

Final
Employment Services Organization Steering Committee (ESOSC)
January 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes
DRS Central Office

Members Present: ESOAC Chair: Thalia Simpson-Clement, Chris Lavach, Robin Metcalf, Dave Wilber, Chuck McElroy, Ericka Neville, Sharon Barton, Heather Norton, Marshall Henson, Bruce Phipps, Gary Cotta, Amy Thomas, Lance Wright, Marshall Butler for Quintin Mitchell, John Craig via VTC, Mark Keith via VTC, Beth Dugan Via VTC, Linda LaMona via VTC, Dan Reichard via VTC for Alisha Meador and Nova Washington, via VTC

Members Absent: Sharon Harrup

Guests Attending: Beth Tetrault, Diana Messer, Rob Froehlich, Maureen McGuire Kuletz, Veronica Rhame, Margie Stuart, Lance Elwood, Jason Young, Karen Tefelski, Ed Rice, Emily Basford, Lisa Morgan, Evan Jones, Chris Wright.

DRS Staff Attending: Kathy Hayfield, Donna Bonessi, Judy Hill, Marshall Smith, Karen Baugh 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 Bruce Phipps and seconded by Dave Wilber 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:

- Commissioner Rothrock discussed the Governor's proposed budget. The proposed budget includes approximately 6 million dollars for the VR program for the next biennium. The majority of the fund will go directly into the VR program. However, some of the funds may need to be used for fixed costs such as personnel and IT expenses.
- There are approximately 4000 consumers on the waiting list. This includes close to 1000 that were offered the opportunity to receive services according to application date. Of those 1000, about half have responded that they are interested in receiving services.
- DRS anticipates addressing the remaining 4000 persons on the waiting list if the governor's budget increase for VR is approved.
- Several General Fund cuts have also been proposed: \$106,000 to EES and 162,000 to LTESS (may these \$ amounts exact)
- Additional proposed cuts involve the PAS program, Long Term Case Management, Brain Injury Discretionary Services (BIDS) and state Independent Living Services to CILS.
- Commissioner Rothrock continues to approve all tuition requests. The Commissioner reported he is requesting information regarding the benefits realized through college

attendance for our consumers. Recently he has reviewed the data on approximately 100 people who DRS have helped attend college for a cost of approx. \$1.2 million. Currently about 50 people are working and not receiving SSA benefits. This has resulted in significant savings in SSA benefits per year.

- The Commissioner discussed the creation of a new agency that is currently being developed through the Governor’s office. The bill has not been made public as of the meeting date. The new state agency will include DRS, VDA, VDHH and in 2013 Adult Protective Services/Adult Social Services. It is not anticipated that the new agency will affect services or funding streams of the different agencies. Administrative services may be consolidated across divisions. The Commissioner requested that anyone with questions direct them to him.

Field Rehabilitative Services Directors Report:

Kathy Hayfield reported that all categories remain closed. There are 4038 people on the waiting list (at time of meeting). However, applications have slowed. We currently have the lowest number of consumers in application status in years (600). DRS encourages everyone to continue to make referrals for services.

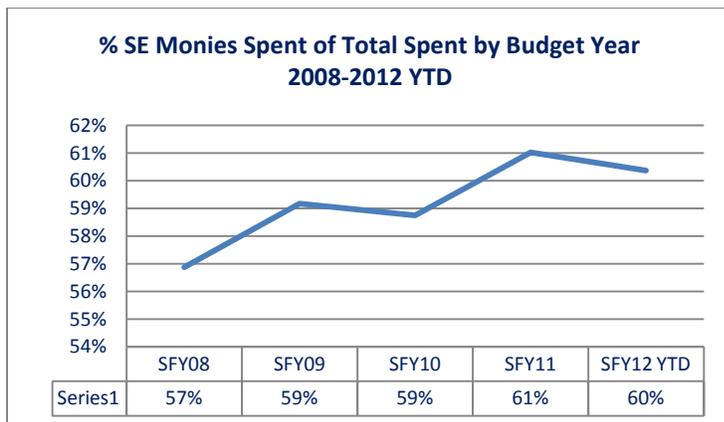
In November 2011, 928 persons in delayed status were notified they can begin to receive services. Approximately 65% of those notified have requested services. In January another 1060 consumers are being notified that they can receive services. They are all category 1 (MSD). DRS expects approximately 800 consumers to accept services.

DRS hopes to bring in an additional three months (August, September and October 2011) of eligible applicants in the system over the next few months.

Kathy Hayfield reported that the Governor put about \$3 million into the caboose bill for VR. However, DRS cannot count on these funds until mid March when it is clearer if the GA will approve the caboose bill. These funds cannot be added to the LTESS funds, they are VR finds.

