

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

WIOA Advisory Group Meeting Minutes April 17, 2020

Attendees: Admir, Kristyn, Teresa, Laurel, Molly, Matt Marvke, Dan, Vicki, Mike, Shannon Brady

Staff: Amanda Ames, Matt Thomsen, Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck

Welcome

VR Performance Negotiations

VR met with their rehab services administration last week and had submitted their expected level of performance in the state plan. They only had one measure they negotiated this time. They were striving for a 2.5% increase for 2020 and 2021. They explained how they came up with that. They provided a large data table of performance on the measurable skill gains across the nation. They used that information in their presentation. They had expressed some concerns with how their performance might be impacted by COVID-19. They were thinking they should lower the rate and did not want to be setup for failure. They came back and said they wanted their performance to improve 5% each year. VR negotiated with RSA and they came to an agreement upon 3% each year. They expected to negotiate down lower. They also got their state plan corrections. The corrections that they got for this state plan are more significant than in the prior 2 plans. They reached out to their peers across the state and the technical assistance center and heard other states are in the same situation. Teresa has already gone in and updated the performance table. It is just in the VR plan where the table is. The target will be adjusted at the end according to the current economic standing of Idaho. No one else has gotten corrections back on the State Plan.

Teresa is happy to share the analysis with anyone who is interested.

The Council has updated the ETP policy and one of the pieces of the policy that we had not finalized until now is Appendix C. It is additional guidance on occupational skills training...A lot of it is cut and paste from guidance around those. With the postsecondary credentials portion, we added in acceptable credentials in Idaho. Ms. Secrist will send out the policy after the meeting.

One-Stop Operator Update

MOU's

We have 2 levels of MOU's. Network level which talks about how services are provided throughout the state. There are two regional MOU's. They are still working on updating the template to use for the other regions that will have comprehensive centers. The MOU's are in need of some updates. There was a finding on the MOU's that some of the language was incomplete and they were not updated for IDOL's new structure. A team is working on updating the language on both. We need to describe our service design and delivery. Right now the network MOU reads, we talk about the structure, facilities included in the AJC network, network partners, etc. When it comes to service coordination it just says we will all coordinate services. When it gets to accessibility and providing services it says we are going to do that but it does not say how. The updates will include a much more detailed description of how things are done. IDOL will create the updates, send it to the Council for vetting, and then sent on to the Committees and Council for approval and final vetting. Partners may be asked for updated information for the MOU's.

WIOA Advisory group will look at it for input/vetting. Then it will go to One-Stop for a recommendation to go to the full Council or the Executive Committee.

Cross-Training

This is the required annual partner cross training. The content contained in the training is that the partner staff is trained on how they do intake, referral process, system specific things, reporting, etc. The regions that have the training established vary the content from year to year. Every single year they provide the training.

The regions where it is occurring regularly are regions 2 & 6. Regions 4 and 5 did one this year. They were having annual meeting but not referring to it as their regional cross training. The regions 1 and 3 have theirs scheduled but have not taken action. They are in the works due to the COVID-19 situation. The recommendation is for those trainings to be in person. They will consider doing them virtually or some other way depending on the state of the virus.

Where the trainings have occurred regularly encourage staff to engage and participate. They hear feedback that the trainings are very valuable in the partnership process.

The One-Stop Operator has been working with Matt to establish a SharePoint site to house the training materials. The content has not been posted yet. They have shared the content among the partners who have requested it in the meantime.

Business Services

We wanted to use the flyer to be used for coordinated business services. IDOL has it posted on their site. Staff has seen them and have been using them. Just a reminder that those flyers are to make the connection and not provide all of the information about the agencies.

The comprehensive one-stop centers are using a business services template where they are establishing who the stakeholders are in business services and establishing one goal to complete in each region and what are the steps to meet the goal. Each region is working on the template. With the transition to working from home that has been held up a little bit. In some regions the goals were to create the team and start meeting regularly. It is ok to have the first goal be establishing the team. As the templates are developed those can be posted on the SharePoint site with the contact list.

Infrastructure Sharing

There was an audit by USDOL and a finding was issued on a failure to implement the agreements. No other state has them in place either.

VR received feedback from RSA that they could not use participant counts for infrastructure cost sharing allocations. Wendi and Kristyn talked with USDOL on what other options they might have. One of the ideas they came up with was since we are collecting co-enrollments consistently, do we want to look at what the cost sharing allocations would be based on co-enrollment data. It is justifiable that there are services being provided to individuals. RSA wants to make sure there is a direct benefit to the individuals. They also talked about based off referrals. A year from now we are in a position where we are tracking referrals in a comprehensive way, but currently we are not in a position to use that data. We would have to implement an excel spreadsheet for each entity to manually track referrals.

VR likes the idea of using co-enrollments.

There are some limiting factors of co-enrollments. We do not have SCEP, TANIF, and SNAP included in the co-enrollments. Ms. Secrist is working with Gail to see if there is a way to use a WDQI grant to get a system setup to incorporate that data into the co-enrollments. Health and Welfare is supportive of this and would like to have conversations of how this might be accomplished.

When you submit the co-enrollment data, is it by region or by statewide?

- VR sends it in by participant, but it can be easily broken into region. It could just be an additional field that notes the region each participant is in.

Gail will use the PY-19 co-enrollment that does not include SCEP, TANIF, and SNAP, she can do the cost analysis and look at what the allocations would be based on that data. At the next meeting we will have identified where processes need to be put in place and have a cost estimate of the funding.

They will send an update to USDOL on this planned approach in response to the finding.

Short-Term Training Development Under WDTF

The Council is working on a policy for the WDTF that would support individuals for short-term training programs. The ETP can provide a voucher for someone to take training from a provider. We are looking to broaden that from an eligibility perspective. We are looking at a way for individuals to tap into WDTF to support them going into training programs where they cannot receive financial assistance.

It would be integrated into the current system. Rather than creating a new mechanism for applications, approval processes, etc. could we leverage the current training provider process. We would not have to worry about money being passed into the hands of individuals, etc. Policy committee meets next week to start drafting the guidance around it. The feedback from the WTN centers who have these types of barriers, they recommend that we not have income limits. If we are defining a specific list of programs that we want to train people for that we not look at income as a qualifier. It should not be limited to those who are unemployed. The funds would be for very specific programs that have very high demand in the market. This would be a great program for students who tend to fall through the cracks.

Ms. Secrist will send out the survey to the partners and get feedback on the same factors that the WTN provided feedback on. The feedback will be integrated into the feedback provided to the Policy Committee on Tuesday. The goal is to have the policy go to the Council in July and have it in place by August.

Adjourned at 10:24 AM