

## INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

DVR has a tri-agency Interagency Agreement that defines necessary relationships, policies and procedures between the DVR, and the Departments of Public Instruction (DPI) and Health Services (DHS). The agreement is designed to create common understanding, and establish collaborative efforts regarding services that will ultimately improve employment outcomes for students with disabilities who may be eligible for DVR services. This interagency agreement has been revised from the July 2007 interagency agreement to now focus on both students with disabilities transitioning from high school as well as adults with disabilities, who have an expectation for integrated competitive employment. The three agencies also jointly developed a Transition Action Guide (TAG) which puts the agreement into practice. The agreement and the TAG have been modified to reflect best practices associated with increasing employment opportunities for people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities who also have challenges with mental health. The agreement and TAG are published on the DVR public website. The three agencies have updated these agreements to reflect on-going projects that have enriched and deepened our relationship, understanding and program evolution. The updated agreements allow for an on-going vehicle that best reflects the updated procedures, policies and protocols established to serve youth eligible for DVR services.

[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf\\_files/dpi\\_interagency\\_agreement.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf_files/dpi_interagency_agreement.pdf)  
[http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf\\_files/tag.pdf](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf_files/tag.pdf)

### **Financial responsibilities of each State Agency providing employment services**

When there is overlap of educational goals and employment/rehabilitation goals and services, a cost sharing arrangement may be negotiated between DVR, the school district, and Long-Term Care and/or Mental Health programs. To know who will pay for a service, all parties must be involved in transition planning in order to make a determination about appropriate services.

The following are general guidelines to help understand how decisions can be made under the DVR/ DPI/DHS interagency agreement.

Test 1 - Will the service help to achieve the educational goal of the IEP? If yes, the school is primarily responsible for the service.

Test 2 - Will the service help to achieve the employment goal of the IPE? If yes, DVR is primarily responsible for the service.

Test 3 - If the same service appears on both the IEP and IPE, the school and DVR are responsible for negotiating a cost sharing arrangement (conflicts between schools and DVR are to be resolved utilizing the process outlined in the DPI/DVR/DHS Interagency Agreement).

Test 4 - If the student is over 18 and eligible for Medicaid long-term care services and supports, and chooses to enroll in a Long-Term Care and/or Mental Health program, the three agencies are responsible for negotiating a cost sharing arrangement to determine

resources for each individual's situation. (Conflicts between agencies are to be resolved utilizing the process outlined in the DPI/DVR/DHS Interagency Agreement.)

Staff of all three potential funding sources (i.e., DVR, DPI and DHS) are trained in the use of this decision making process.

## **Wisconsin Interagency Collaboration Projects and Teams**

### **Wisconsin Community of Practice on Transition**

The Wisconsin Community of Practice on Transition is an interagency collaboration that includes partners from DVR, Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Health Services (DHS), Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD), Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Supports (WI FACETS), Wisconsin State Parent Education Initiative (WSPEI), UW Waisman Center, WI Technical Colleges and Parents. The mission of the collaboration is to bring stakeholders together to impact policies, practices and outcomes for youth with disabilities in transition to adult life. The strategic plan for 2015-2016 includes a focus on the County Communities on Transition (CCoT's) to create local relationships between schools, DVR service providers and employers to improve the outcomes of youth with disabilities transitioning from high school to employment.

### **Wisconsin Promise**

The PROMISE initiative is a research and demonstration project that is intended to improve services for youth SSI (Social Security Supplemental Security Income) recipients and their families. The services help youth recipients achieve better outcomes, including graduating from high school ready for college and a career, completing postsecondary education and job training, and obtaining competitive employment in an integrated setting. As a result, these youth SSI recipients can achieve long-term reductions in reliance on SSI. Wisconsin is one of six sites participating in the demonstration.

DVR has hired counselors that have a caseload that consists exclusively of Promise youth. These counselors are using specific evidence based practices and rapid engagement services to most effectively serve youth in transition starting at age 14. WI DVR is already using the lessons learned from WI Promise to improve the transition services we offer to our youth.

Wisconsin Promise will help youth and their families meet their school and work goals in order to better their income and financial stability, reducing poverty.