DRS continues to spend approximately 60 % of case service funds with ESOs. See table and chart below for previous year’s expenditures

	SFY08	SFY09	SFY10	SFY11	SFY12 YTD
SE Total	\$9,502,169.44	\$9,266,827.36	\$10,316,218.86	\$11,744,096.29	\$3,602,572.49
Yearly Total	\$16,706,427.69	\$15,660,165.36	\$17,560,731.58	\$19,246,758.98	\$5,967,832.33
% of All	57%	59%	59%	61%	60%



DRS is making progress on the ESO report card. The data team is working on a prototype. Rob Froehlich reported that there are other states in TACE Region three who are all working on a similar type of ESO report card. However, Virginia is a leader in this process.

Discussions regarding integrated settings continue with DRS counselors. Two webinars have been scheduled for counselors to discuss Informed Choice and Ethics as it relates to integrated employment. Additionally, Donna Bonessi is scheduling to attend office staff meetings to answer counselors' specific questions.

Public Comments

None

Sub-Committee Reports:

Funding Sub-Committee:

Chuck McElroy, subcommittee chair reported that the funding subcommittee met and established a meeting schedule for the year. The sub-committee will meet approximately three weeks before the ESOSC meets. They will review reports regarding LTESS and EES funding that are provided by DRS. On 3/19/12 the committee will meet to determine what reports will assist them to make recommendations to the Commissioner.

The sub-committee was asked to make a recommendation on how to handle when ESOs do not continue to complete LTESS/EES monthly requisitions after they have expended their allocation and prior to the end to the fiscal year. The funding subcommittee recommended that the full committee consider recommending that DRS add to the vendor agreement that continued reporting is required. If reporting is not completed and after attempts are made by DRS to help the vendor successfully complete the reports then the ESO may not be eligible for a reallocation or may jeopardize their allocation for the following year.

DBHDS – Employment First Policy: DBHDS has developed an Employment First policy that is currently in comment period. The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding a proposal that the ESOSC comment as a group regarding potential issues with the policy. The committee determined that it was not the charge of the ESOSC to respond to the DBHDS comment period regarding the policy. A motion was made by Sharon Bunger that each organization should individually respond to the policy statement by 2/29/12 as they see fit. Chuck McElroy seconded the motion and all present responded “yea”.

Public Policy subcommittee:

Dave Wilber reported that this committee had its initial meeting in early January. Their meeting schedule will primarily occur prior to and immediate following the General Assembly session each year. They will meet four times: early October to review agendas from each association, December to review the Governors budget, January to discuss legislative activities each association is conducting and in March to a wrap up and develop presentation to ESOSC for April Meeting.

Nominations Sub Committee:

Amy Thomas, Chair nominations subcommittee reported that the subcommittee met in early January. Five members will rotate off in June 2012. The call for nominations will be sent out by 1/15/12 with a return date of 2/15/12. The committee established the following meeting dates:

March 1 – review nominations and make recommendations to Commissioner Rothrock.

March 30th – develop new member orientation

May 23rd – new member orientation – all ESOSC members interested in assisting can attend

All current ESOSC members are invited to attend new member orientation in May.

Old Business

GWU TACE Program Update:

Rob Froehlich updated the committee regarding the TACE center ACRE certification program. Currently there is a 95% completion rate of all who begin the online component. The second 2011 face to face cohort will begin the online component on January 30th with an expected completion date in March 2012. The annual process will begin again in the spring. There will be two face to face trainings offered. One will be in the Tidewater area and one possibly in the Winchester area as this area is central to most areas in the region.

A new course is being offered through the TACE online learning community. Tech Points AT by Tony Langston looks at how to review AT needs throughout the Rehab process.

Institute of Rehabilitation Issues – This is a project funded by the Department of Education. The group will develop manuals regarding two topics. Return on Investment for Vocational Rehabilitation and Working with underserved populations. There will be two sessions to develop the manuals. Dates have not been established on this meeting date. If anyone is interested in being a part of the group they should contact Rob Froehlich.

TACE also oversees several Learning Communities the region three. Such as CRP liaisons, training coordinators, transition coordinators, etc. The state fiscal contacts will be developing a plan to better infuse fiscal decisions into the rehab process.

Legislative Updates:

VRA

Rob Froehlich provided an update on their legislative activities. Becky Bowers-Lanier continues to be VRAs lobbyist. There are several key pieces of legislation they are focusing on that pertain to employment or DRS,

1. Advocate for LTESS/EES restoration
2. Support employment first initiative.
3. The governor's proposed VR dollars

VaAPSE

Robin Metcalf provided an update on VaAPSEs legislative agenda.

