

DRAFT
April 10, 2007 ESOAC Meeting Minutes

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

**Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Henrico Tuckahoe Library, Richmond, Virginia**

April 10, 2007 Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee Meeting:

The Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee held its regular quarterly meeting April 10, 2007 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, at the Henrico Tuckahoe Library, Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present: Woody Van Valkenburgh, ESOAC Chair, Chuck McElroy, Ryan Follett for Sharon Harrup, Wendy Gradison, Keith Clark, Shirley Lyons, Robin Metcalf for Sherman Gifford, Sharon Barton, Bruce Phipps, Diana Messer, Lynn Kushner and Gary Juskowiak.

Members Absent: Susan Neal, DMHMRSAS, Leah Boyd, Florence Watt

Guests Attending: Beth Dugan, Ruth Parsons, John Craig, Ron Burnop, Vanessa Evans, Beth Teltrault, Lance Elwood and Thalia Simpson-Clement.

DRS Staff Attending: Commissioner Jim Rothrock, Jack Hayek, Judy Hill, Tim Olive, John Phelps, Doug James and Carrie Worrell.

Call to Order:

Woody Van Valkenburgh woody.vanvalkenburgh@fredgoodwill.org called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 AM and asked that all present introduce themselves starting with the Committee members. Review and approval of the minutes of January 9, 2007 followed. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Bruce Phipps and seconded by Shirley Lyons and unanimously approved. The approved minutes will be available on the ESSP Website under Minutes at (<http://www.vadrs.org/essp/>).

Public Comments

None

Commissioner's Welcome & Comments

The Commissioner welcomed the Committee and shared with the group his thoughts on several issues that included:

- Order of Selection and the agency's Federal requirement that dictates this action;
- State government energy costs and the Governor's initiative to conserve 20%;
- State Use of Employment Services Organizations as providers of goods and services, the recent legislative actions and the DRS continued efforts in this area;
- Collocation of workforce efforts that would include DRS seeking to collocate offices; and
- Workforce Development, its annual report and his encouragement to all vendors to work with their local workforce development boards.

DRAFT
April 10, 2007 ESOAC Meeting Minutes

The Commissioner asked John Phelps to share with the Committee the DRS Field efforts in their “Roadmap to Success” and “Interrupting Failure” for consumers. There was additional discussion in regards to “Interrupting Failure” and what this means for the consumer. John explained that Interrupting Failure meant when there are major barriers identified it is very appropriate to have the key players come together, develop how to proceed, establish responsibilities and plan appropriate services.

Reporting Out

a. MR Waiver Study – Shirley Lyons, Lyo@co.henrico.va.us reported for Susan Neal that the initial report of the employment subcommittee has been completed and is being provided to the larger workgroup. She did mention that one of the employment recommendations was for Medicaid to accept the DRS rates for the individual Supported Employment model. Susan Neal will be contacted to determine if the document that is in draft is available to the public.

b. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Report

Woody Van Valkenburgh, woody.vanvalkenburgh@fredgoodwill.org reminded the Committee they were to review the report to determine whether the LEP report required additional discussion. Doug James, DRS Northern Region Regional Director, shared with the Committee that DRS is increasingly responding to consumers with LEP and needs providers that are able to offer services to that growing population of consumers for both language and cultural sensitivity. The report is available on the ESSP website under “What’s New” at <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/whatsnew.htm>.

New Business

a. New Staff Tutorial

Jack Hayek introduced Jennifer T McDonough jltodd@vcu.edu, from VCU RRTC. He commented on the need for training of job coaches and the various ways DRS supported such training efforts in the past. DRS responded to the VCU needs assessment with a basic introduction to job coaching that is reasonable in terms of time away from the job, while at the same time getting the basics of the position to the job coach. VCU responded with the new tutorial available on the internet. Jennifer then introduced the website to the Committee and informed them that VCU would be rolling the tutorial out in several weeks. The key areas offered through this tutorial are:

- Customer Exploration,
- Job Development and Marketing,
- Job Site Issues and
- Other issues such as Social Security Disability benefits.

Jennifer went on to say the training is no charge, CRC credits are available and that 4 hours would be available toward a Certificate in Employment Services if the 10 online seminars are successfully completed.

DRAFT
April 10, 2007 ESOAC Meeting Minutes

b. 2006 Establishment grant Authority Contracts

Tim Olive Tim.Olive@drs.virginia.gov provided a PowerPoint presentation on the final outcomes of the contracts awarded under the 2006 Establishment Authority offered by DRS. The PowerPoint and the report are available on the ESSP website under “What’s New” <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/whatsnew.htm>.

c. New Work Incentives Specialist (WIS) Services for Agency Consumers

Jack Hayek Jack.Hayek@drs.virginia.gov updated the Committee on the new WIS services and the second cohort of WIS Specialist training to be held this summer. DRS launched an innovative strategy to developed a group of experts within Virginia that are qualified to assist interested individuals to more successfully access work incentives, i.e., Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE), Blind Work Expenses (BWE), the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE), Medicaid While Working (Section 1619(b)), the Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), and Subsidy.

DRS has established a new fee-for-service arrangement with the qualified Work Incentives Specialist (WIS) service providers to aid vocational rehabilitation (VR) customers who are SSA beneficiaries to enhance their earnings and resources. VR case services funds can be used to pay these specialists to assist VR customers, including transition-aged youth, to successfully access the SSA work incentives. If you have any questions about the new WIS services, please contact Ben Blumenthal (804-662-7605 or Ben.Blumenthal@drs.virginia.gov) or Kirsten Rowe (804-640-0435 or Kirsten.Rowe@drs.virginia.gov) in the DRS Grants & Special Programs Office.

Regarding the second cohort mentioned above, the following information is provided. Again, if you have any questions, please contact Ben or Kirsten.

- Information and applications will be distributed to ESOs, CILs, and others in early May
- Approximately 20 participants will be selected; their training and travel costs will be supported by the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
- Three two-day training sessions will be held in August, September, and October
- Participants MUST attend ALL sessions AND complete between-session fieldwork/homework
- Participants must pass a final examination in order to become qualified WIS service providers

Committee members are concerned that the DRS counselors do not fully understand the service and there is confusion about the service. The DRS lack of utility of the new service supports their conclusion. While there is confusion about the DRS use of the service, there is consensus that it is an excellent resource within the organization and provides much needed information to consumers. They suggested that it be marketed as a training resource for organizations to better serve Social Security recipients rather than a service to sell. Jack will share this concern with Joe Ashley.

DRAFT
April 10, 2007 ESOAC Meeting Minutes

d. Call for Nominations ESOAC and LTESS Steering Committee

Jack Hayek, Jack.Hayek@drs.virginia.gov, informed the Committee that the Commissioner will call for nominations for both the ESOAC and the LTESS Steering Committee for vacancies created in the normal rotation of committee members. Nominations should be forwarded to Jack Hayek at his email address and should include a brief resume of the person being nominated. Jack will also send an email to all ESOs concerning the nominations. Nominations will close May 15th.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

ESOAC 2007 meeting schedule:

NEXT July 10th, 2007
October 9th, 2007