



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
Tuesday July 8, 2014 9:30 AM
Minutes

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, Mark Keith, Nova Washington, Gary Cotta, Linda LaMon, Tonya Fowler, Greg Ellison, Paul Atkinson Jr,

Members Absent: Natalia Yu

Guests Attending: Diana Messer, Russell Ray, Karen Tefelski, Rob Froehlich, Joanne Ellis, Lance Wright, Bob Schmidt, Steven Stern

DRS Staff Attending: Donna Bonessi, Carrie Worrell, Kathy Hayfield, Ella Barnes, Matthew Deans, Joe Ashley

9:34 -- Call to Order

Robin Metcalf

Introductions of the Steering Committee, VTC Attendees and visitors
Reviewed and approved Draft minutes of April 8, 2014 meeting

DRS Directors Update

Kathy Hayfield

Kathy Hayfield updated the committee on the state of the VR program. She stated that there are 800 more successful employment outcomes than last year at this same time. SE comprises about 60% of total case service budget (10.5 Million), second highest is Training (1.5 million). Other positive indicators are:

Competitive Employment Closures – last year was 95%, up this year to 97%

Category 1 and 2 remain open at this time.

Hourly wages have dropped from \$10.19 / hr to \$9.55 hour from May 2013 to May 2014. The average hourly wages have been trending down every month for two years – this is occurring in every region and every population group.

Ability One employment positively affects average wage outcomes. It was suggested that it may be useful to track these closures. DRS staff agreed to look into this (a check box was added in AWARE to track August 6, 2014)

Ms. Hayfield informed the group that she is now involved in the bi-monthly DBHDS meetings with the DOJ settlement team.

ROI Update

Bob Schmidt (UofR)

See Attached presentation

The presenters asked for a small group to work with them regarding data. Michelle Herbein, Lance Wright, Phil Nussbaum, Joanne Ellis and Chris Lavach agreed to sit on a short-term committee.



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GWU TACE Program Update

Rob Froehlich and Maureen McGuire-Kuletz

USDOE/RSA currently funds 10 TACE centers across 50 states and territories. GWU covers Federal Region 3, providing services to State VR, State Rehab Councils, SILCs, CRPs. Recently RSA released an NPP to replace the TACE centers with one centralized TACE center to serve *Job Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center*. The intent is to have this one TACE center work with 16 states around the country on the specific issue of Employment.

As a result GWU will no longer be providing services as a TACE to the VR agency effective October 1st. TACE has been involved in Collaborations conferences, no-cost online continuing education trainings for CRC credits. ACRE certificates for training and about 300 individual certificates have been issued at no cost. They also work with individual needs as identified on by VR agencies and their partner such as ESOs and issues related the Federal Monitoring, i.e. Integrated Employment Settings. They have also facilitated the process of developing the ESO outcomes Report.

The intent of this project is to work with 16 states only; the other states will not receive services from this new entity. They are not clear as to how the selection of the 16 is made.

You can send in comments related to the NPP through July 21st.

Decision was made for the ESOSC to send a letter regarding not supporting the NPP. Robin Metcalf, Chair will sign the letter on behalf of the committee

Collaborative Programs with Schools

Donna Bonessi

Donna Bonessi asked the group what types of collaborative programs they have with schools.

Some Programs mentioned were:

Didlake – Summer Youth (collaboration between DRS, Alexandria City, Job Link) 8 week internship with Didlake Job Coach support.

PRS Inc. – CSB, Fairfax Schools and DRS (quarterly staffing with students that are coming into the program earlier than in the past, providing additional mental health skill building services, providing a more holistic approach.

Goodwill of the Valleys – School to work program, multiple school districts and counties involved. Students work half days in local businesses and go to school the other half day.

WorkSource – Schools system referrals from schools for “at-risk” youth, two full-time job coaches, 100 students are placed.

RRTC – Students are working through ACEIT.

Wright Choices– Helping the schools develop their own group models, work experiences in the community to help school districts.

Hanover CSB– MOU with schools, school coaches do Situational Assessments, and CSB will do the placement and training services after graduation.

ARC of Southside – Services provided to school students for assessments and DARS is involved.



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MVLE – School system, ESO and DARS transition management program for students exiting the school system to assist with successful transition into community.

Stand-Up– Prevocational Job Seeking Skills training for the last 5-6 months paid for by the schools (7 counties) 60 students a year.

Organizational Change Roundtable

Donna Bonessi

DARS is aware that organizational change is going on throughout the state. Discussion around using roundtable discussions as a benefit to shared learning for those programs undergoing change. Some committee members discussed what changes are taking place in their organizations. Some programs are shutting down their Center-Based services; some programs are shifting services to community based services.

Donna Bonessi will plan for a roundtable discussion re best practices with Situational Assessments after the October 21st meeting.

ESOSC Sub Committee Assignments

Donna Bonessi

The two committees merged 3 years ago and developed the sub-committee structure. Members on the committee have remained on these since inception. Donna will send out the sub-committee names and ask for interests of those who want to change their assignment.

Michelle Herbien recommended that we hold subcommittee meetings prior to the full committee meeting on the day of the ESOSC. Lance Wright seconded the recommendation to meet 9:30 – 10:30 and report out to full council during committee meeting 10:30 – 12:30. Robin Metcalf, Chair asked for a Vote, all were in favor no opposed. This change will occur at the October 21, 2015 meeting

ESOSC Sub Committee Reports

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| • Funding Sub Committee | Phil Nussbaum |
| • Public Policy Sub Committee | Lance Wright |
| • Nominations Sub-committee | Sharon Bunger |

Sub Committee reports were tabled to the next meeting given the motion to schedule Sub Committee Meetings prior to the next full council meeting, reassign membership (potentially) and additional sub-committee meetings may be held prior to the next full council meeting to prepare for agenda items and leadership assignments.

**LTESS/EES Updates
Reallocations/Process**

Ella Barnes

Ella Barnes distributed the annual report for EES and LTESS. She reported that all dollars were spent though a reallocation was needed because many ESOs left dollars on the table. There was a shortfall of \$561,000.

Statistics FY 2014

EES/LTESS 2014 funds have been allocated; specific amounts were presented to the council in an attachment.



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Case Closures

It's important that cases are closed in a timely manner, if we have cases that should be closed but are still open it pulls the averages down and affects the data on our end. It's important for Vendors to be diligent about updating cases.

Donna Bonessi provided an update regarding Policy Development for the LTESS/EES Program. We will seek an extension to the current deadline to December 31st.

Public Comments

Collaborations Conference brochure was provided. The Collaborations Conference will be held November 16-18 at the Hilton Virginia Beach

Karen Tefelski – The ESO community doesn't have a good grasp of the average or range of services provided by DARS for time limited services on a regional perspective. They hear anecdotally that recommendations are made for supports that are greater than what DARS has provided in the past. As DARS moves towards an agency that serves populations that need more supports due to greater disability, the concern is that categories will be closed on the basis of lack of supports available. Waiver services are open-ended whereas DARS is not.

12:43 – Adjourned



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Attachment A

Double click on Picture below to vie full presentation

ROI Update

Dr. Robert Schmidt, University of Richmond
Drs. John Pepper & Steven Stern, University of Virginia
Drs. Joe Ashley & Kirsten Rowe, Virginia DARS

ESO Steering Committee Meeting, July 8, 2014
Department for Aging & Rehabilitative Services