and Boys & Girls Homes-Columbus
- Nebraska City Family Medicine Clinic
- Kearney Pediatric Clinic-Kearney, Nebraska
- MMI Psychology Department
- Chadron Family Medicine Clinic-Chadron, Nebraska
- Complete Childrens Health Care-Lincoln
- Gordon Family Medicine Clinic-Gordon, Nebraska
- Crawford Family Medicine Clinic-Crawford, Nebraska
- Crete Area Hospital-Crete, Nebraska



Behavioral Health Assistants
Reaching Out Across The State...

MMI AmeriCorps Collaborations:

Universities & Colleges

- University of Nebraska-Omaha
- University of Nebraska-Kearney
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Chadron State College
- Doane College
- Wayne State College
- Minnesota State
- Creighton University

Partnerships and Community Collaborations:

- Ollie Webb Center – Arc
- Holy Name School
- Millard & Omaha Public Schools
- Salem Baptist Church
- Very Special Persons (VSP) Club
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Omaha Boys and Girls Club
- Girls, Inc.
- St Richards Elementary
- UNMC Dentistry
- Goodwill Industries
- MMI Institute—Recreation, Psychology, Speech Therapy, PIO, Developmental Medicine

Behavioral Health Clinics in Rural Underserved Areas



Kearney Physicians Clinic



Columbus Pediatrics Staff



Crawford Medical Clinic

Provision of Services to Persons Living in Underserved Inner-City Neighborhoods in the Urban Omaha Area

Inner City Schools



Inner City Agency Projects



Sample MMI AmeriCorps Membership

- 7 Full-Time Members – 1700 Hours
(One Person w/ a disability)
- 8 Half-Time Members – 900 Hours
(Three Members w/ Disabilities)
- 8 Quarter-Time Members – 450 Hours
(Four Members w/ Disabilities)
- 5 Minimum-Time Members – 300 Hours –
Usually Used during Summers
- 28 AmeriCorps Slots with 8 (29%) Members with
Disabilities

Crete Area Hospital



MMI AmeriCorps:

Volunteer Service Recruitment
and Opportunities

Planning for Volunteer Days



Chadron Family Medicine Clinic



How to Become an AmeriCorps Program!!!

Corporation for National and Community Service -AmeriCorps Programs: \$88,000,000 +

- AmeriCorps State Planning Grants
- AmeriCorps State Formula Grants
- AmeriCorps State Competitive Grants
- AmeriCorps VISTA Grants
- AmeriCorps National Direct Grants

AmeriCorps Program Design:

- Membership – Not Employment or Volunteer Status
- Living Allowance for Members is Available
- Full, Half, Quarter, Minimal Time Members
- Educational Award (after completion)
- Provision of Service – NOT Clerical or Administrative Tasks



South Omaha Boys & Girls Club: Lead Education Day



Summer - Camp Munroe Participants



Provision of Counseling Services



AmeriCorps Programmatic Start-Up Challenges

- Finding "Service Sites" for Members
- Selling Members as "Value-Added"
- Assuring Site Supervisors about ADA Requirements and Accommodations
- Finding Members
- Matching Skills to Site Service Needs
- Host Site Agreements and Training

AmeriCorps Administrative Start-Up Problems for UCEDDs

- Personnel Departments
- Payroll Departments
- Members are NOT Employees
- Criminal Background Checks
- Services & Positions may NOT be Comparable to "Other" Staff
- Adequate Work Space and Accommodations

"Typical" Agency Concerns:

- Concerns about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Concerns about "drain" on existing staff time for supervision
- Concerns about "capabilities" of persons with disabilities



Addressing Agency Concerns

- Key: Initial Assessment of Strengths of the Individual!!!!
- Address ADA Architectural Problems (Bathrooms, Ramps, Doorways, etc)
- Work with Collaborating Agencies w/o Barriers
- Use "League of Human Dignity" to Advise and Amend Barriers
- Train Supervisory Staff on Expectations

Problems with Recruiting Persons with Disabilities

- Concerns from persons with disabilities about impact on benefits
- Inability to assign "clerical tasks" to members in AmeriCorps
- Concerns re: Transportation
- Few "Models" to demonstrate how it CAN be done!!!!



Addressing Recruitment Issues

- Approach Agencies Currently Serving Persons with Disabilities (QLI, League, Goodwill, University Offices on Disabilities)
- Don't be Afraid to Consider Individuals who are Receiving Disability Benefits
- If Employing, Consult with Benefits Managers about Stipend Limits & Effects
- Provide a Supportive, Social Environment
- BEST Recruitment = "Word of Mouth"
- Address Transportation "Options"

Benefits of AmeriCorps Membership for Your Agency!!!

- Primary benefit – Increased and improved services FROM persons with disabilities
- Secondary benefit– Increased and improved services TO persons with disabilities
- Tertiary benefit - Increased ability to expand into New areas
