

Final
Employment Services Organization Advisory Committee (ESOAC)
April 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes
DRS Central Office

Members Present: ESOAC Chair: Thalia Simpson-Clement, Chris Lavach, Robin Metcalf, Ryan Follett for Sharon Harrup, Quintin Mitchell, Alisha Meador, Linda LaMona, Dave Wilber, Chuck McElroy, Amy Thomas, Ericka Neville, Lance Wright, Sharon Barton, Heather Norton, Marshall Henson for Soneli Bhadra, John Craig, Nova Washington, Mark Keith via VTC

Members Absent: Bruce Phipps, Gary Cotta, and Beth Dugan

Guests Attending: Karen Tefelski, Joanne Ellis, Cecil Kendrick, Nicole Jewell, Beth Tetrault, Diana Messer, Paul Babcock, Rob Froehlich, Evan Jones, Ron Burnop, Veronica Rhame, Taylor Greene, Lisa Morgan, Carmen Mendez, Dennis Brown, Michelle Howard-Herbein, Natalia Woo and April Pinch-Keeler.

DRS Staff Attending: Jim Rothrock, Kathy Hayfield, Donna Bonessi, Dale Batten, Mark Peterson, Richard Kriner, David Leon, Doug James and Carrie Worrell.

Call to Order:

Thalia Simpson-Clement, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and asked that all present to introduce themselves starting with the Committee members.

Draft Minutes Review and Approval:

The chair asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made by Chuck McElroy and seconded by Alisha Meador to approve the minutes as written. The minutes were approved and are available on the ESSP Website under Minutes at <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/minutes.htm>

Commissioner Rothrock Comments:

Discussed the continued efforts by Delegate Pogge to expand the SWAM program to allow programs such as the bakeries run by ESO's to qualify as SWAM

Several Statistics were reviewed

- Open Cases
 - On 4/11/10 there were 28,925 open cases at DRS and 17,400 closures YTD
 - On 4/11/11 there were 34,153 open cases at DRS and 20,500 closures YTD
- Expenditures
 - 4/11/10 YTD Case Service expenditures with ESOs was \$5.6 Million
 - 4/11/11 YTD Case Service expenditures with ESOs was \$8.7 Million

RSA passed a continued resolution to funds our services. However, RSA is releasing all available funds.

Our situation will be better in May as slightly more funds will be released for case service funds

Kathy Hayfield has been working on restructuring Field Rehabilitative Services. The FRS Division will look substantially different with a smaller staff by July 1st.

Woodrow Wilson is also restructuring to focus more on VR services, reducing their medical-only services. The RSA monitoring report detailed concerns that too much of the agencies funds were being spent at WWRC. Many services are not VR related that will be downsized such as, Physical Therapy (3-4 positions), Occupational Therapy (2-3 Positions) and a reduction in Speech Therapists will occur. A higher degree of VR focus will be the result of these reductions in administrative positions/costs.

Public Comments

Chuck McElroy asked if there were any additional financial implications for ESOs as a result of the RSA monitoring report beyond WWRC. Response to Mr. McElroy was that sections pertaining to minimum wage and integrated employment settings might have a financial impact on ESO's. Kathy reported that in May the agency expects to begin looking into a mechanism to better define "integrated employment."

Lance Wright asked if categories would be opening up in May. Kathy Hayfield responded there is no anticipated date at this time for opening any of the priority categories.

Chris Lavach asked how to handle a situation when an organization is told by a counselor or manager that there are no funds to authorize hours for Job Site training after someone has found a job. Kathy Hayfield, Dale Batten and Mark Peterson responded that the Regional Director should be contacted in that situation. The Regional Directors have a broader scope in budgeting than local Managers and have the ability to shift funds if they are available.

Field Rehabilitative Services Directors Report:

Kathy Hayfield reported that the budget is a priority at DRS. She clarified the decrease in funds being released each month and explained that dollars available to the field will increase in July. She further explained that the 2012 budget will be also tight and DRS will look at non-priority spending such as transportation, clothing, rent, college tuition, etc.

There will be agency wide layoffs and a restructuring will occur between now and June 1st. This is in an effort to move more money into case service dollars. WWRC is experiencing several million dollars in cuts in order to increase availability of VR dollars for case services.

Lance Wright stated that organizations are having a difficult time planning and managing their services not knowing when the financial situation will improve. Lance Wright asked how many clients had been placed on the waiting list since categories were closed. Kathy Hayfield responded that she did not have the number at that time. However, after the meeting it was determined that 423 people had been added to the waiting list as of April 25, 2011.

