

**Department of Rehabilitative Services
Employment Services Organization Advisory Committee (ESOAC)
January 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes
DRS Central Office**

Members Present: ESOAC Chair: Donna Bonessi, Chris Lavach, Bill Smith (for Gary Juskowiak), Beth Dugan, Bruce Patterson, Mark Peterson, Sylvia Ross, Phil Black, Emily Helmboldt, Sharon Harrup, Quintin Mitchell, Charles Layman, and Nova Washington.

Members Absent: Bruce Phipps

Guests Attending: Robin Metcalf, Beth Tetrault, Sharon Barton, Amy Miller, Ericka Umbarger, Alisha Meador, Nicole Jewell, Bill Burnside, Paul Atkinson, Wendy Gradison, Diana Messer, Karen Tefelski, Ken Rush, Joanne Ellis, Lance Elwood, Rex Parr, Linda LaMon, Amy Thomas, Greg White, Eric Beard, Kelly Lambert, Dan Reichard, Lisa Morgan, Marshall Henson, John Santoski, John Craig, Byron Skeens, Rob Froehlich, and Maureen McGuire Kuletz.

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

Call to Order:

Donna Bonessi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and asked that all present 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. Bruce Patterson stated that the motion he made was not worded correctly and submitted the following change for the record:

Bruce Patterson made a recommendation that the process of selecting ESOAC Committee members be reviewed to determine if there are responsibilities each member organization (vaACCSES, APSE, VR, and the Goodwill Coalition) can take on. Mr. Patterson offered to chair a subcommittee that would make recommendations to the Commissioner for enhancing the ESOAC membership selection process. The subcommittee will be made up of Bruce Paterson, Bruce Phipps, Phil Black, and Emily Helmboldt.

A motion to approve the October 13, 2009 minutes, as corrected, was made by Sharon Harrup and seconded by Mark Peterson. The minutes were approved unanimously. The approved minutes are available on the ESSP Website under Minutes at (<http://www.vadrs.org/essp/>).

Public Comments None

Old Business

ESO Survey 2009

Kathy Hayfield informed the ESOAC Committee that all but eight ESOs had responded to the ESO Survey 2009. The survey results will be presented at the April 13th ESOAC Meeting.

GWU TACE Program Update

Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, discussed the TACE Program's plan to provide an Employment Services Training and Certificate. Full scholarships for this training are available to community rehabilitation professionals whose job responsibilities include working directly with employers to achieve job placements, such as job developers, job coaches, transition personnel and VR staff. Dr. Maguire-Kuletz discussed their training programs as follows:

On-site and Online Trainings

Employment Services Training – 2 day in-person session providing participants with the opportunity to learn about and sharpen their skills in beginning employment services. Participants who wish to continue on toward a 40 credit hour Employment Services Certificate (ACRE endorsed) will attend two additional instructor-led sessions, and will complete a series of field based assignments within an eight week period. The initial training is available for approximately 50-60 people and is expected to be held in late April or early May in Fredericksburg or Hanover.

Online Trainings – will be available through the University of Missouri's Region 7 TACE Center. These trainings do not require an in-person component, run for approximately six weeks, and are available at no cost to eligible participants.

Information about additional training offered by the TACE Program can be found on their website at www.gwcre.org. Dr. Maguire-Kuletz will be sending more information out to the ESO's. Contact information-- mkuletz@gwu.edu.

New Business

ESOAC Membership

Bruce Patterson made a presentation to the full Committee from an ad hoc subcommittee of the **ESOAC Membership**. The subcommittee included Bruce Paterson, Bruce Phipps, Phil Black, and Emily Helmboldt. This group met to discuss the membership of the ESOAC. Areas discussed included committee nomination and appointment process and terms of serving on the committee. Mr. Patterson stated that subcommittee had no recommendations about changing how the committee members are selected to serve on the committee.

Kathy Hayfield told the group that DRS hoped the group would play an active role in making nominations to the ESOAC and the LTESS steering committee.

Mr. Patterson further stated that the subcommittee recommended that a discussion be held about combining the ESOAC and the LTESS Steering Committees. **A motion was made by Mark Peterson and seconded by Emily Helmboldt that the ESOAC would ask the LTESS Steering Committee to join them on April 13, 2010 to discuss combining the two committees.** The motion carried.

RSA Monitoring

Kathy Hayfield explained that DRS recently underwent a one week monitoring process by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. The RSA team was very impressed with the ESOs that they visited and recognized the strong network of providers in Virginia, and appreciated the input they received from the ESOAC. Donna Bonessi stated that VA-APSE had held a conference call with RSA as well. Dr. McGuire Kuletz explained that the TACE Center has a mandated role to work with VR agencies in response to the RSA recommendations. She stated that the draft report from RSA should be presented this summer.

2010 General Assembly session starts on January 13, 2010. vaACCSES will hold a Legislative Reception on January 25, 2010.

Public Comments

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. Several names were suggested by the group, including: Bob Huff, Marshall Butler, Woody VanValkenburgh, and Rex Parr.

Adjourn The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM

2010 Meeting Schedule:

January 12, 2010

April 13,, 2010

July 13, 2010

October 12, 2010

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