

Policy Academy Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2009

Present: Deb Henderson-Guenther, Linda Vegoe, Sue Munger, Amy Ehlinger, Amy Buchaklian, Beth Ulrich, Linda Raap, Allison Gordon, Amy Grotzke, Hal Ackerman, Sharon La Rose, Kris Martin, Tammi Cassidy-Neal, Bronk Hansen, Jennifer Hunn, Manuel Lugo, Jean Rogers, Mike Greco

Guest: Jessica Thompson, Social Work Intern from Secretary's office, Kathleen Enders, Enid Glenn

Review of June Meeting Minutes

All

Updates from Managements

Manuel, Mike, Jean

Mike:

- Shared information on new initiative on providing Internships to consumers for jobs in state agencies using ARRA funds
- Currently have set up 100 OJTs. Goal is 900 OJTs during the next two years. New set of revised OJT processes/procedures will be coming out this week. The key is DVR direct contact with the employer.
- Positive feedback on process: CCP is processing these payments very quickly.

Manuel:

- State is not providing a budget supplement as they have done in previous years because of overall budget issues. As a Division, we still have sufficient funding but we will need to take steps to move funding to the appropriate line so that we can continue to do the hiring that was approved.
- Project positions: Because we had permission to hire 10 project positions, we are now looking at possibly using the ARRA funds to hire the permanent positions once we reach our 10% required vacancy rate. Looking at this because of increased case loads.
- We want to look at ways we can increase the number of OJTs & to increase appropriate expenditures/activities for individuals who are ready for employment to move them towards employment.
 - 40% of our cases are now in "ready for employment status".
 - Suggestions on possible activities:
 - Designate staff who would increase direct contacts with consumers, start job clubs (maybe even hiring someone to run a Job Club & have a CCC assist), work with ManPower or other temp agencies (Amy G. shared a model they are using that is starting to demonstrate some success & she is willing to share info. with others), etc.
 - Organize ourselves/work tasks in a different way to provide services with emphasis on those who are ready for work but are currently stalled in the system due a competitive job market, etc.
 - If we do consider using VR funds for a service, look for something that is different than what we are doing now, extending the time of a service offered by another entity, establish some type of bonus structure for staff, i.e. double credit, who may, for example, develop jobs with small employers
- Since the money follows the person, there will be a considerable amount of funding following these individuals into the next fiscal year. The field is encouraged to focus on services that will move people into employment during these challenging economic times.

- We will be developing information on how WI DVR defines integrated employment. We are doing this because there has been increased pressure to count sheltered work as a successful employment outcome.
 - The criteria developed will be brought back to the PA for review.
 - Discussion continued on current issues/discussions now occurring nationally on this subject
- RSA Review in March 2010: Will be a tough review & we expect that we will do well in some areas and for others will need to develop corrective action plans.
- WisCareers: Requested feedback from PA members on usage to determine if we should continue to fund. Discussed pros and cons of system as a resource for staff/consumers.

DVR OOS Process- WRC Recommendation

All

- Discussion took place because SLT is interested in recommendations from the Academy on redesign of OOS.
- WRC recommendations:
 - Underlying philosophy is that OOS is for a waitlist so it should not be complex/not a time consuming process for staff. If we're going to have a process, design one that will have some value for VRCs and that is meaningful for consumers.
 - The council would like category placement simplified & recommend counting limitations that are significant enough that they would need to be addressed in order for the person to work. Do away with the severe/ non-severe determination. The determination would become "Is this limitation significant enough to be used for category placement vs. now having to decide if the limitation is a severe or non severe."
- Feel it is a good time to consider this change because of decreased number of people on the waitlist & the current IRIS redesign.
- If this is used early on to place a person in a certain category, then it allows for further discussion during IPE development.
- **THE COUNCIL WILL SHARE A WRITE-UP ON THEIR PROPOSAL THIS WEEK THAT ACADEMY MEMBERS SHOULD SHARE AND DISCUSS WITH THEIR WDAS. Linda V. will email to Linda R. to share with PA.**
 - We will give directors a heads-up at the directors meeting next week that the PA will be sharing this information with their WDAs.