Karen Tefelski commented that she applauded Kathy Hayfield for looking at restructuring and making other 110 dollars available for Case Services. She has not seen that occur during her 12 year relationship with DRS.

Karen Tefelski also commented that statistics regarding the number of successful closures in each priority category were requested at the last meeting and were not provided.

Evan Jones asked if Virginia would be able to draw down federal unused funds by other states. Kathy Hayfield responded that we may be able to do so in 2012, but possibly not in 2013 due to our inability to meet Match requirement.

Kathy Hayfield asked that if you have any thoughts, comments, ideas or questions about the financial situation you send those to her directly.

Chuck McElroy requested updates sooner than three months at the next meeting. Kathy Hayfield stated that she would send out information before the next meeting.

Kathy Hayfield offered congratulations to PRS, Inc being named one of the “50 Best Not for Profits” in the America to work for.

Kathy Hayfield reported that Project SEACRH continues to grow and that DRS is committed to 12 sites for the 2011-2012 school year. New sites for this year will be Tazewell, Manassas, Winchester, and Alexandria. We are still in the ESO selection process for all sites except for Winchester.

VATS and Didlake:

The VATS program, DRS rehab engineers and Didlake have developed a partnership to pilot using handheld technology such as iPod touch in supported employment and job coaching. A presentation by the DRS Rehabilitation Engineers will be scheduled for a later meeting.

Public Comments

Ron Burnop asked if when considering integrated setting if Ability One ratios will be taken into consideration. Kathy Hayfield stated that Ability One ratios are one strategy we may use to define integration. Ms. Hayfield also reported that DRS has sought Technical Assistance from RSA in defining integration. When asked if there is a date for implementation of new integration standards, Kathy Hayfield responded that this is not new law. The Rehabilitation Act does not allow federal funds to be used to place clients into a non integrated work setting. DRS will simply be placing new attention on the integration of work settings to assure full compliance with the existing federal law.

Karen Tefelski commented that her recommendation, as a lobbyist, is the “ESOAC” name is changed to the “ESO Steering Committee”. This will ensure that the LTESS function of the committee is protected.

Old Business

GWU TACE Program Update:

Rob Froehlich stated that the ACRE National Employment Certification program just completed the second round of online participation. Ninety percent of those who entered the program completed it.

Three on site trainings have been scheduled for 2011. The trainings will be held in Northern Virginia (May 9 & May 10), Western PA and Eastern PA. The onsite trainings fulfill the in person component of the Certificate series. All training is at no cost to the participant.

GWU recently began another grant funded scholarship Masters program. The program can be completed online or on campus. There is also a 12 credit Job Placement/Job development graduate certificate being offered. The funding is good for 5 years and the program is 2.5 years. There will be additional opportunities to participate. New Scholarships may be available in either September or January. Persons interested should contact GWU for more information

GWU now offers professional courses that you can receive 6-8 CRC's for participating.

Rapid courses are also available. These courses offer 2 CRC's. Once registered you log in, read a lecture and take an exam.

All information can be found on TACE region 3's website at www.gwcrcre.org or you can Google "TACE Region 3" to find it.

ESO Score/Outcome Report Card Update.

Donna Bonessi reported that the workgroup met on March 28th to begin to develop the ESO Score card. Rob Froehlich facilitated the meeting. The group developed idea of what to track and the next steps will be to determine how data will be compiled.

Chuck McElroy asked if the new POS/Market Driven rate system would be implemented this July. Donna Bonessi stated that it will not be implemented by July 2011. Lance Wright asked if rates would be increased based on the CPI-W and Donna Bonessi responded that a decision has not been made yet.

Ericka Neville asked for an update regarding when the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) system would be implemented. Donna Bonessi will ask Sandy Williams and forward that information out to the group.

New Business:

Autism PDA Study/ASD career links update:

Richard Kriner updated the council regarding the two initiatives DRS is currently involved in for persons with ASD in Henrico and Northern Virginia. Information can be found in Attachment A

Ticket to Work - CESSI Outreach

David Leon shared with the group CESSI outreach efforts that have begun in Virginia. CESSI is looking to pilot Virginia to increase awareness about the Ticket to work Program and Assist interested ESO's in applying to become an Employer Network (EN)

David pointed out that revenue received through the Ticket to Work program is not restricted funds and can be used by an organization as they wish.

In light of current budget situation this is a good time for ESO's to consider becoming an EN.