1. VaAPSE is supporting HJR 23 Employment First
2. Supporting Part B page 161 of the governor's budget proposing to add 3.4 mil to the VR program
3. Restoring Part B page 162 of the governor's budget proposing to cut LTESS/EES funding.

Robin mentioned that APSE would love to see more people at the GA and the Legislative Reception on January 18th.

vaACCSES

Dave Wilber distributed copies of vaACCSES legislative agenda for 2012. He reviewed the different priorities.

Dave also encouraged all to attend the legislative reception on January 18th.

Virginia Goodwill Network:

Gary Cotta provided an update for VGN; VGN will focus on the following priorities this GA session:

1. VR Funding
2. Prisoner Reentry
3. EES/LTESS
4. Medicaid Waivers

ESOSC Guidelines – Donna Bonessi reviewed the final updates. The guidelines were put forth for a vote by the committee. Chuck McElroy motioned that the guidelines be accepted. Dave Wilber seconded. All present members voted yes.

New Business:

None

LTESS/EES Business:

EES/LTESS Midyear review

Judy hill review the EES/LTESS midyear statistics. The statistics are attached.

LTESS Guidelines

The guidelines need to be reviewed further and Judy will work with the funding subcommittee to make recommendations for revision.

Public Comments:

Karen Tefelski asked that everyone save the date for the next Collaborations Conference and Employment Summit. 9/30/12 to 10/3/12

Adjourn: The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM

2012 Remaining ESOSC Meetings

— ~~January 10, 2012~~

April 10, 2012

July 10, 2012

October 16, 2012 (Please note this is the third Tuesday of the month and is a change from our traditional meeting schedule.)

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

Attachment A;
Mid Year LTESS/EES Stats.

1/9/2012		FY 2012 MID YEAR EES/LTESS STATISTICS			
EES	\$2,658,198	June 1, 2011 - November 30, 2011			
LTESS	\$4,809,292				
ADMIN	\$0				
	\$7,467,490				
EES	36 ESOs currently receive EES dollars				
Total on Rolls		409	Consumers of Rolls:		
Total Served		404	ID		68%
New Additions		8	SMI		11%
Closures		14	Sens/Phy		12%
			Other*		9%
			*Includes TBI - 2%, Dev. Dis. - 6%, Cognitive - <1%		
Total Allocation to ESOs		\$ 2,658,198	Avg. 386 consumers per month		
Total Dollars Spent YTD		\$ (1,456,145)			
Balance Remaining		\$ 1,202,053	Services Provided	Consumers Svd.	\$ Expended
60% of funds expended in 6 months					
			Enclave:	9%	\$ 210,759
Avg. Monthly Productivity:		47%	Mobile Crew:	0%	\$ -
Avg. Monthly Wages:		\$438.57	Offsite:	14%	\$ 135,068
Avg. Monthly Hours Worked:		91.1	Onsite:	77%	\$ 958,342
Avg. Hourly Wage:		\$4.81	Transp:	29%	\$ 151,977
Avg. Monthly Attendance:		80%			
LTESS	71 ESOs currently receive LTESS dollars				
Total on Rolls :		2,495	Consumers of Rolls:		
Total Served :		2,416	ID		40%
New Additions:		317	SMI		20%
Closures :		228	Sens/Phy		12%
			Other*		28%
			* Includes TBI - 4%, Dev. Dis. - 16%, Cognitive - 8%		
Total Allocation to ESOs		\$ 4,809,292	Avg. 2,054 consumers per month		
Total Dollars Spent YTD		\$ 2,731,304			
Balance Remaining		\$ 2,077,988			
57% of LTESS funds expended in 6 months					
All Services			Services Provided	Consumers Svd.	\$ Expended
Avg. Monthly Productivity:		80%	SE 1,946:	81%	\$ 1,269,890
Avg. Monthly Wages:		\$649.47	Enclave:	5%	\$ 337,024
Avg. Monthly Hours Worked:		88.29	Mobile Crew:	<1%	\$ 48,126
Avg. Hourly Wage Combined:		\$7.36	Offsite:	1%	\$ 65,689
Avg. Monthly Attendance:		76%	Onsite:	13%	\$ 886,868
SE Only			Transp:	4%	\$ 123,707
Avg. Monthly Wages:		\$801.66			
Avg. Monthly Hours Worked:		86.74			
Avg. SE Hourly Wage:		\$9.11			
Avg. Monthly Hours Billed in SE:		2.47			
# of ESOs Providing SE Individual:		50			
There are currently 29 consumers in both programs that are approved for a medical waiver in 11 ESOs. These consumers were unable to work the minimum of 70 hours a month.					