

**DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
DRS Central Office**

**July 8, 2008 Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee Meeting:**

The Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee held its regular quarterly meeting July 8, 2008 from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM, at the DRS Central Office, Richmond, Virginia.

**Members Present:** ESOAC Chair: Chuck McElroy, Wendy Gradison, Chris Lavach, Diana Messer, Woody Van Valkenburgh, Keith Clark, Gary Juskowiak, Joanne Packert, Bruce Phipps, Shirley Lyons, and Gail Rheinheimer.

**Members Absent:** Leah Boyd and Mark Peterson.

**Guests Attending:** John Craig, Amy Thomas, Sharon Taylor, Lance Elwood, Ken Rush, Ron Burnop, Debbie Williams, Sylvia Ross, Tonya Griffin, Bill Smith, Ryan Follett, Evan Jones, Jennifer McDonough, Ruth Parson, Rex Parr, Beth Dugan, Lisa Morgan, Natalia Yu, Michele Howard-Herbein, Soneli Bhadra, Michelle Taylor, DeVonne Williams, and Missy King.

**DRS Staff Attending:** Jack Hayek, Tim Olive, Judy Hill, Joe Ashley, Doug James, Margaret Gillispie, John Phelps, Dale Batten, and Barclay Shepard.

**Call to Order:**

Chuck McElroy [Mcelroy@worksourceva.org](mailto:Mcelroy@worksourceva.org) called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM and asked that all present introduce themselves starting with the Committee members.

**Draft Minutes Review and Approval**

Review and approval of the minutes of April 8, 2008 meeting followed. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Woody Van Valkenburgh and seconded by Joanne Packert. They were unanimously approved. The approved minutes will be available on the ESSP Website under Minutes at (<http://www.vadrs.org/essp/>).

**Public Comments**

None

**Reporting Out**

**a. Wage and Statistical Research –**

Keith Clark and Dr. Joe Ashley reported on the Wage and Statistical Research Subcommittee activity. Mr. Clark convened several meetings of the subcommittee to discuss how to get started with a process. It was recommended that the wage data research process begin with

administrative data that DRS already has for supported employment clients and to use wage data to determine outcomes. The key elements to be investigated are:

Increased financial security/disposable income

- Tax dollars flowing into the system
- Dollars paid in taxes by employed consumers/clients
- Amount of earnings for consumers/clients

Dr. Ashley stated that funds have been requested to be included in the Grants and Special Programs budget to support this activity.

### **b. Ticket to Work**

Dr. Ashley reported on the Commissioner's Ticket Roundtable scheduled for July 16, 2008. He noted that the SSA new regulations on Ticket to Work go into effect on July 21, 2008 and that they offer a real opportunity for partnership between DRS and ESO partners. The July 16 event has national experts to review the new regulations and describe the opportunities presented to Virginia. The event will focus on the Ticket's new Partnership Plus option. Dr. Ashley noted that DRS hopes to develop opportunities that can create additional resources to increase long term support resources for SSA beneficiaries. Dr. Ashley also noted that there is a much smaller meeting on July 15, 2008 with invited guests to discuss employment network partnership to better support mental health consumers. DRS would like to identify pilot areas and learn how to work as an employment network partnership. Dr. Ashley invited programs interested in participating in either of the Ticket events to contact him directly at [joe.ashley@drs.virginia.gov](mailto:joe.ashley@drs.virginia.gov)

### **c. WorkWORLD and Work Incentive Training**

Dr. Joseph Ashley, DRS, also reminded ESOAC members about the Work Incentive Trainings and WorkWORLD Trainings which are scheduled soon to be held in Warrenton, Roanoke and Abingdon. The announcement can be found on the What's New" link at (<http://www.vadrs.org/essp/>). Please contact Dr. Ashley if there are any questions.

### **d. Nominations for ESOAC Committee 2009**

Jack Hayek presented Certificates of Appreciation to Keith Clark, Shirley Lyons and Leah Boyd in appreciation for three years of service on the ESOAC. Chuck McElroy, exiting President of VaACCSES, also received a Certificate of Appreciation. Bruce Patterson is the incoming President of VaACCSES and takes the VaACCSES seat on the committee. Successful nominees to replace these individuals are:

- 1) Sylvia Ross, PORTCO, Inc. [sross@portco.org](mailto:sross@portco.org)
- 2) Quintin Mitchell, The Greater Richmond Area ARC - ARC Industrial Services  
[Quintin.Mitchell@richmondarc.org](mailto:Quintin.Mitchell@richmondarc.org)
- 3) Francis Shoemaker, Sheltered Workshop of Altavista, [fshoemaker@theswa.org](mailto:fshoemaker@theswa.org)

### **e. New LTESS/EES Computer Update**

Judy Hill updated the committee on the new EES/LTESS System. She reported that 10 vendors are currently keyed into the new system each month and everything appears to be working

perfectly. The last requisition of the old system will be sent out on July 24<sup>th</sup> for August. We will begin paying the July invoices in the new system as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be totally invisible to the vendors and it is business as usual.

From October 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> we will train five to ten local vendors to begin keying in their own October requisitions on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. If all goes well, we will add another five to ten statewide vendors at the end of November so there will be 10 – 20 vendors on the system for December.

The remaining vendors will be trained in January/February and the entire system will be up and running by February/March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **New Business**

### **a. New SE Medicaid Waiver Rate**

Mike Lupien [Michael.Lupien@dmas.virginia.gov](mailto:Michael.Lupien@dmas.virginia.gov) from DMAS talked about the changes in the Medicaid regulations and the new SE options offered to consumers. Mr. Lupien provided a handout of DRS Vendors who are Medicaid Enrolled Providers for Supported Employment which will be available on the “What’s New” link at (<http://www.vadrs.org/essp/>). ESO’s that are not Medicaid Waiver providers can go to (<http://www.dmas.virginia.gov>) and look under ‘MR Manual’ to get guidance on how to become a Medicaid Provider.

### **b. Moving ESOAC Meeting around the State**

Woody Van Valkenburgh asked the committee to look into ways of moving the ESOAC Committee Meetings to different parts of the state. Video conferencing and ‘Go To Meetings’ were discussed as ways of offering alternative forms of communication to attending committee meetings. Committee members were pleased with the present video conference today and asked that this format be kept for now. ESSP will look into having telephone access and “GoTo Meeting” availability in addition to the video conferencing remote sites for the October meeting.

### **c. Wisconsin Report on Sub Minimum Wages**

Prior to the meeting Jack shared with the committee a report completed for the Wisconsin Departments of Workforce Development and Health and Family Services on State and International Efforts to Reform or Eliminate the Use of Sub-Minimum Wage for Persons with Disabilities. The report is posted on the ESSP website at <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/downloads/WIReport011207.doc> for anyone interested in reviewing it. The report was shared with the committee for their awareness, opportunity for discussion and comment. Generally the committee was pleased that the report recognized the negative and unintended consequences of eliminating the sub minimum wage without appropriate system changes and replacement supports.

## **Public Comments**

None

Chuck McElroy, Chair   Adjourn 10:45 AM

NEXT Meeting: October 20, 2008

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a change from the original date of Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. It was changed to Monday due to the availability of the conference room and remote sites.**