

DRAFT

Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes DRS Central Office, Richmond, Virginia

January 12, 2010

Members Present: Amy Thomas, Sharon Barton, John Craig, Alisha Meador, Linda LaMona, Soneli Bhadra, and Ericka Umbarger.

Members Absent: Sandy O'Dell, Shalene Hart

DRS Staff Attending: Kathy Hayfield, Judy Hill and Carrie Worrell

Call to Order

Alisha Meador, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and asked that the committee introduce themselves to the audience.

Draft Minutes Review and Approval

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting, as follows:

→ The April meeting of the LTESS Steering Committee is scheduled for April 13, 2010, not the 12th as written.

→ Under Old Business there was a discussion of the 3-year rolling average. There was a list in the minutes that fell under a heading "Comments made about the current system:" It should be clarified in the minutes that these were comments made by the members/audience and should not be considered as "facts" about the LTESS 3-year rolling average system of allocating funds. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Commissioner's comments

DRS Commissioner Jim Rothrock spoke to the Committee and to the audience. He discussed the RSA Monitoring process and informed the group that the report from RSA would likely be available late summer.

The Commissioner stated that he understood that the two groups (ESOAC and LTESS Steering) might be having a joint discussion about roles and function and said that he would like to see how we can operate the two committees more effectively to complement and not duplicate each other.

Mr. Rothrock also mentioned that he was looking forward to seeing the next round of reports from the 12 ARRA (Stimulus) grants awarded to ESOs and their efforts to create new jobs.

Old Business

Combining the dollars allocated to EES and LTESS into one pot – this suggestion was made at the previous meeting by Linda LaMona and Bruce Phipps. Linda stated that after giving the concept more thought, she determined that it is not a good idea. John Craig of Didlake stated that the two committees need to have a full history of the programs. He stated that he is against combining the two programs because it would put the current EES-funded consumers at risk.

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Old Business

ESOAC invitation to LTESS Steering Committee – representing the ESOAC, Bruce Patterson invited the LTESS Steering Committee to meet jointly with the ESOAC on April 13, 2010 to discuss the idea of combining the two committees into one. He stated that there could be efficiencies and economies of scale in doing this. **Sharon Barton made a motion and Erica Umbarger seconded the motion, to hold a joint meeting in April with the ESOAC and discuss combining the two committees. There was unanimous approval of the motion.** Following the vote there was discussion with Bruce Patterson that it would also be helpful for the committees to hear about the history of the two committees prior to the discussion. DRS agreed to work with the ESOs to pull together the history.

New Business

LTESS Steering Committee Membership - Alisha Meador stated that Sandra O'Dell had submitted her resignation as a Committee member. Kathy Hayfield requested that ESOs in the south western part of the state make recommendations to the Commissioner of someone to fill this vacancy.

2010 General Assembly – Governor Kaine's proposed budget

The Governor's proposed budget reduces the LTESS and EES program by \$150,000 in 2011 and the same 2012. Current appropriation is as follows:

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| EES | \$2,714,268 |
| LTESS | \$4,903,222 |
| Admin | \$ 0 |
| | <u>\$7,617,490</u> |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Less | |
| proposed cut | <u>\$ 150,000</u> |
| | \$7,467,490 |

Judy Hill made a presentation to the Committee of DRS' proposed plan for how to deal with the cut in the event that it makes it through the 2010 General Assembly Session. Judy explained that two ESOs will have ended their vendor agreement with DRS during 2010. Some of the consumers served by each of these programs will be served by other vendors, but there will still be significant dollars remaining from each of the organization's current EES and LTESS allocations. Judy provided some preliminary figures but stated that she would be in a better position in April after we know how many consumers from each ESO will receive services through other ESOs.

Judy stated that DRS recommends that the dollars remaining from the termination of these vendorships be applied to the \$150,000 Governor's reduction. This would reduce the size of the funding cut to the other ESOs' allocation. **Alisha Meador made a motion that was seconded by John Craig that DRS use the balance of the dollars currently allocated to the two organizations terminating their EES and LTESS vendorships to respond to the \$150,000 cut in 2011 and 2012 (in the event that it happens). The motion was approved unanimously.**

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Public Comment

Karen Tefelski asked for clarification on the current dollar amount of LTESS with cuts over last several years. Judy Hill referred Karen back to the figures presented in the discussion surrounding the Governor's budget cut for 2010.

Rex Parr recommended that people who have a long history and experience with EES and LTESS be asked to speak to the group regarding the history surrounding how and why the programs were started.

Karen Tefelski asked what DRS sees as the number of people on the waiting list for LTESS. Kathy Hayfield stated that we don't have a solid way of knowing that number but could work with the ESOs on a projection. Judy Hill commented that ESOs need to spend their allocated dollars as there are 20 organizations who are currently projected to have dollars leftover at the end of the fiscal year based on current spending patterns.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:00 PM.

2010 LTESS Steering Committee Meetings:

January 12, 2010

April 13, 2010

July 13, 2010

October 12, 2010