

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

**Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Goodwill of Central Virginia, Richmond, Virginia**

January 9, 2007 Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee Meeting:

The Employment Services Organizations Advisory Committee held its regular quarterly meeting January 9, 2007 from 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM, at Goodwill of Central Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. DRS wishes to thank Charles Laymen and the Goodwill Staff for their hospitality and use of their facility for this meeting.

Members Present: Woody Van Valkenburgh, ESOAC Chair, Susan Neal, DMHMRSAS, Chuck McElroy, Joann Packert for Florence Watt, Wendy Gradison, Sharon Harrup, Keith Clark, Shirley Lyons, Leah Boyd, Robin Metcalf for Sherman Gifford, Sharon Barton, Bruce Phipps, Diana Messer and Bill Smith for Gary Juskowiak.

Members Absent: Lynn Kushner

Guests Attending: Dan Reichard, Kimberly Emerson, Ron Burnop, Paul Atkinson, Karen Tefelski, Bruce Patterson, Lance Elwood, Chris Wright, Vanessa Evans, Heather Norton, Sharon Taylor and Ruth Parsons.

DRS Staff Attending: Commissioner Jim Rothrock, Jack Hayek, Scott Fraley, Judy Hill, Tim Olive, Harry Weinstock and Joe Ashley.

Call to Order:

Woody Van Valkenburgh woody.vanvalkenburgh@fredgoodwill.org called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 AM and asked that all present introduce themselves starting with the Committee members. Review and approval of the minutes of October 10, 2007 followed. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Bruce Phipps and seconded by Keith Clark and 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. Medicaid Buy-In – Joe Ashley and Jack Quigley briefed the Committee on the present status of the Medicaid Buy-In. Their PowerPoint presentation provided the committee information on: Legislative Requirements; Overview of MEDICAID WORKS (Medicaid Buy-In); and Eligibility requirements and Enrollment. E-mails for these individuals are: Joe.Ashley@drs.virginia.gov – Jack.Quigley@dmas.virginia.gov

b. Wage and Statistical Research – Keith Clark, Sub Committee Chair for VRIS Wage Data Use sub-committee, reported on a meeting held at DRS with committee members Keith Clark, Sherman Gifford, Bruce Phipps and Drs. Kirsten Rowe, Joe Ashley and David Dean. Keith introduced the presentation on unemployment insurance statistical data use and outcome evaluations. The discussion centered on the following:

- Using Unemployment Insurance program wage data meshes with VA Workforce Council Systems Measures - [handout describing measures provided as Attachment 1 to these minutes.](#)
- Good for measuring systems performance and for assisting policy makers to establish benchmarks and assess long-term effects of programmatic changes.
- Keith Clark noted that the question is: for what purpose do you want to use the data – what story do you want to tell, to what audience? He suggested that the data could be used for planning purposes or for demonstrating the efficacy of ESO services, particularly supported employment.
- Look at possibilities of combining these data with other OESSP to be sure there is no redundancy, or to match up with other data sources to better tell the story.

Dr. Joe Ashley reviewed the VA Workforce Council systems measures and indicated that DRS will be participating in the initial phase-in of this system for Workforce partner agencies. He also suggested that using these measures might allow for some comparison of ESO services to Workforce services. Dr. David Dean, University of Richmond, presented data on a 1999 cohort of DRS exiters. He broke out exiters by job coach training services and supported employment services. Dr. Dean used Unemployment Insurance (UI) data to identify employment rates and mean income for 12 quarters prior to closure and 20 quarters after closure. These examples demonstrated the potential use of longitudinal data for program evaluation purposes.

Discussion by the ESOAC included a suggestion on breaking out services by disability groups, particularly mental health, and the value of using longitudinal data to better present ESO service value to legislators. A follow up sub-committee meeting will be held on January 19, 2007.

E-mails for these individuals are: Joe.Ashley@drs.virginia.gov - Ddean@richmond.edu

Commissioner's Welcome & Comments

Commissioner Rothrock wished the group a Happy New Year and shared with them the legislative initiatives from the Governor's budget for the coming General Assembly. Items in the Governor's budget for DRS include, for the first time since the mid 1980s \$500,000 for the DRS basic program, funds for the DRS Medicaid Disability Unit and \$6 million for repairs at WWRC. He stated that the overview by Julie Stanley was well done and would make it available to ESOs. The [overview is included in these minutes as Attachment 2.](#)

Reporting Out – continued

c. Commissioner's Leadership Summit – Sharon Harrup Sharrup@STEPS-INC.org briefed the committee on the Summit held 11/20-21 at WWRC. Sharon substituted for Woody representing the ESOAC. There were a number of "councils/boards" represented:

- Virginia Assistive Technology Systems Council
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Brain Injury Council
- Disability Services Council
- Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- ESOAC

As a result of the summit the ESOAC will share information with the other councils/boards through DRS staff to those councils/boards. This will include sharing information regarding meeting schedules, minutes, etc.

