DEED / Vocational Rehabilitation Services

VRS Community Rehabilitation Program Advisory Committee

Friday, March 23, 2018 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

VRS St Paul Fairview Office

# VRS CRP Advisory Committee – Meeting on March 23, 2018

Key Messages for the Greater Vocational Rehabilitation Community:

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

* The CRP Advisory Committee approved and signed the 2018 committee charter.
  + Click here for a link to the committee duties, membership, and minutes: <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/councils/crp-advisory.jsp>
* RSA provided recent interpretation that services classified as "assessment" are no longer considered to be Pre-ETS and cannot be categorized under the 15% funding requirement.   However, student "exploration" experiences/activities will continue to be classified as a Pre-ETS activity.  Such activities are defined as being more self-directed in nature, offering a student the opportunity to self-reflect and gain insight regarding their own likes, dislikes and interests.
  + Community partners will have the opportunity to learn more about this recent RSA clarification as part of a VRS Update webinar scheduled for April 17.
* Placement 101 will be offered again starting this fall. The JPD (Job Placement Division) of MRA will be conducting the training around the state at an affordable cost.
  + The 3-day training content is being updated by Stephanie Kruger, Pearl Consulting; Doris Illies, Productive Alternatives/VRS; and Marci Jasper, VRS. We are also looking at including information in the curriculum on key partners including DHS, counties and schools.
  + The first two training days occur in week one with the third day occurring a few weeks later after a period to apply learning.
  + Placement 101 is designed for newer placement staff; however, it can also be attended by seasoned placement staff for refresher training benefits.
* Building upon the initial January advisory dialogue on job coaching services, the committee conducted an exploratory dialogue on creating a ‘Job Coaching 101’ curriculum for the Minnesota vocational rehabilitation community:
  + There is unanimous agreement by the advisory committee on the need and value of developing a ‘Job Coaching 101’ to serve Minnesota’s VR community.
  + With a new infusion of individuals with multiple, significant disabilities seeking VR services because of WIOA, Section 511 and Pre-ETS, VR field staff are seeing an insufficient level of ongoing supports to meet the needs of the more challenging populations we are serving.
  + Potential design considerations for a ‘Job Coaching 101’ curriculum:
    - Training that promotes consistent definitions and standards;
    - Covers the broad range of job supports needed statewide such as short term and long term, advanced techniques for working with the most significantly disabled, job etiquette and soft skills, technical skills coaching, job start and support planning, coaching for stability and maintenance, writing skills and keeping appropriate documentation;
    - Building employer relationships and natural supports;
    - Dealing with differences in county perspectives and expectations;
    - Provides a toolbox, like Placement 101, that is readily available to new and existing job coaches, and
    - Understanding differences among VR PBA, EE and DHS waivers funded services including transition between VR to DHS waiver funded services.
* DEED will be proposing changes to the state rules that govern the Extended Employment (EE) Program this spring.
  + The rule is being revised to reflect principles such as Minnesota’s commitment to person-centered practices, informed choice, and Minnesota’s Employment First policy—especially its focus on competitive, integrated employment.
  + The revision will also align the program with new practices in the broader disability services system driven by the federal Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rule, the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and stepped up enforcement of the Olmstead decision.
  + The rule revision process started 4 years ago and has included 18 months of work by an advisory committee and 8 public forums and meetings, in addition to ongoing engagement of the 27 EE providers.
  + The department is grateful for the significant provider and community input into the development of the proposed rule changes.
  + For more information and to sign up for email updates, go to <mn.gov/deed/eerule>.
* DHS guests Ryan Merz and Tony Gantenbein provided a status update on transition plans and supporting system updates for the new DHS employment services - Exploration, Development, and Support Services:
  + On March 8, DHS received CMS approval for the waiver services amendment necessary to support the new services.
  + DHS anticipates that participants will begin transitioning to the new employment services as part of their annual review starting July 1, 2018, with all participants transitioned to new employment services by July 1, 2019.
  + DHS is preparing transition training and activities for lead agencies (counties and tribes), service providers, and participants and families.
  + DHS is developing policy guidance as well as competencies for employment specialists.
    - For more information contact: DSD Response Center at [DSD.Responsecenter@state.mn.us](mailto:DSD.Responsecenter@state.mn.us) or 651-431-4300

*\* End of Key Messages*