DEED / Vocational Rehabilitation Services

VRS Community Rehabilitation Program Advisory Committee

Friday, September 28, 2018 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

VRS St Paul Fairview Office

# VRS CRP Advisory Committee – Meeting on September 28, 2018

Key Messages for the Greater Vocational Rehabilitation Community:

*Note: Key Messages are first distributed via .govdelivery approximately one week after the meeting and posted on the DEED website. They are also included at the end of the official full session notes.*

**Customized Employment**

* VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives Chris McVey and CRP Advisory Member Jolene Juhl of MnSOCS, provided a preview of the new Minnesota Customized Employment Training which is set to launch in January 2019.
  + The new training has been developed to provide the greater MN vocational rehabilitation services community access to affordable, high quality training in Customized Employment with an emphasis on CE-Discovery and CE-Job Development.
  + The training is designed to occur for six days spread over a four-month period. The training includes hands on learning and application as well as five hours of mentoring for each student to support their development of CE skills and competency.
  + The training will be offered starting in January 2019 with one cohort in St Cloud and a second cohort in the metro area. The cost for the training is $725. VRS is in the process of securing ACRE certification for the MN Customized Employment Training.
* VRS will present its next webinar focused on the Minnesota Customized Employment Training update on October 1st from 10:00 to 11:00am. The webinar will be archived for on demand viewing.

**DHS Waiver Employment Services Interim Guidance**

* The Advisory discussed the interim guidance on DHS community-based employment services.
* VRS Director Kim Peck provided an update that DHS and DEED/VRS will be meeting this fall to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will fully replace the interim guidance on DHS community-based employment services that was published this summer. Both DHS and DEED/VRS are employing their respective national technical assistance entities to incorporate national insights.
* The Advisory discussed significant concerns that a lack of coordination and collaboration of employment-based services could result in an unsustainable demand for VR eligibility assessments that would in turn result in the closure of the remaining open service category one at which point all service categories would be closed and VRS would no longer be able to issue referrals for VR services.
* The Advisory discussed desired changes that will help clarify and develop the collaboration of these services and funding sources with VRS funded employment services. Among the desired changes, the advisory committee expressed strong interest in an MOU that:
  + is based on a person-centered approach,
  + provides greater flexibility in access and use of services and funding,
  + allows for an individual’s choice in service delivery by eliminating the guidance that all individuals must first go through VR before utilizing waiver funded services,
  + provides transparency regarding the fiscal realities of both DHS and VRS,
  + accentuates the spirit of ongoing ‘team’ collaboration in service delivery rather than disruptive handoffs between VRS and DHS, and
  + helps to clarify the key roles, services, and definitions for greater understanding and improved outcomes for the individuals the programs are designed to serve.
* As part of the fall MOU development work, DHS and DEED/VRS will be determining stakeholder forums for engagement and input on the Memorandum of Understanding content. The advisory recommends that stakeholders be engaged in meaningful ways early and often throughout the MOU’s development to help ensure a person-centered approach.
* The Advisory Committee also views securing a commitment for joint training on the MOU content and collaborative practices as essential for effective, consistent implementation across Minnesota’s 87 counties.

*\* End of Key Messages*