DEED / Vocational Rehabilitation Services

VRS Community Rehabilitation Program Advisory Committee

Friday, April 27, 2018 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

VRS St Paul Fairview Office

# VRS CRP Advisory Committee – Meeting on April 27, 2018

Key Messages for the Greater Vocational Rehabilitation Community:

*Note: Key Messages are first distributed via .govdelivery and then posted on the DEED website*

* Three VRS counselors provided their perspectives and real-life examples of the challenges in meeting the unique needs of the increasing number of individuals with multiple, significant disabilities who are now seeking VR services. Across the state, counselors are experiencing a shortage of relevant services and stressed the need to increase the availability of services focused on the person’s strengths.
* The advisory committee discussed several strategies for accelerating the availability and delivery of person centered services within VRS and the larger vocational rehabilitation system including a continued focus on training as well as alignment of referrals and supporting forms to person centered language. The advisory emphasized that this is a sea change for the entire disability employment services system. It is more than changing culture at the organization level. It requires changing the culture of the greater community.
* VRS wants to hear from providers who anticipate challenges related to the revised P/T contract amendment process. Concerned providers are invited to submit their observations and concerns in writing to Kim Peck, VRS Director.
* VRS will present its next webinar on May 15th from 10:00 to 11:30am. The webinar topic is Customized Employment and will include information about key dates for submitting documents for Customized Employment Competency Review, understanding the criteria DEED-VRS will use to ensure competency in delivering CE services to VRS clients, and a preview of the new Minnesota-based Customized Employment training currently in development.

*\* End of Key Messages*