



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 April 12, 2016 10:45 AM
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Gary Cotta, Paul Atkinson

Guests Attending: Joanne Ellis, Dave Wilber, Heather Norton, George Homan, Evan Jones, Chris Lavach, Karen Tefelski, KK Stroop, Chrissy Johnson, Maia Browning, Alana Abbott, Scott Fraley, Mauna Flippen

DRS Staff Attending: Donna Bonessi, Kathy Hayfield, Sherrina Sewell, Dale Batten, Richard Kriner, Mark Peterson

10:45 am – Full Committee Call to Order

Robin Metcalf

- Introductions

- Reviewed and approved Draft Minutes from January 12, 2016 meeting

DRS Directors Update

Kathy Hayfield reported that categories 1, 2 & 3 are open. Prior to April 1, 2016 there were 1000 people on the waiting list and as of today there are approximately 576 people on the waiting list. The agencies goal is to keep MSD - Category 1 open.

Overall expenditures have been down this FY compared to last FY at the same time. Expenditures with ESOs continue to be about 65% of all expenditures in case services.

We have 1700 Successful closures to date for this performance year. At this point in time we can project that we will have 3600 successful closures. Our goal is 4000.

Current average hourly wages are \$10.06 per hour. However average wages for clients employed through services with ESOs is \$8.50. WIOA changes how hourly wages are reported. We will now be reporting on the median hourly wage rather than the average hourly wage.

We will not be recommending a rate freeze for FY 2017.

Waiver Updates:

Heather Norton updated the group to the current status of the Waiver redesign.

Legislative Updates

APSE – Dan Reichard reported that APSE had several items of interest this session LTEES Increase, SAME, Waiver Redesign and Project SEARCH. LTESS funds were increased by \$375,000 beginning in FY 2017.

Virginia Goodwill Network – No report

vaACCSES – April Pinch Keeler reported that updated SWaM Legislation passed making DARS ESOs eligible to compete in the state system; Waiver Redesign - Worked to stop some of the changes and Delay some others. Worked on ensuring Community Engagement remained; LTESS Increase

Staff Updates - Donna Bonessi reported a few staff changes in the DRS-Support team. Cathy Staggs is the new LTESS/EES Support Specialist and Matthew Deans has rejoined the field in the Chesterfield office.

WISA/WIPA Updates



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David Leon DARS reported; DARS no longer will allow WIPA project staff to bill for WISA services. We will continue to participate/purchase in WISA Services. Staff associated with WIPA Project are no longer on the WISA List. This change is being modeled on other states. We spent \$500,000 on WISA service. Although DARS is longer able to sponsor WISA training, Virginia organizations are still able to utilize a discount for the training.

Mike Klinger can assist individuals who are going through the training.

Funding Sub-Committee Report:

Phil Nussbaum reported that the Funding Sub Committee assisted with nominations for FY 2016. Recommendations will be sent to Commissioner Rothrock for approval. The committee asked that Barbara Burkett attend the next meeting. A GoTo meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 10:00 to review Decisions with Data.

Public Policy Sub Committee Report:

Lance Wright reported that the committee reviewed the documentation requirements for LTESS funded services and approved the requirements. Indicators of stability will be removed from the policy. This section made the policy confusing and is a VR policy not a LTESS/EES policy.

Nominations Sub-Committee:

Joined funding subcommittee to review nominations

Public Comment: None provided.

Meeting Dates 2016 –July 12th, October 18th

Meeting Adjourned: 11:55pm