



Department for Aging And Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)
Employment Service Organization Steering Committee (ESOSC)

DARS Central Office, Richmond, Virginia
1st Floor Conference Rooms (also see VTC sites below)
Tuesday January 12, 2016 10:45 AM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Tonya Fowler, Linda LaMonica, John Brauer, Stephanie Lau, Megan Bergan, April Pinch-Keeler, Marshall Henson, Jason Harper for Sharon Bunger, Mike King, Phil Nussbaum, Nova Washington, Dan Reichard, Chuck McElroy, Lance Wright, Greg Ellison, Emily Gebhart, Paul Atkinson

Members Absent: Gary Cotta, Sharon Bunger

Guests Attending: Joanne Ellis, Dave Wilber, Heather Norton

VTC:

DRS Staff Attending: Donna Bonessi, Kathy Hayfield, Matthew Deans

10:50am – Full Committee Call to Order

Robin Metcalf

- Introductions

- Reviewed and approved Draft Minutes from October 20, 2015 meeting

DRS Directors Update

Kathy Hayfield

Kathy Hayfield reported on legislation that DARS has submitted for review by the 2016 General Assembly. This legislation conforms the Code of Virginia to the Federal Law, specifically around WIOA. Kathy reviewed many of the changes and encouraged the ESOSC to review the legislation when it is posted.

Bill # 740

Patron Yost

Ms. Hayfield announced that Liz Smith retired recently from DARS and that Catherine Harrison has taken over Policy and the Legislative functions. DARS Quality Assurance and Analytical Services staff will now be working with DRS Support Team and report to the DRS Director. Scott Fraley also retired. He and Tim Olive had been working in the field to do quality reviews of the field.

DARS has been involved in Executive Order 46 efforts. We plan to include ESOs as the work progresses. There's a section dealing with the goods and services ESOs have available for purchase by the Commonwealth; Donna Bonessi recently sent out a survey of ESOs to collect information about goods and services available for purchase by state agencies. DARS has received 10 responses. We'll be compiling this and working with DGS and other state agencies to figure out how best to promote ESOs.

Ms. Hayfield discussed the current status of the waiting list. Presently there are about 2500 people on the waiting list. The length of time someone is on the waiting list has decreased to under 90 days and most often closer to 60 days. As of January 1st those that applied prior to October 30th have been able to be brought into services. February 1, we hope to bring a month or two additional into services. Concerns currently are those that are Non-MSD (Category 2, 3 and 4). This is one of greatest needs. We are hearing that many employers are telling us they have jobs but don't feel we have people available for the jobs.

Over the last few years the GA has appropriated an additional 5 million dollars for the VR program. Since 2009, the VR case service budget has increased by 8 million dollars per year. Approximately 60% of all VR case service dollars are spent in Supported Employment with ESOs.

Chuck McElroy asked if we have received any feedback regarding the Employment Services report. Kathy stated there has not been any feedback about the report from the General Assembly. The report was submitted in November.

The Report can be found at:



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<http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/4d54200d7e28716385256ec1004f3130/1633cc22a9f8a93485257e43005f3f5d?OpenDocument>)

Funding Sub-Committee Report:

The funding sub-committee reported that ESOs are still hearing that funds are limited. Kathy reported that there are funds to serve people. Funding is stable and each office is receiving a set amount of funds each month. District Managers have the ability to move funds between offices as necessary. DARS management is encouraging field offices to utilize internal DARS staff for appropriate activities such as resume development, obtaining an ID. Rather than paying an ESO to do those services.

The subcommittee asked that Barbara Burkett join us for the next meeting to discuss information available that may be useful to ESOs.

Heather Norton Reported that the DOJ hearing scheduled for today was canceled. The Commonwealth and the US DOJ have agreed to further implementation dates. She further reported that Adam Sass has resigned his position as of Thursday 1/29. Ms. Norton asked that if you have not submitted your employment data reports to please send them to her, they are due January 30th but she would appreciate early submissions.

Introduction to Business Development Managers

Dale Batten and the BDMs joined the meeting and discussed their initiatives to work with clients and ESOs in a more collaborative way.

Introductions:

Beth Groff: Covers the DRS offices of Farmville, Danville, South Boston, and Petersburg.

Melissa Edmonds: Hampton Roads District

LaPearl Smith: NOVA and Rappahannock Districts.

Wes Seaton: Capital District and Warsaw Office

Nate Mahanes: Blue Ridge District:

Peggy Hurley: Southwest District

Public Policy Sub-Committee:

Lance Wright reported that the group completed the DRAFT version of the LTESS/EES policy and procedure. This is an addendum item requiring Documentation for LTESS/EES. Monthly summaries will no longer be required. However, daily case notes will be required. Donna Bonessi will send the draft policy to the whole committee along with the minutes.

Nominations Sub-Committee:

5 members are scheduled to rotate off in June 2016. 4 are from the nominations sub-committee. There may be a need to ask for additional support from outside members to review the nominations if Sub Committee members are nominated to be reappointed to the ESOSC. The Funding Sub-Committee agreed to review the nominations in this situation.

Public Comment: None provided.

Meeting Dates 2016 – April 12th, July 12th, October 18th

Meeting Adjourned: 12:21pm