



EMPLOYMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum

June 1, 2021



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- Welcome to the VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum. We're pleased to also have potential VRS Community Partners, SSB Community Partners, and SSB Workforce Development Unit with us today.
- **ASL Interpreters** are designated as "co-hosts", so they appear at the top of your participant list.
- **Closed Captioning** is available. A livestream is linked in the chat.
- **Questions and Comments:** Please submit feedback, questions, comments via Microsoft Form. The link is copied in the chat. Please keep your microphone muted throughout the meeting.
- **Your name:** please change the name that Zoom displays to your first and last name. An easy way to rename is: 1) go to the participant list and find your name, 2) hover over your name, 3) select "more," 4) select "rename."
- **Technical Issues:** If you have technical issues, please contact [Jessica.Outhwaite@state.mn.us](mailto:Jessica.Outhwaite@state.mn.us), [Janeen.Oien@state.mn.us](mailto:Janeen.Oien@state.mn.us), or [Anne.Paulson@state.mn.us](mailto:Anne.Paulson@state.mn.us).
- **Recording:** The session will be recorded and posted to the VRS website along with the agenda, presentation, and transcript. [mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/updates](https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/updates)

## **I. Welcome**

- Kim Babine, VRS Director of Community Partnerships

## **II. E1MN Updates**

- Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives

## **III. PBA Updates: E1 PBA and General PBA**

- Evie Wold, VRS Placement Specialist | Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Specialist

## **IV. Q&A**

## **V. Conclusion**



## E1MN UPDATE

### **VRS Community Partners and Staff Forum**

June 1, 2021

Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives

# Summary of E1MN Core Trainings



## April/May: Three E1MN Core Training sessions

- Recorded sections available on E1MN Training site
- Total attendees: 1,285 (over the three sessions)
  
- Goals:
  - Learn about E1MN (how and why)
  - Explain the Engage, Plan, Find, Keep framework
  - Have a high-level understanding of Roles & Responsibilities
  - Be prepared for next steps leading up to launch July 1, 2021



## E1MN Core Training Feedback

- Total # of surveys completed: 452
- An overwhelming majority of survey respondents agreed that they understood the training's content in all areas.
- There were some areas where disagreement was higher, particularly regarding having a high-level understanding of E1MN team member roles and responsibilities and feeling prepared for the July 1, 2021 E1MN launch.



## E1MN Core Training Feedback

- Some respondents provided suggestions on how the training could be improved, including having materials available to participants before and after the training, and making time to have a question-and-answer session.
- Nearly half of respondents primarily worked in the metro area, and more than two-thirds of respondents have been working with people with disabilities for ten years or more.



## Coffee Chats

- March, April, May, and next one is **June 10<sup>th</sup>**
- [FAQ's](#)
- 526 people have attended the Coffee Chats
- Continue with Coffee Chats July, August and September



# Provider Alignment Webinar



- The Benefits of Becoming Both 245D and VRS/SSB Service Providers Webinar held on 4/8
- 225 people registered
- Break-out sessions focused on 245D and VRS/SSB
- Webinar recorded & available on E1MN website under [provider trainings](#)

# Training and Technical Assistance Needs Ahead



- Continue Coffee Chats July – September (7/22, 8/26, and 9/23)
- Trainings: specific audience needs and joint trainings. On-demand and available when people need it.
- Regional forums / trainings in the fall
- Centralized E1MN email for questions

# DEED General PBA and the new E1 PBA

Evie Wold, VRS Placement Specialist

Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Specialist

- Review of PBA changes
- Update on Work in Progress Items
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers

