



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 October 18, 2016 9:30 AM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Linda LaMona, Robin Metcalf, Greg Ellison, Natalia Yu, Michelle Flynn, David Gusler, Chuck McElroy, Dan Reichard, Nova Washington, Phil Nussbaum, Mike King, Emily Gebhart, Lance Wright, Sharon Bunger, Marshall Henson, Shirley Lyons for April Pinch-Keeler, Chris Lavach

Members Absent: Stephanie Lau, Megan Bergen, Rachel Rounds, Gary Cotta

Guests Attending: George Homan, Cheryl Moran, Michael Palmer, KK Stroop, Joanne Ellis, Marie Phillips, Amy Thomas, Angie Nelson, Karen Tefelski

VTC Sites: Margie Stuart, Joanie Harmon, Ashley Thompson, Frank Dowell, Cindy Matney, Jessica Stehle

DRS Staff Attending: Kathy Hayfield, Sherrina Sewell, Mark Peterson, Cathy Staggs, Donna Bonessi, Jim Rothrock, Katherine Harrison, Tracy Harrington, Marshall Smith, Mark Fletcher, Jean Steveson

9:30 am – Full Committee Call to Order **Robin Metcalf**

- Introductions
- Review and approval of draft minutes from July 12, 2016 meeting

Commissioners Remarks

Commissioner Rothrock

Commissioner Rothrock discussed the positive outcomes with the VR program. An employer customized an employment setting for this one individual to fit his specific needs. There has been greater success with employers due to President Obama executive orders directing government contractors to look into effectively hiring individuals with disabilities. As a result we are experiencing higher than usual calls from employers calling DARS for clients.

Commissioner Rothrock reported on the Governor's budget as it affects cuts in LTESS program. The agency has to make cuts in excess of 3 million dollars. The greater concern is the impact of WIOA. It will significantly impact the number of youth we serve. There is an increased focus on students with an IEP. A method is being developed to monitor and ensure we are hitting our marks.

DRS Directors Update

Kathy Hayfield

Pre-employment transition services will be discussed in detail in January. Pre-employment transition services are a new requirement under WIOA. VR dollars will be spent on students with disabilities specifically focused on students with disabilities, not youth with disabilities. These are students in an educational program with an IEP or 504 plans and are working towards post-secondary education or employment. Pre-ETS money can't be transferred. There are no new dollars or positions to provide these services. All field staff will be required to complete time sheets to track how they spend their time on a daily basis. Counselors will no longer be exempt staff. Currently we are millions off with meeting the 15% of our program funds expenditure requirement for Pre-ETS.

Though the final numbers are not yet in, Kathy reported that the VR program finished the year with over 4,000 successful employment outcomes, an increase in hourly wages and a record number of IPE's – close to 8500. Kathy thanked the ESO's for their contribution to these successful closures. We are at record number of having people in service and record number of people trying to purchase services. Average wage is up to \$10.24 from last year (\$10.09.) DARS will be closing Category one MSD November 1. Closing Category 1 may slow down referrals to ESO. This will allow for proper management of money throughout the year.

Sherrina Sewell stated counselors are paying close attention to hours and budget on a monthly basis. Counselors are being asked to meet with job coaches on hours being requested.



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Catherine Harrison presented a PowerPoint presentation on WIOA as it relates to competitive integrated employment, section 511 and changes to the supported employment program. A handout was given out on the presentation. The power point is attached to the minutes

DBHDS Data Report

Heather Norton

Heather Norton reported there's been a 2% increase in people with disabilities being employed. We have seen an increase of individuals between the ages of 18-24 who are choosing supported employment services.

LTESS Reductions

Cathy Staggs

Cathy Staggs reported on the LTESS/ESS program there was a \$375,000 FY2017 LTESS budget reduction to comply with statewide mandatory budget cuts. Reductions were calculated for each ESO based on a 3 year Rolling Average of total expenses.

A work group has been created to discuss the new requirements of WIOA and how it will affect ESO's with the requirements of competitive integrated employment. These individuals have volunteered to be on the committee: Lance Wright, Mike King, Phil Nussbaum, Greg Ellison, Heather Norton, Michelle Flynn, David Gusler, Natalia Yu, and Chris Lavach.

Legislative Updates

No legislative updates, tabled until January.

Funding Sub-Committee:

Phil Nussbaum reported there are no updates.

Public Policy Sub Committee Report

Lance Wright reported there were no updates

Nominations Sub-Committee:

No update Megan Bergan was absent.

Public Comment: None provided.

Meeting Dates 2017 – January 10th, April 11th, July 11th, October 17th

Meeting Adjourned: 12:11 p.m.