

Division of Rehabilitative Services
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Employment Services Organization Steering Committee (ESOSC)
October 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes
DRS Central Office

Members Present: ESOSC Vice Chair: Linda LaMona, Thalia Simpson-Clement in Fairfax, Robin Metcalf, Dan Reichard for Alisha Meador, Dave Wilber, Chuck McElroy, Ericka Neville, Heather Norton, Marshall Henson, Quintin Mitchell, Michelle Howard-Herbein, Ryan Follett for Sharon Harrup, and Nova Washington, Phil Nussbaum, Lisa Morgan, Sharon Bunger and Mark Keith

Members Absent: Gary Cotta, Lance Wright, Amy Thomas

Guests Attending: Jan Williams via Fairfax VTC, Margie Stuart and Joan Harmon via Abingdon VTC, Lance Elwood, Joanne Ellis, Karen Tefelski, Joe Ray, Shirley Lyons, Jason Harper, Rob Froehlich, Rudy Borges via Portsmouth VTC, Alisha Louther, Warren Mills, Lindsey Fenlon, Diana Messer, Vicki Brook.

DRS Staff Attending: Kathy Hayfield, Donna Bonessi, Carrie Worrell, Judy Hill, Barclay Shepard, Dale Batten, Al Jones, Barbara Burkett

Call to Order:

Linda LaMona, Vice-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:

A motion was made by Dave Wilber and seconded by Chuck McElroy 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 was not able to attend due to a Champions Events

Division of Rehabilitative Services Director's Report:

Sub-Committee Reports:

Ms. Hayfield explained the current status of the agency's Order of Selection for vocational rehabilitation services. In March of 2011, the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) was forced to close all disability categories due to lack of sufficient case service funds. Eligible individuals were placed on a waiting list. DRS began to take people off this waiting list on November 1, 2011, as funds were available. Following an infusion of monies from the Governor and Virginia General Assembly, DRS was able to serve all clients who were most significantly disabled (MSD) beginning on June 1, 2012. A total of 6,461 most significantly disabled clients who had been placed on the DRS waiting list were notified. As of October 12, 2012, seventy eight percent (5,030) clients had returned to DRS for services. Of those clients moved into

service from the MSD waiting list, 294 have become successfully employed representing a 56.2% rehabilitation rate for this cohort. While no clients with most significant disabilities now remain on the waiting list, another 1,580 clients are awaiting services from the Division of Rehabilitative Services.

At the current rate of authorization and anticipated expenditures, DRS would over expend our allocated case service dollars by year's end; therefore, closure of the MSD category is necessary. *DRS will close the MSD category on November 15, 2012. We will strategically bring consumers off of the waiting list in the coming months based on availability of funding.*

Counselors will continue to encourage applications. We will remove people from the waiting list based on application date as funds allow. We do not expect to have people on the waiting list for extended periods of time.

Kathy Hayfield also reported that the General Assembly report for LTESS was submitted and is now available. The report contained the LTESS statistics which were reviewed at the July 2012 ESOSC meeting. The report can be found at <http://leg2.state.va.us/DLS/H&SDocs.NSF/682def7a6a969fbf85256ec100529ebd/129fdc849d0018a985257a1d005380ed?OpenDocument>

Funding Sub-Committee:

Chuck McElroy, subcommittee chair, reported that the funding subcommittee had not met but is scheduling a face to face to meeting in Roanoke area in November. Committee Members should expect an email with dates.

The committee plans to review several factors related to the LTESS system; the effectiveness of the three year rolling average and the 70 hour of work requirement. Chuck asked that committee members who have suggestions or ideas for items send them to him.

Public Policy subcommittee:

Dave Wilber reported that this subcommittee has not met but is planning a meeting soon.

Nominations Sub Committee:

Amy Thomas was not present and no update was provided.

GWU TACE Center Update

Rob Froehlich updated the committee regarding the GWU TACE ACRE Training Series. In face to face training were held in Winchester, VA, Annapolis, MD and Norfolk, VA. A new online component has begun and a second online cohort will star early next year.

GWU participated in both the Collaborations Conference and the Employment First summit. Joan Kester presented at the Employment First summit. The TACE center is ready to kick off a series of webinars soon. The first one will focus on "Working with Challenging People". More information will be coming shortly.

New Business

AT Training for ESOs

Alisha Louther and Barclay Shepard of the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) discussed AT training that is available to ESOs. The 1 hour training helps staff better understand AT Services and resources available to their consumers. An information flyer is attached. The focus of the training is AT@Work.

Project SEARCH end of Year Review

Donna Bonessi reviewed stats for the 2011-2012 School year for Project SEARCH.

- DARS was a partner in 10 Project SEARCH programs.
- 78 students began the program in September 2011
- 89.7% (70) Students completed the program
- 62% (44) of students were employed as of 7/31/12
- 31% (22) of students who **completed the program** are employed in the host company (National average is 25%)
- \$9.22 is the average hourly wage for students. (Norfolk has the highest average hourly wages at \$11.49)
- 28.19 are the average hours worked per week. (Hampton has the highest average hours worked at 32.5)
- 1212 is the average number of job coaching hours per site provided by ESOs this school year.

Legislative Updates

vaACCSES – will vote on their legislative agenda this afternoon

VA APSE – continues to work on their Legislative agenda

VGN - continues to work on their Legislative agenda

VRA - continues to work on their Legislative agenda

Old Business

ESO Report card–

Barbara Burkett answered questions regarding the ESO report card data and offered to review each organization's data with them upon request. If you are interested in having Dr. Burkett review your organization's data, please contact her directly at Barbara.burkett@dars.virginia.gov

Input from members -- the *removal from benefits* category is hard to define and aggregate since many people stop receiving benefits many months after case closure. This data is not accurate and will not be able to be accurately calculated using AWARE. Dr. Burkett agreed to take another look at this element.

LTESS/EES Business:

Judy Hill announced that the EES system has been updated to allow for hourly billing within the EES system without merging the two funding categories. ESOs now have the ability to use EES funds for individual supported employment. She explained that one organization has already begun to utilize EES funds to support a consumer in an individual supported employment job.

Judy Hill recommended that ESOs review LTESS/EES System reports for their organizations that are available to them. One example is: “Expected Actual”- this report shows where your expenditures should be, consistent with the year to date actual billing.

Public Comments:

None

Adjourn: The Vice-Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM

2013 Meeting Schedule

January 8, 2013

April 9, 2013

July 9, 2013

October 2013 (To be determined)

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

Assistive Technology Training For Employment Service Organizations



Training Objectives

Assistive Technology

Products & Services to promote positive employment outcomes and independence.

Low Tech Devices

Devices that can be commercially obtained.

High Tech Devices

Technology that is more technologically advanced.

Fabricated Devices

Devices that are modified from the original device and/or fabricated for a specific need.

Local Resources

Organizations/ Programs/ Foundations to provide additional information on Assistive technology.

- DARS: www.vadrs.org
- VATS: www.vats.org
- ATLFA: www.atlfa.org
- FREE Foundation: www.free-foundation.org/

FOR MORE INFORMATION TO SCHEDULE A
TRAINING PLEASE CONTACT:

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