

Division of Rehabilitative Services
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Employment Services Organization Steering Committee (ESOSC)
April 08, 2014 Meeting Minutes
DRS Central Office

Members Present: Robin Metcalf, Rachael Rounds, Sharon Bunger, Marshall Henson, David Wilber, Thalia Thompson-Clement, Michelle Howard-Herbein, Megan Berger, Heather Norton, Chuck McElroy, Phil Nussbaum, Lance Wright, Dan Reichard, Natalia Yu, Mark Keith, Nova Washington

Members Absent: Gary Cotta, Linda LaMona, Tonya Fowler, Greg Ellison, Paul Atkinson Jr,

Guests Attending: Carmen Mendez, Diana Messer, Russell Ray, Karen Tefelski, Rob Froehlich, Evan Jones, Joanne Ellis

DRS Staff Attending: Donna Bonessi, Carrie Worrell, Commissioner Rothrock, Ella Barnes, Matthew Deans

Call to Order

Megan Bergen, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and asked all present to introduce themselves starting with the Committee members.

Draft Minutes Review and Approval:

A motion was made by Chuck McElroy and seconded by Dave Wilber to approve the minutes from last meeting as written. The minutes were approved and are available on the ESSP Website under Minutes at <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/minutes.htm>

Commissioner Rothrock Comments:

Greeted the ESOSC and expressed appreciation for the board members that have served on the this committee and have now rotated off recently thanking them for their service to the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Rothrock provided an update regarding budget talks between the House and the Senate. Proposal from the Senate have included a \$500K increase for LTESS. Kathy Hayfield is at CSAVR in Washington today and she will be sending out some key data 1752 successful closures (28% increase). We have Priority 1 and Priority 2 Categories open, and we're going to allow the folks on the Category 3 waitlist off without opening up this category for new cases. \$9.3 million has been spent this FY up from \$9.2 million from last year. Critical data reflects the success of our clients and our ESOs. We owe a lot of this success to the work that our ESOs have done to help increase our successful closures. We've done a tremendous job utilizing data to make better decisions about how to be more efficient.

Several of our ESOs are going from a Sheltered to a Community integrated employment, ARC Southside, Didlake, Linden Industries.

We're excited about Heather Norton moving over the DBHDS and continuing our efforts to implement the Employment First initiatives.

Dr. Hazel has brought on new staff that have come from Medicaid, who both have an extensive and impressive background.

Ali Farruk, an at will employee, has joined the DARS team focusing on Adult Abuse, Dementia Studies and making our website more user-friendly. We will also be getting another at-will employee for the aging program.

GWU TACE Update:

Rob Froehlich gave an update regarding TACE activities . ACRE- provides competency based training for employment services. The process of curriculum validation is currently under way, hasn't been updated since 2004. The first two curricula have begun the review process.

TACE Center – Completed final cohort of ACRE certificate training under this current grant cycle, what happens moving forward is still to be determined. The deadline 9/30/14 is coming up and there is a great deal of things that need to occur before we'll know the next step.

Sub Committee

Funding - Phil, things are tied up with GA and we're in a wait and see mode, no report due to not meeting.

Public Policy – Lance, We have not met, but there's a lot going on at the GA. Opened it up for other people to share based on their efforts. LTESS/ESS audit suggested we create policy related to guidelines by 9/30/14. Heather Norton, New DD Operations Manager at DBHDS will be working with the Employment Health Support Networks, REACH program, Crisis intervention, and Autism as a whole. She is responsible for “operationalizing” the settlement agreement utilizing the best practices. Start May 12th, 2014, leaving Chesterfield County May 9th.

Nominations Committee: Sent out a letter calling for nominations, we've received 8 letters and meetings will occur shortly to discuss and make recommendation for appointments/reappointments. Thalia is holding a VACCESS Appointment and that position will be reappointed by VACCESS not the Nom Comm.

LTESS/ESS – System changes, cyber security, updated the secure login adding security questions and ways to reset user-id/password if they needed. They can now list names and PID in the system due to their security parameters implemented. No problems or issues so far.

Additional changes are forthcoming regarding year end processes. We anticipate that vendors will not have to re key data in to the system in order to receive payment for reallocations.

Legislative Updates – Continue to struggle with the SWAM issue. DARS gets calls from new Small Business and Supplier diversity for more information. It continues to be a challenge.

Public Comments

None

New Business-

Adjourn: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM

2014 Meeting Schedule

July 8, 2014

Oct 21, 2014