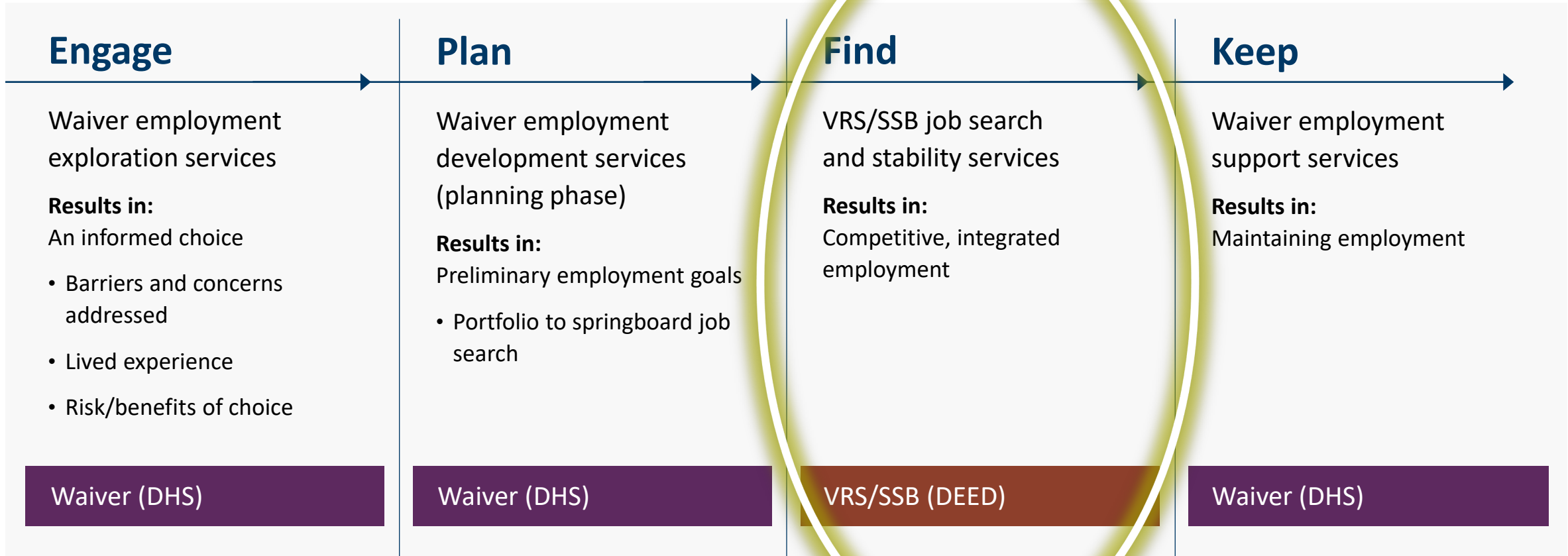
# Adult Services

Primary funding source for people on waivers who are not enrolled in high school or age 18-21 transition programming

- Waiver (DHS)
- VRS/SSB (DEED)



ADULT



# Two PBA Models Starting

## General PBA

- \$3,800
- Three Milestones
- For non-Medicaid waiver VR participants

## E1 PBA

- \$5,000
- Four Milestones
- For individuals on one of these Medicaid waivers:
  - CADI: Community Access for Disability Inclusion Waiver
  - BI: Brain Injury Waiver
  - CAC: Community Alternate Care Waiver
  - DD: Developmental Disabilities Waiver

# VRS PBA Model

Milestone	General PBA Milestone	Amount	E1 PBA Milestone	Amount
Milestone 1	Initial Placement Plan	\$1,330	Initial Placement Plan	\$1,330
E1 Milestone	n/a	n/a	120-days of service	\$1,200
Milestone 2	First Shift of New Job Completed	\$1,200	First Shift of New Job Completed	\$1,200
Milestone 3	90 Days Successfully Employed	\$1,270	90 Days Successfully Employed	\$1,270
	Total:	\$3,800	Total:	\$5,000

# What both PBAs Have in Common

## Both PBAs will:

- Include Informed Choice
- Unbundle 20 hours of job coaching
- Allow layering of services; job coaching and job tryouts
- Change from bi-weekly communication updates to a new Monthly Progress Report
- Have 60-day meetings when participant is in job search
- Milestones 1, 2, 3 are the same
- Eliminating the Placement Plan Summary
- Change from “retention” services to “follow up” services



