The Coaches’ Peer-Learning Network supports area success coaches and strengthens the client referral process by creating opportunities for peer-learning, increasing access to community resources, and strengthening relationships with providers. Coaches work together to identify solutions to barriers and advocate for systems change.
In November 2015, Project HOPE started the Coaches’ Peer-Learning Network to provide a place for coaches to learn about community resources and network with other coaches. Since then, the network has grown to include individuals from multiple social service sectors, and today the group continues to learn about resources and how to use their voices collectively to affect systems change.

The network meets monthly for a brown-bag lunch discussion on various topics informed by the coaches. Upcoming topics include:

- mental health
- substance abuse
- motivation and goal-setting
- intercultural communication
- tools to counter workplace stereotypes
- avoiding burn-out

Key outcomes of the network include:

- 20 coaches learned about Northeast Iowa Community College programs to connect their clients to education and living-wage employment.
- Coaches learned about ex-offender re-entry into the workforce and will participate in an employer conference in February 2017 on this topic.
- Representatives from Express Employment joined the network, providing coaches with employment and career preparation resources.

What is a success coach?

A success coach is a professional working with youth or adults on education, career or self-sufficiency goals. The Coaches’ Peer-Learning Network is open to social workers, case managers, coordinators, advisors, counselors and teachers, along with any other professional working to connect individuals to resources to help them achieve their income, employment or educational goals.

The term “coach” honors the important work these individuals do in developing personal relationships to mentor and guide their clients toward success.

Network members

- Re-engage Dubuque
- Dubuque Community School District
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- IowaWorks
- Family Self-Sufficiency
- Four Oaks
- Express Employment
- Circles Initiative
- Dubuque Rescue Mission
- Salvation Army