

WSRC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES*Thursday, May 12, 2022**9:00am to 11:43am***Members****Present:**

Erica Wollen, Workforce Training Representative, Olympia
Jen Chong-Jewell, Parent Advocate, Everett
Jennifer Bean, Client Assistance Program, Bellingham
Laurae MacClain, Tribal VR Representative, Nespelam
Lesa Dunphy, DVR Counselor Representative, Colville
Matt Newton, Business Representative, Tacoma (*joined meeting at 9:35am*)
Michele Stelovich, Labor Representative, Bellingham
Peggy Frisk, Council Chair, Community Rehabilitation Provider, Lake Stevens
Alexandra Toney, OSPI Representative, Olympia
Terry Redmon, DVR Director, Ex-Officio, Lacey

Members**Absent:**

Ivanova Smith, Disability Advocacy Representative, Tacoma
Dion Graham, State Independent Living Council Representative, Union
Edward Nicholson, Business Representative, Vancouver

Council Staff:

Shelby Satko, WSRC Executive Director, Lacey
Jolie Ramsey, WSRC Executive Lead, Lacey

Visitors:

Allesandria Goard, DVR Chief of Field Services, DVR State Office
Amy Lystad, DVR Regional Trainer, Tumwater Office
Angela Merritt, DVR Supervisor, Spokane Office
Ann Martin, DVR Region 2 Administrator
Brian Jaeger, DVR Counselor, Redmond Office
Cassi Villegas, DVR EDAI Administrator and Tribal Liaison
Cassidy Feist, Rehab Tech, Aberdeen
Don Alvashere, DVR Senior Manager
Doug Burkhalter, Client Assistance Program Staff
Holly Anderson, DVR Supervisor, Vancouver Office
James O'Brien, DVR Supervisor, Lynnwood Office
Jamie Grund, DVR Finance and Budget Manager
Jeanette Ogg, DVR Chief of Operations
Kim Conner, Executive Director, WA State Independent Living Council
Kristina Zawisza, DVR Performance Manager
Lauren Peterson, DVR Regional Trainer, Tumwater Office
Lori Magnuson, DVR Regional Trainer, Central Seattle Office

Mandy Kipfer, Deputy Region 3 Administrator
Mari Heusman, DVR Policy Manager
Michael Pinto, DVR Counselor, Centralia Office
Monica Valencia, DVR Counselor, Kennewick Office
Pablo Villarreal, DVR Region 1 Administrator
Rayanne Miller, DVR Confidential Secretary, State Office
Robb St. Lawrence, Fiscal Compliance Manager, DVR State Office
Sabrina Rosas, DVR Rehab Tech, Kelso Office
Selena Cunningham, DVR Regional Transition Consultant, Kelso Office
Shawn Walsworth, DVR Region 3 Administrator
Tina Ailinger, DVR Supervisor, Kelso Office
Valerie Davis, DVR Counselor, Spokane Office

Call to Order— Meeting called to order at 9:03am by Peggy Frisk, Chair

Motion: Approval of February 2022 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

First: Michele Stelovich **Second:** Jen Bean

No edits, no abstentions. **APPROVED**

DVR Director Updates: Terry Redmon

- Staffing Updates: Current vacant positions
 - Deputy Director
 - Business Relations Manager
 - Communications Consultant 4
- 5790 Implementation Updates
 - Statewide School to Work program partnerships.
 - DVR tasked to create a statewide school to work program.
 - Legislation expanding the program to the other 32 counties (School to work partnerships are currently offered in seven counties statewide.)
 - Approximately \$5.3 million allotted for this work. There will be additional requests for funding.
 - Federal monies will not be used initially, only statewide funds. There will be an opportunity to utilize federal funds in the future.
 - In the final phase of implementation, DVR will engage CRPs to get their input to make it a viable program going forward
 - Current workgroup partners: DDA, DVR, OSPI
 - Terry will provide WSRC with updates as they come
 - Creation of a Transition Council and Interagency Transition Networks
 - Ensure that people with developmental or intellectual disabilities have a plan that includes employment opportunities upon leaving high school.
- RSA Monitoring:

- DVR leadership currently meeting virtually with RSA Mon, Wed, Fri throughout May to work through sections of the Monitoring Guide.
 - WSRC (Shelby) and CAP (Jen Bean) attending these meetings
- RSA will be on-site at DVR headquarters June 28-30
- Field Office Visits
 - Planned for late summer/early fall after RSA Monitoring at the end of June. Rayanne working with local staff for scheduling. Virtual or in-person if schedule allows.