Workers Compensation

Brock

- Shared his concerns about paying for services that WC should be paying for, such as retraining.
- Discussion continued on ways to address these concerns although many of the issues arise because of our different systems.
- If someone applies for our services, we have to follow our regulations, but additionally, we can educate the person on the worker compensation system to help them become self advocates.
- Worker Compensation folder will be updated. Policy Analysts will work with the field to do so.

Tech Assessment Question

Brock

- Issue: Consumer needs attendant care on the campus. Another agency ordered an assessment & then after it was completed, pulled their purchase order, saying DVR should pay for it. **We do not pay for something we did not order. Nor do we create a purchase order and pay for the service after the fact**
- However, there is nothing that prohibits us from paying for the care or negotiating with the other parties to cost share if the service is needed for a VR purpose.

Merit Scholarships

Linda

- Discussion on current system dealing with students who have scholarships reported on the TG.
- Finding that many students are not being told that merit scholarships are not a comparable benefit.
- Feel the current exception process should be reserved for actual exceptions to the fee schedule.
- Linda R. & Mike G. will contact WTCS and UW system liaisons to impact of DVR offsetting the merit scholarship outside the TG process. Would an overaward be created or school grants decreased?

Case Closure- EN providing follow- along (call AT&T line)

Suzanne/Amy/ Mike

ADD QUESTION

- New regulation that is national regulation called Partnership Plus which is a system designed by an organization as a SE long term funding source using ticket payments.
- Because this does not affect a large group, we will forgo EN payments and pass these payments/portion of those payments over to the EN during the 90 day follow along policy while still open with DVR.

Email Process

Sue

- Question: Why can't email system be set up to delete emails after 90 days/ calendar after 1 year. Don't need to see emails from CCP with attachments.
 - Because our emails are public records, we cannot set up automatic deletes.
 - Under new IRIS system, will see notification of attachment, but it will not be an email.
- May want to do some training on what needs to be saved, etc. Emails that you sent (not the one you receive) are your responsibility i.e. retaining them per records retention policy.

IPE Amendments

Deb

- Issue Discussed: Does DVR have to wait to receive price quotes before amending an IPE to include a service. CAP is seeing this happening in a couple of WDAs.
- Answer: Amendment should be completed when services are known. You do not need to wait for quotes or identification of a specific vendor.
- **Share this information** with management/staff.

Tech Specs

Kathleen/ All

- Kathleen shared several handouts dealing with technical specifications for job planning, development, placement services, on site job coaching and service fee structure, and requested feedback on how the current process is working.
- Discussion took place on the technical specifications: job development services and ESP document.
- We need to focus on the intent of the services/technical spec., not on the forms/process.
- In October discussion will continue on On Site Job Coaching and Benefits Analyst technical specifications.
- **Do not get someone involved in a service i.e. job placement if the person is not ready for that service.**
- **DO NOT MANIPULATE SITUATIONS JUST TO AVOID TAKING A 28. We should provide services as needed & if it results in a 28 after we have provided good rehab., then we take it.**

Out of State Attendance

Linda R.

- Advised the PA that the Sensibility Team is working on considerations for individuals with sensory disabilities who wish to attend out of state/private schools and will have final product by Jan. 31.

October Meeting Will be Changed Because It Is Scheduled for the Day After the Furlough.

- Linda R. will work with Tamara to schedule a new meeting time asap.

Agenda Items for October 2009 with requested times

- **Customized Self Employment Toolkit** 2-3 hours
- **RSA 911 Feedback** 30 minutes
- **OOS Feedback** 1 hour
- **Exception Request** 30 minutes
- **Technical Specs** 2 hours

Facilitator: Sue Munger

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 9 am. to 3 pm.