## The E1 PBA will have:

- Waiver Case Manager is a team member
- An extra milestone payment called E1 (in addition to Milestones 1, 2 & 3)
- The expectation of more individualized and intensive services and supports
- This payment option will become available on July 1, 2021
- Any partner with PBA on their PT Contract could provide an E1 PBA
- No PT contract amendments are needed if PBA is already listed

# Informed Choice

- No changes in how VR addresses Informed Choice:
- Informed Choice engages the VR participant in the process of choosing which community provider they feel will best meet their service needs
- All VR participants go through the same Informed Choice process whether they have a Medicaid waiver/waiver case manager or not.
- VR participants may choose internal or external placement specialist to help them with their job search
- Community Partners do NOT have to be 245D to provide E1 PBAs

# Milestone 1: Initial Placement Plan \$1,330

- **Milestone 1:**
  - Initial meeting with all team members: minimally the referring counselor, placement provider, job seeker AND for E1 PBA the waiver case manager
  - Completion of the Placement Plan (including all roles and responsibilities of each team member)
  - Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA
- **For Milestone 1 Payment:**
  - Completed Placement Plan AND
  - Invoice from provider

# E1 Milestone (120 - Days of Service): \$1,200

- **Milestone E1:**

- Only for individuals with Medicaid waivers
- Paid at 120-days of service
- This could be during active job/search placement services OR
- Could be follow up services once a competitive integrated job is secured

- **For Milestone E1 Payment:**

- All four (4) Monthly Progress reports (since Placement Plan)
- A record of the 60-day meetings AND
- Invoice from provider

# Milestone 2 (First Shift of New Job Completed): \$1,200

- **Milestone 2:**

- Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information
- Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA
- \*E1 PBA - VR Counselor notifies waiver case manager to initiate long term funding

- **For Milestone 2 Payment:**

- Monthly Progress reports submitted (since last milestone paid) AND
- Invoice from provider

# Milestone 3: 90 Days Successfully Employed

\$1,270

- **Milestone 3:**
- Monthly Progress Reports with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure completed
- Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA
- \*E1 PBA VR counselor will communicate with waiver case manager
- **For Milestone 3 Payment:**
- Monthly Progress reports submitted (since last milestone paid) AND
- Invoice from provider

# E1 PBA Scenario #1

Partner paid \$5,000 | Milestone sequence 1, E1, 2, 3

- Abdi starts job placement and has their Initial Placement Plan meeting on February 1, 2022
  - *Partner submits Placement Plan and invoices for **Milestone 1**, \$1330*
- Abdi continues in job search and has a 60-day meeting on April 1, 2022 – agreement to continue with job search
  - *Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (2 reports since Milestone 1)*
- Abdi continues in job search and has reached 120-days of service on June 1, 2022
  - *Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (4 since Milestone 1) and invoices for the **E1 Milestone**, \$1,200*
- Abdi accepts a competitive integrated job and works his first shift on August 16, 2022
  - *Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information and invoices for **Milestone 2**, \$1,200*
- Abdi successfully maintains and is happy with their job on November 16, 2022
  - *Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure and invoices for **Milestone 3**, \$1,270*

# E1 PBA Scenario #2

Partner paid \$5,000 | Milestone sequence 1, 2, E1, 3

- Dillon start job placement, has their Initial Placement Plan meeting on February 1, 2022
  - Partner submits Placement Plan and invoices for **Milestone 1, \$1330**
- Dillon accepts a competitive integrated job and works first shift on March 15, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information and invoices for **Milestone 2, \$1,200**
- Dillon continues working and is still “in service” at 120-days on June 1, 2022 \*no meeting required
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (4 since Milestone 1) and invoices for **E1 Milestone, \$1,200**
- Dillon is stable, working, and happy with their job on June 15, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure and invoices for **Milestone 3, \$1,270**



