

FFY 2015 State Plan - Attachment 4.8 (b) (1) – Cooperation with Agencies Not Carrying Out Activities Under the Statewide Workforce Investment System

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WSDVA)

DSHS/DVR and WSDVA have procedures for referring DSHS/DVR customers with military service to WSDVA to determine whether the individual is eligible for any state or Federal Veterans' benefits. If so, WSDVA assists the individual to obtain available benefits. This collaboration has increased the use of Veterans' benefits as comparable services in cases where DSHS/DVR customers experience military-connected disabilities.

United States Veterans Administration (USVA)

DSHS/DVR is collaborating with the regional USVA to establish a cooperative agreement to facilitate improved service delivery for customers receiving USVA benefits by formalizing referral procedures, designating local referral liaisons, and coordinating services that contribute to the Individualized Plan for Employment.

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

Washington DSHS/DVR is housed within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) which is an umbrella agency for Medicaid services, alcohol and substance abuse recovery, long term care and disability services, children's services, and economic assistance services. DSHS/DVR continues to work closely with the following DSHS programs.

- Community Services Division (CSD) The CSD administers the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program and the Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) Program [formerly known as the General Assistance – Unemployable (GAU) Program], both of which provide time-limited income assistance and other support services to low-income families and individuals. Washington DSHS/DVR continues to have an interagency agreement with the CSD that defines mutual roles and practices for serving joint customers.
- Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR). DBHR combines the former Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, referred to as DBHR –Chemical Dependency (DBHR-CD) with the Mental Health Division, referred to as DBHR – MH (DBHR-MH). DBHR-CD contracts with counties for the delivery of outpatient chemical dependency treatment and directly contracts for residential treatment services. DBHR-MH contracts with regional entities for the delivery of community mental health services and directly operates two state psychiatric hospitals. The following are examples of our strong partnership:
 - DSHS/DVR maintains active referral relationships with treatment providers at the local level that are funded through DBHR-CD contracts with each County in the state.
 - DBHR-MH contracts with regional entities for the delivery of community mental health services and directly operates two state psychiatric hospitals.
 - DSHS/DVR and DBHR-MH have jointly conducted cross-training between VR Counselors and mental health practitioners at locations across the state to highlight the key elements of both service delivery systems and support better coordination on the employment needs of MH consumers.

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- DSHS/DVR and DBHR-MH continue a mutual collaboration to explore ways that mental health agencies can effectively become Employment Networks and build a revenue stream from the Ticket to Work Program that will fund extended services for those mental health consumers who require a supported employment model.
- DSHS/DVR has assigned liaison VR Counselors that work itinerantly from several Mental Health agencies across the state. A VR Counselor works from the mental health center at least one day per week, facilitating access to VR services for mental health consumers.
- Developmental Disabilities Administration The DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is the primary agency that funds extended services for individuals with developmental disabilities who require supported employment. DDA contracts for these services with Washington counties, and counties sub- contract with community rehabilitation programs to provide the direct services.

DSHS/DVR and DDA leadership meet on a regular basis, and are co-sponsoring several initiatives aimed at improving employment outcomes for transition youth with developmental disabilities and advancing the skills of community rehabilitation programs that serve joint DSHS/DVR and DDA customers.

DSHS/DVR is represented as a member of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council.

- Aging & Disability Services Programs (ADSP) Washington DSHS/DVR coordinates very closely with attendant care services provided through the ADSP for customers who require personal assistance. This includes coordination of attendant care services required by individuals in both school and employment settings.
- Health Care Authority (HCA) All individuals served by Washington DSHS/DVR who receive Medicaid obtain their services through MPA. DSHS/DVR coordinates closely with MPA to assure that individuals receive medical services necessary to achieve their employment goal.
- Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) DSHS/DVR's Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator participates on the ODHH Advisory Committee as DSHS/DVR's representative. This position strengthens the division's partnership with ODHH. DSHS/DVR is working to implement the nationally recognized model state plan for serving individuals who are deaf, deaf- blind, or hearing impaired. ODHH manages the Sign Language Interpreter Contract and values feedback from all sources to improve the quality of interpreter services. ODHH is also going to be the managing agency for DSHS/DVR's contract for Video Relay System (VRS) and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) technologies. DSHS/DVR and ODHH continue to collaborate to increase communication access for the staff who serve this population and to provide greater accommodations for rural customers.
- Health Care for Workers with Disabilities (HWD) The HWD is a Medicaid Buy-in Program

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administered by DSHS. Washington DSHS/DVR coordinates closely with HWD to assist qualified individuals in continuing to receive medical benefits after they become employed.