David Leon discussed an upcoming teleconference facilitated by CESSI for ESO's interested in becoming an EN. The group will decide if they would like further information/presentation after the teleconference. The flyer can be found in Attachment B

David Leon contact information is (804) 662-7151 or david.leon@drs.virginia.gov

Committee Name:

The committee discussed the need to have the words "Steering Committee" in the name. Several recommendations were discussed. A motion was made by Dave Wilber and seconded by Robin Metcalf that the committee will recommend to Commissioner Rothrock that the name of the committee be changed to "Employment Services Organization Steering Committee" (ESOSC)

Term Limits for Committee Members:

Donna Bonessi handed out revised term limits for members based on previous term expiration dates. This created discussion about Association Representative Term limits. Members of the group felt that the Association representatives should not have term limits established for their seats and that the associations should be able to change representatives. The committee agreed that each association will determine their representatives term limits. However, association representatives will serve a minimum of one year and if the association is currently chair the committee, their representative who is the chair will serve a two-year term.

Council Guidelines:

The current ESOAC guidelines need to be reviewed and revised if necessary. The committee will meet on June 10th from 9:30-3:00 here at the central office to review and if needed revise the guidelines.

ESOAC Vacancies:

The committee discussed how to fill a vacant ESO seat on the committee if someone resigns. Three options were discussed.

1. Offer the organization the opportunity to nominate another representative to fill the vacant seat. If they chose not to nominate another person then the seat will remain vacant until the next round of nominations.
2. From the most recent nominations received, take the next person with highest votes from the nominating committee.
3. Leave the ESO seat vacant until the next round of nominations.

A motion was made by Quentin Mitchell and seconded by Sharon Barton for option #1. The committee voted, 13 yes, 1 no, seven members were absent or left meeting early and therefore did not vote.

LTESS Business:

The Governor's proposed cuts to the LTESS program for FY 2012 were restored. Lance Wright asked if that meant that beginning June 1st the allocations for each organization would be back to pre FY 2011 reduction amounts. Kathy Hayfield responded yes.

Public Comments:

None

Adjourn The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM

2011 Meeting Schedule:

July 12, 2011

October 4, 2011

Note: VTC sites at Abingdon, Roanoke, Portsmouth, Danville and Fairfax have been confirmed for these dates.

Attachment A

Employment Supports for Persons with ASD

DRS is involved in projects to enhance agency capacity to serve consumers with Autism Spectrum Disorders to include:

- **VCU ASD Career Links** <http://www.vcu-autism.org/index.cfm>
 - Five year grant funded through National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) .
 - Four studies will examine VR service delivery and employment outcomes for individuals with ASD.
 - **Case Studies-**
 - Project SEARCH Autism Model
<http://www.worksupport.com/resources/viewContent.cfm/957>
 - Assistive Technology for Cognition Project
<http://www.worksupport.com/resources/viewContent.cfm/956>
 - **Webcast series-**
 - April 21st – PDAs, Smartphones and Tablet PCs as Cognitive-Behavioral Aids in Autism
 - June 15th – Working with Individuals with ASD and Challenging Behaviors in the Community
 - September 21st – Career Planning for Students with ASD in Post Secondary Education
- **Behavioral Support Pilots in Henrico and NOVA**
 - DRS developed and is piloting new **Therapeutic Behavioral Services** (TBS)
 - Based on promising practices identified through VCU ASD Career Links Project SEARCH
 - TBS are purchased through Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst, or Positive Behavioral Support Facilitator
 - Requests for additional information and applications for vendorship approval as a provider of Therapeutic Behavioral Services should be directed to Patricia Goodall, Ed.S., at Patti.Goodall@drs.virginia.gov or 800/552-5019
- **WWRC Autism Speaks**
 - Working with VCU RRTC to develop autism focused community based assessment model
 - Building capacity for provision of behavioral supports and hand held technology for persons with ASD in Henrico and Fairfax
 - Enhancing service coordination between field and WWRC
 - Service model to be expanded pending positive outcomes

Ticket to Work Program Teleconference and Discussion



Date:

Tuesday, May 24, 2011
10:00-11:30 AM EST

Facilitator:

Ticket to Work Program

Information:

Toll-free number: 1-866-452-3135
Access Code: 58164428

Questions? Please contact:

John A. Barbuto
Senior Account Manager
Ticket to Work Program
johnbarbuto@maximus.com
(703) 336-8138

Event Purpose:

To provide Virginia Employment Service Organizations with an opportunity to learn more about the Ticket to Work Program, its processes and various revenue generating avenues.

The discussion will include:

- Ticket 101 Program Basics
- Opportunities afforded by Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) Partnership Plus Model
- New Employment Network Agreement Process: New EN RFQ
- Questions and Answers