# Updates Since May's Forum Meeting

- Two new workgroups are preparing for July 1, 2021, launch of PBA changes
  - Meeting weekly to dig deep into the Work in Progress list shared last month: Sara Sundeen, Evie Wold, Maureen McAvoy, Michelle Chmielewski, Marci Jasper, Jess Outhwaite, Gretchen Ykema
  - Providing on-going review and consult: Sara Sundeen, Evie Wold, Jennifer Bielke, Laura Cheney, Claire Courtney, Heather Farmer, Sherry Hendrickson, Erin Main, Meighan Nelson, Janeen Oien, Anne Paulson Mimi Schafer, Brad Westerlund
- June 29, 2021, Partner and VR staff training on PBAs
- July 1, 2021, E1MN (MoU) begins
- July 1, 2021, Changes to the General PBA begin
- July 1, 2021, E1 PBA becomes available as a payment option for Job Placement and Follow Up Services

# Work in Progress List

- Update Job Placement and Follow Up Forms
- Clarify “90-day clocks” and Milestone 3 payment
- Provide more guidance around Holds
- Preparation for the July 1st transition for General PBA
- Preparation for the July 1st start for E1 PBA
- Reminder on Pre-ETS and PBAs

# Updated Forms

- On July 1, 2021 updated versions of these forms will be used:
  - Monthly Progress Report
  - Placement Plan
  - Invitation to Placement
  - Job Coaching Communication and Reports

# Clarify “90-day clocks” and Holds

- We acknowledge that there has been confusion and inconsistency with:
  - When Milestone 3 is paid
  - How long a PBA should be on hold
- We will clarify this and will train on the guidance the June 29, 2021 PBA training

# General PBA changes

## In anticipation of July 1st changes

- **June 30, 2021**
  - Will be last submission of bi-weekly Communication Updates
- **July 1, 2021:**
  - Start using the Monthly Progress Report template (the first report will be due August 10, 2021)
  - Any job coaching needed will be paid for on an hourly basis and will need to be on the job seekers VRS Employment Plan

# No Retroactive E1 PBA

- Starting July 1, 2021: E1 PBA will become a placement payment option with a rolling implementation for new PBAs
- Individuals currently in a VRS General PBA will continue in the General PBA for the remainder of their job placement and follow-up. VRS will not change the authorization to E1 PBA
- Individuals who are in a VRS General PBA and attain a waiver while in the General PBA will continue in the General PBA for the remainder of their job placement and follow-up

# Current Job Seekers with a Waiver

## During the month of June:

- If a job seeker wants to start job search right away a General PBA should be done
- If a job seeker waits until July 1st to begin job search an E1 PBA will be done
- Counselors should discuss with the job seeker the pros and cons of waiting until July 1st to start a PBA.
- If a job seeker decides to wait until July 1st, other resources and hourly services may be considered and added to the Employment Plan

# PBAs and Students

- Guidance remains the same as before for Students and PBAs
  - If a student is seeking short-term work experience or "intermediate job", they would not use a PBA
  - If the student is looking for a permanent job and PBA is appropriate whether they have a waiver will determine if this is a General PBA or E1 PBA



# Next Steps

- PBA Training June 29, 2021: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Questions about today's presentation: [PBA Questions](#)
- For more information on E1 MN
  - Attend a Coffee Chat
  - Visit the Disability HUB <https://disabilityhubmn.org/for-professionals/work/e1mn/>

# Discussion – Questions and Answers

Please submit questions using the Microsoft Form at linked in the chat.

*If you have questions regarding E1MN or the DHS/DEED MOU, please submit those questions to the [E1MN Coffee Chat question form](#).*



Thank you



## Funding Notice

- The VR program receives 74.05 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2019, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$41,796,129. The remaining 25.5 percent of the costs (\$14,300,000) were funded by Minnesota state appropriations.