DVR Fiscal Updates: Jamie Grund

- DVR received \$3.8 million in program income for SFY 22
 - Last year at this time DVR received \$6 million
 - No concerns about fund reduction
- 2022 Supplemental Budget passed
 - 3.25% wage increase for all staff starting 07/01/22
 - Lump sum payments will be paid out on July 25th for WFSE employees
 - School to work funding starts on 07/01/22
 - Will be spent as State only—not used for match so we don't overinflate
- Total spent on Waves (new case management software system) as of 4/22/22: \$4.3 million
- Basic Support 2021
 - \$30.9 million remaining to spend by 9/30 (which includes Pre-ETS 15% set aside)
 - Currently in the second year of the grant
- Basic Support 2022
 - DVR has not received final grant award
 - Working on matching requirement before end of year 1 (9/30)
- Pre-ETS Spending
 - \$1.7 million out of \$7.5 million from the Basic Support 2021 grant has been spent on Pre-ETS services to date

DVR Field Services Updates: Allesandria Goard

- Assistive Technology Equipment Distribution during Covid
 - We have distributed all but a couple hundred pieces of equipment.
 - Rapid Assistance Technology Delivery (RAD) Equipment
 - 151 items distributed to customers
 - Field Services has not surveyed customers. Unsure of impact.

DVR Planning & Performance Updates: Don Alvashere and Kristina Zawisza

- Order of Selection Updates
 - 1,200 customers currently on the waitlist
 - Priority categories 1 and 2 remain open
 - 100 names released on 05/02/22
 - This release included priority category 3 cases with application dates prior to Feb. 4, 2021.
- Waves (new Case Management System)
 - Go-live date is 07/01/22
 - Training scheduled for field staff
 - Policy impacts limited. Most changes are procedure and form changes
 - Consistent approach in setting up the tools

- Post-Employment Services Q&A—How this will impact DVR’s approach and related needed changes
 - RSA recently issued new guidance around Post-Employment Services. Post-Employment Services not allowed after a case has closed.
 - DVR working to get an Emergency Rule change to the Washington Administrative Code to match this new guidance to avoid audit findings or possibly unallowable costs to the grant.
 - Effective as of 5/11/22 through September and can be extended once or twice.
 - Working on a more permanent rule.
 - Working with field staff to make sure that cases currently receiving Post-Employment Services can transition to a regular VR case.
 - Ongoing messaging, reaching out to all staff as well as individually for staff who have PES case on their caseload.
 - Training, both as it pertains to Waves and potentially as a standalone training
 - We are monitoring the transition of all of the PES cases that were open prior to the rule change.
 - Policy updates, which will include WSRC and CAP review and feedback to PES sections of the manual.
- Performance Trends
 - The number of successful case closures and customers in plan with employment continue at levels at or above pre-Covid.
 - Employment rate averaged 50%, one point above the previous quarter.
 - New applications remain well below the pre-Covid monthly average but rose sharply in March and were up 23% from the prior 6-month average.
 - The number of cases in plan has declined steadily since October and average days to plan increased by 6 days from the previous quarter.