Tribal Programs

DSHS/DVR and the Department of Services for the Blind have a joint memorandum of understanding with Washington's eight Tribal 121 programs that outlines how these parties and their employees work together to ensure effective communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation in serving individuals with disabilities who are tribal members in Washington State. The agreement, updated on an annual basis, outlines procedures for referrals, joint cases, financial responsibility, shared training opportunities, information sharing and communication. Tribal 121 Directors meet annually with DSHS/DVR and DSB Directors in a government-to-government collaboration to promote partnership, to maximize resources, and to ensure high quality services for individuals with disabilities who are tribal members. DSHS/DVR continues to provide data to its Tribal partners to assist in provision of services and collaboration.

At the DSHS level, the division continues its cooperative working relationships and service delivery commitments with all Federally Recognized Washington tribes, including those that do not operate Federally funded Tribal VR programs. DSHS/DVR participates as a member on the DSHS Indian Policy Advisory Committee.

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

The DSHS/DVR Director participates as a member of the Governor's Committee and partners with the Committee on various efforts.

Centers for Independent Living

DSHS/DVR currently contracts Title VII, Part B funds to four independent living centers throughout Washington State. Centers use Part B funds to enhance and expand core independent living services with a focus on youth with significant disabilities. In addition to core services, IL Centers have been focusing on outreach to increase services in unserved or underserved geographic areas including disability groups, minority groups and urban or rural populations with the focus on youth with significant disabilities and 504 plans. The goal is to create a safe environment for youth with disabilities to be able to feel comfortable and confident when talking to allies who support disabilities by enhancing youth in understanding IL philosophy, how to successfully self-advocate, and how to talk with legislators about disability issues.

Washington State Business Leadership Network (WSBLN) The WSBLN is a network of employers who educate and support businesses to hire, retain, and improve customer service for people with disabilities.

Community Employment Alliance

The Community Employment Alliance is a membership organization comprised of community rehabilitation programs. DSHS/DVR participates in meetings to share information, hear concerns and collaborate on issues affecting employment services for individuals referred to providers by the Division.

Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Partnership Advisory Council

In the late 1990s, DSHS/DVR was the primary sponsor of a demonstration grant to identify gaps in

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providing services to individuals who sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). DSHS/DVR continues to be a represented member of the TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council. This group discusses TBI-related policy issues, system development, and/or the need for services to meet the needs of TBI survivors, family members, prospective employers and community members. The TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council has identified gaps in housing, a lack of resources and a need for support group facilitator training. This Council has successfully encouraged the Washington State Legislature to pass legislation that adds fees to traffic violations, like negligent driving and speeding because these offenses tend to lead to injury accidents and TBIs. These collected fees are used to help fund TBI-related programs and resources. DSHS/DVR continues to be an active partner in addressing the needs of individuals in Washington State who have been, or will be impacted by traumatic brain injuries in the future.

University of Washington Rehabilitation Program

Since 2006, DSHS/DVR and the University of Washington Rehabilitation Counseling Unit have collaborated to maintain an on-site Rehabilitation Medicine-DSHS/DVR liaison role. This mutually beneficial relationship improves inpatient and outpatient care at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) by providing UWMC patients with direct access to DSHS/DVR services during their hospital treatment. Early introduction in the medical setting provides DSHS/DVR with comprehensive insight into patient needs and makes the referral process more efficient and seamless. This relationship provides UWMC patients with additional resources for education, support, and funding. The DSHS/DVR liaison works to coordinate DSHS/DVR orientation and intake procedures for individuals referred from UW Rehab Medicine; determines eligibility for DSHS/DVR services; provides information and referral; participates in UWMC team staffing to coordinate DSHS/DVR services with the interdisciplinary team treatment; upon release from the hospital, assists with transitioning the individual to a VR Counselor near their home; learns about extensive medical and other resources available through the UW Medical School; and shares resources with other DSHS/DVR counselors.

US Department of Agriculture

DSHS/DVR has not entered into agreements with programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

State Use Contracts

DSHS/DVR has not entered into agreements related to state use contracts.