They discussed the need to have this "group" meet again in possibly May/June. The other councils/boards were represented by the current chair and vice chair. As a result, Sharon made a motion that the incoming Chair (this year it is the vaACCSES President) would be designated as the vice chair. The motion was seconded by Bruce Phipps and carried.

d. Transportation Coordination/Grants – Neil Sherman

neil.sherman@drpt.virginia.gov reminded the committee that he attended an ESOAC meeting last year seeking support for a survey on Human Service Transportation. He shared with them that the report of those efforts and that report is available at the DRPT website. If interested go to <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/studies/files/UWR-Report-July-2006.pdf> to review the “2005 United We Ride Inventory – Coordination Efforts in Human Service Transportation in the Commonwealth of Virginia”. Neil also shared the new initiative of “New Freedom” that would allow grants to communities to do transportation for persons with disabilities. There will be a series of nine workshops during March and April and encouraged the ESO community to participate. DRS will alert all ESOs as to the dates, times and locations of these seminars.

e. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) – Jack Hayek Jack.Hayek@drs.virginia.gov shared with the committee that DRS recently completed a report on LEP that made several recommendations to the Commissioner. The implications are that if DRS is more successful in serving individuals with LEP, service providers supporting DRS may need to be as responsive. The report is available on the ESSP website under “What’s New” at <http://www.vadrs.org/essp/whatsnew.htm>. The Committee will review and suggest to the Chairman whether or not further discussion is needed at the ESOAC in April.

f. MR Waiver Study – Susan Neal Susan.Neal@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov reported that the Office of Mental Retardation (OMR), DMHMRSAS, in cooperation with the Department of Medical Assistance Services, and other stakeholders, is conducting a review of the Medicaid Home and Community-based Mental Retardation Waiver to determine how the waiver program can be improved to provide a person-centered, individualized support focus, and making recommendations to the General Assembly. As

part of the review, a Focus Team will be addressing specific MR Waiver issues around employment. Susan invited interested ESOAC members to participate on the Employment Focus Team which is looking at areas for improvement, gaps in services and supports, new specialized services that need to be developed; and existing barriers. Diana Messer, Crossroads CSB offered to be part of the team and Shirley Lyons mentioned that she already sat on the team. The Team will be creating a report with recommended changes, and related costs, to improve the MR Waiver. Susan also informed the group of Provider Discussion Groups that will be coordinated by local Community Services Boards as part of the review of the Waiver, encouraging all waiver providers to participate. Anyone interested in participating on the Employment Focus Team or wanting more information on the Provider Discussion Groups should contact Susan.

g. State Use Initiative Update - Harry Weinstock Harry.Weinstock@drs.virginia.gov updated the Committee on the DRS efforts before the Disability Commission. DRS recommended a study of state use and employment practices of the Commonwealth of Virginia regarding people with disabilities which the Disability Commission endorsed.

The Disability Commission also endorsed a recommendation for \$350,000 a year for two years for the establishment of a program similar to the old Economic Development fund. This would be used specifically for ESOs to buy equipment or take necessary steps in order to pursue opportunities with state and local government. Senator Miller and Delegate McQuigg will serve as patrons for this budget amendment

The Commissioner's State Use Study group will be reconvened to continue the effort into 2007 and as that group continues its work, minutes of those efforts will be available to the ESOAC and ESOs in general.

Public Comments

Wendy Gradison suggested expanding the ESOAC to include an individual with mental health issues as well as a representative from the Office of Mental Health from DMHMRSAS. Some discussion followed and it was decided to leave the topic on the agenda for the April meeting.

Karen Tefelski commented on the legislative initiatives of vaACCSES. They are seeking \$2.5 million in new LTESS funding and asking that the individual Supported Employment rate paid by Medicaid be the same as what DRS accepts.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

ESOAC 2007 meeting schedule is:

January 9th, 2007
NEXT - April 10th, 2007

July 10th, 2007
October 9th, 2007