Q&A:

- Executive Order 22-04 | Pro-Equity Antiracism
 - Terry Redmon: New DSHS Secretary, Jilma Meneses, is supportive of Executive Order. We are including Equity, Diversity, Access, & Inclusion (EDAI) questions in all job interviews and all job postings so when new hires onboard it is very clear what DVR’s EDAI policies and expectations are. We are modeling it in all kinds of ways.
 - Cassi: This Executive Order is led by the newly created Office of Equity.
 - DVR has representation on the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) team. Representation will include DVR customers.
- How is DVR shifting as employment opportunities are shifting in this post-Covid, employee-driven job market?
 - Workforce board has access to economists who forecast trends in the labor market.
 - DVR will collaborate to stay ahead of these trends and inform DVR field staff
 - Many positions are in transition

Region 3 Update: Shawn Walsworth

- Recruiting and Retaining Staff
 - Twelve current staff vacancies.
 - Hired a new Program Specialist 3 (PS3)
 - Tricia Burks is the new Tacoma Supervisor
 - Continued issues with finding qualified, quality candidates

- Successes and challenges in serving rural/urban communities throughout the region
 - Successes:
 - Willingness to collaborate more
 - Recruiting new staff
 - Challenges:
 - Lack of CRPs to serve customers in remote locations
 - Long distance to travel to serve customers in rural areas
 - Difficulty recruiting, retaining quality staff

Region 3 Pre-ETS: Mandy Kipfer and Selena Cunningham

- Region 3 Rehabilitation Transition Consultants (RTCs)
 - ESD 112, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, and Pacific: Selena Cunningham
 - ESD 112, Clark, Skamania, part of Klickitat: Connie Laurinat
 - ESD 113, Thurston, Mason, Lewis: Ben Strong
 - ESD 114, Olympic Peninsula: Vacant position
- Pre-ETS Contractors
 - Regional-based contractors
 - Center for Independence (CFI)
 - ESD 112
 - Morningside
 - WorkForce Central (Vadis)
 - Statewide contractors
 - A Better Track
 - AJAC (manufacturing)
 - ANEW (construction)
 - Juvenile Rehab
 - Relevant Engagement (self-advocacy)
 - SKILLS (aerospace manufacturing)
 - Youth Leadership Forum
 - To be held 8/7/22—8/12/22 at the Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way.
- Pre-ETS Highlights
 - Morningside has doubled the number of students served from 60 to 120 during 2021-2022
 - Participated in direct delivery training and received ongoing training on how to deliver the Transition Self-Assessment Tool
 - Services offered to Quileute Tribal School in ESD 114
 - Work-based learning is the area of highest need
 - Benefits planning presentations to students and families
- Opportunities for Growths
 - Need for additional contractors. Equity disparities identified throughout region
 - Competitive bidding process for the next school year
 - Promotional materials to targeted audiences greatly needed. Goal to have materials by the next school year
 - Meeting with school personnel challenging during the pandemic due to COVID burnout, busy schedules, and previous DVR history with schools (reluctance to partner again)
 - Educators seem to be opening up through a variety of creative interventions
- Motivational Enhancement Group Intervention (MEGI) for transition-aged youth

- Is an evidence-based practice in career development and exploration that was previously tested with youth with disabilities ages 14-23.
- Combines evidence-based practices from special education and psychology, integrating motivational interviewing with transition practices.
- Consists of 12 sessions
- Aimed at increasing students' motivation to engage in career exploration and focuses on building self-determination, self-efficacy and self-advocacy.
- Participating schools: Battleground Futures, Mica Peak HS in Spokane (virtual), Stanwood HS in Snohomish County (virtual), Science and Math Institute, Tacoma Online, and Willie Stewart Academy (Open Doors).
- Assistive Technology & Assessment Practitioner (ATAP)
 - Accepted 72 referrals for AT services since 04/2021
 - Vehicle modifications and driving evaluations
 - Home ergonomic evaluations
 - Home safety ramp installations
 - Workstation evaluations
 - Provides evaluation, consultation and ongoing coordination assistance
 - Prepares written assessment report with recommendations to VRC and customer
 - Facilitates a monthly ATAP office hour
 - Works with ATAPs from Regions 1 and 2 to ensure consistency of practice and service delivery

Region 3 Central Unit Update: Tina Ailinger

- The Central Unit covers 5 counties: Cowlitz, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties
- There are 3 main offices and 2 additional smaller areas (South Bend and Long Beach)
- Partner with the Shoalwater Bay, Chehalis, Cowlitz and Quinault Tribes in our area.
- Work with Naselle Youth Camp and also Green Hill and Stafford Creek Correctional Facility

Meeting adjourned at 11:43am