

## American Indian Focus Group March 12 and March 28, 2019

### Questions with answer summaries:

1. Ask the group to tell you about a recent success they've experienced and how it made them feel.

#### Answers

- a. Housing is an issue, has to move by Sunday, but does have a place lined up
  - b. Working under the table, trying to go legit and enrolled in therapy
  - c. FAST is very energizing and the staff are very resourceful
  - d. Success in helping mother with her disability
  - e. Going to school and recently had a job...looking now
2. How would you describe your experience so far with employment services in general?

#### Answers

- a. Really good, FAST counselor came to my house to assist with needs
  - b. Just met counselor a few months ago, need to update plan
  - c. Changed a lot over ten years...much better now and appreciate resources available
3. What does success look like to you?

#### Answers

- a. Always had hopes and dreams, now more like a blurred vision
  - b. Focus on children
  - c. Want to show kids success...want to be successful
  - d. Worry about kids...need to help my daughter
  - e. Working with the Indian Parent Committee
  - f. Sharing culture and mentoring youth
  - g. Go to school to show children it can be done
4. What MFIP services or requirements are standing in your way of that success?

#### Answers

- a. Worrying. Me worrying about my kids
- b. Mental Health gets in the way.
- c. Daily things needed that I don't have
- d. Diabetes is having an effect on depression
- e. Trouble connecting...poor communication
- f. Need more lead time to meet with staff

5. How, if at all, has your connection to MFIP services strengthened your family?

Answers

- a. It hasn't
- b. Must help self before I can help others
- c. Good if services are equal to everyone
- d. Mental health services are really helpful

6. What employment retention skills do participants need/learn and what services are currently offered or should be offered to help with employment retention?

Answers

- a. Financial Literacy
- b. Mock interviews
- c. Career assessment

7. What are reasons (individual and societal) for, or for not, obtaining employment?

Answers

- a. Lack of education
- b. Lack of self-confidence
- c. Tough to get consistent employment with benefits. We're used and abused
- d. Been through things in family
- e. Family issues taking time away from employment goals

8. What are reasons (individual and societal) for, or for not, keeping employment?

Answers

- a. Treated unfairly
- b. Employer needs to learn who she is
- c. Employers don't care.

9. Have you experienced cohort (group) activities in workshops and other programs that meet as a group over several days, weeks or months? If so, please describe your experience.

Answers

- a. Yes, a good thing
- b. Really enjoy and good for keeping on track
- c. Others hadn't experienced cohort activities

10. Are the employment-related services you are receiving meeting you and your children's expectations? Tell me how.

Answers

- a. Yes, ask good questions
- b. Push forward
- c. Need to meet more often or at least meet

11. What have been the most impactful aspects of the MFIP employment services?

Answers

- a. Communication is good about all the FAST resources
- b. Difficulty connecting so not sure

12. Imagine you run all of Ramsey County Workforce and Social Services programs. What would be the first thing you would change about MFIP?

Answers

- a. Get people services they need
- b. Make sure the one's trying to improve are prioritized
- c. Make things visual...we're visual people
- d. Do not automate...need relationship