

Director's Report/WIOA Update

1. **Pre-Employment Transition Services:** We have implemented all the changes in our PETS Plan that has been shared with members of the SRC. The school year has begun and the in-school transition counselors are in the schools building caseloads and educating special education personnel about the new role and responsibilities. As expected some schools are embracing the changes and some are still figuring out how it will work in their school. We have built tracking mechanisms and are confident that we will expend the 15%.
2. **WIOA Unified Plan:** We had a very productive meeting with representatives from the VT Department of Labor and the Agency of Education on Monday. We built a "plan to plan", we identified three primary writers and James is our representative on that group. It finally seems as though we are rolling on plan development. There is a deadline of having the draft plan up for public comment on February 1, 2016. We also discussed the need for an MOU between the core partners which will specify how we will operationalize the Unified Plan.
3. **Common Performance Measures:** On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the senior management team and the regional managers held a two day meeting to focus on the Common Performance Measures, their impact on our culture and values and to develop a draft implementation plan including a communication plan with staff. It was a very productive meeting. We can share the plan after it is written up. Our focus was very much on three areas: increasing average wages, improving job retention and improving services to employers. We believe we can make the new measures work for us and most importantly for our customers – the job seeker with a disability and the employer.
4. **Policy and Procedure Updates:** We are beginning to identify what changes need to be made and a plan to get the work done. Clearly the SRC Policy and Procedure Committee will be an integral part of that plan.
5. **Casework Training:** On September 23rd, managers and supervisors came together to focus on improving compliance with federal law and regulations in our case recording including the new requirements of WIOA. There was consensus on the importance of having more consistency as well as compliance with the requirements. In early December all counselors and program techs will receive the same training. There will be regular case reviews done by a central office staff person in partnership with the regional manager. We remain very anxious to have an approved contract to purchase AWARE as Alliance staff are already hard at work up to update their system to be in compliance with WIOA. (AWARE update: we are still awaiting various review and approvals from Legal and DII prior to the contract being signed)
6. **CSAVR Fall Meeting:** We have been invited to present on our PETS plan and James and Renee will be part of panel at a plenary session in Seattle. RSA is on the agenda and we hope to gather additional information on WIOA regs and implementation. We are not too optimistic since they have not been able to provide much of any guidance to date.

7. **Order of Selection for Services:** James will be developing the language to tighten up the OSS. We also want to discuss the state plan option under WIOA to provide single services to people with disabilities who do not meet the OSS in order to save their job.
8. **Budget:** We have good news. We have a much higher level of carryover funding than anticipated. We may be making some decisions on how to invest this funding. Expanding education and training supports and increasing our capacity to support job retention are two examples.
9. **Outcomes: We exceeded last year's employment outcomes today!! We have assisted 1881 people to go to work and last year we had 1873 outcomes. A tribute to the work our staff do every day and the abilities of our consumers.**

My boat is out of the water and I hope to move back into my house on 10/16. Fall is here!

Diane