

DRAFT

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

April 13, 2010

Members Present: LTESS Steering Committee Chair: Alisha Meador, Amy Thomas, Sharon Barton, John Craig, Linda LaMona, Soneli Bhadra, Shalene Hart, and Chris Lavach for Ericka Umbarger.

DRS Staff Attending: Kathy Hayfield, Donna Bonessi, and Carrie Worrell

Call to Order

Alisha Meador, Steering Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM and asked that the committee introduce themselves.

Draft Minutes Review and Approval

John Craig made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda LaMona and minutes were approved.

Public Comments:

None

Old Business

2010 General Assembly Budget reduction to LTESS and EES Programs:

Alisha Meador asked for comments regarding the 2010 General Assembly budget reduction to LTESS and EES – there were no comments regarding the reductions. Kathy Hayfield stated that (as approved at the previous LTESS Steering Committee meeting) the majority of the reduction would be taken from the closure of Colonial Workshop and Sheltered Workshop of Altavista, having minimal impact on all other vendors.

Program Closures

Colonial CSB and Sheltered Workshop of Altavista ended their vendorships with DRS, which also terminated their use of LTESS and EES. Seven consumers from Colonial were able to be served by other providers and three consumers of Altavista are now being served through another provider.

Soliciting nominations to LTESS Steering committee:

Kathy Hayfield announced that new terms on the LTESS steering committee begin in October at which time there will be vacancies on the Committee. Nominations should be addressed to Commissioner Rothrock and submitted to Donna Bonessi by June 1, 2010. There was discussion about the lack of representation on this committee from Southwest Virginia. When the call for Nominations is sent out it will include a statement seeking representation from this part of VA.

Discussion occurred regarding current orientation practices. Committee members stated that they felt the orientation is insufficient to feel comfortable to fulfill the role on the committee.

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A motion was made by John Craig and seconded by Sharon Barton seeking a formal orientation for all new members, including DRS staff roles and history of the committee. The committee approved the motion.

New Business

LTESS reallocations for 2010:

Kathy Hayfield reported that Judy Hill had completed reallocations through March 2010. Total reallocated was \$151,417. Most organizations received \$3,900.00. Forty-five ESO's were over their allocation and received a reallocation. Eleven ESO's received all the funds they were projected to need (all below \$3,900.00). Twenty-nine ESO's were under their allocation. Eleven were less than \$1000.00 under. Eighteen ESO's had their allocations reduced. However, if an ESO received a reduction, \$1000.00 was left to cover additional expenses that may incur above remaining allocation.

Discussion – What happens to EES and LTESS when vendors close their doors?

John Craig stated that when a vendor closes the allocations of funds from that vendor should remain in the area previously served.

Questions raised:

How do we protect the dollars if a vendor closes? What are the guidelines?

How do we protect the community?

How has the economy impacted the far southwest?

What is or can be done to protect LTESS for people who lose their jobs and are in job development?

Do we need to look at the 3 year rolling average due to the economy?

It was determined that there are many questions that need to be answered and can be answered at the meetings. Committee members should get question to Kathy Hayfield a month prior to the meeting to allow time for research and response.

Public Comment

Chuck McElroy stated that there should be a subcommittee to discuss regionalized allocations.

Sharon Harrup – stated the announcement requesting nominations to the two Committees should be emailed to more than the executive directors. [The Call for Nominations will be sent to the following email lists: ESOAC and LTESS committees, Executive Directors and the LTESS web based system.]

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 1:30 PM.

2010 LTESS Steering Committee Meetings:

July 13, 2010

October 12, 2010