

Employment First Strategic Plan Development
BJ Tatro Consulting

The Integrated Employment Standing Committee established a budget of \$15,000 to develop a strategic plan for an Employment First initiative including contracting with a consultant to facilitate sessions. B.J. Tatro, Ph.D., and the Employment First Core Team are nearing completion of the planning process.

Over the course of 16 months B.J. Tatro has facilitated monthly and bi-monthly Core Team meetings to develop Employment First values, beliefs, and guiding principles. A broad coalition of 23 stakeholders has provided input and direction.

B. J. Tatro has done a remarkable job as facilitator to help guide the planning process. Based on the original allotment of \$15,000, there was \$2,175 remaining through December 31, 2014. Core Team meetings held in January, February and March, 2015 resulted in additional consulting fees which exceeded the budget by \$2,775, for a total of \$17,775.

The draft of the Employment First Strategic Plan was released on April 29, 2015 for a 45-day public comment period. Measurable goals and timeline, and an action plan identifying stakeholder roles, responsibility, and timeline will need to be added and will be important to the overall success of the strategic plan. These items will require additional facilitation by BJ Tatro.

This is an important employment initiative, directly related to one of our 3 goals, and positions the Council to take a leadership role to bring about systems change and help increase opportunities for integrated employment. Additional funding is requested for BJ Tatro Consulting to assist with completion of the planning process.