VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum

June 1, 2021
Welcome to the VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum. We’re pleased to also have potential VRS Community Partners, SSB Community Partners, and SSB Workforce Development Unit with us today.

ASL Interpreters are designated as “co-hosts”, so they appear at the top of your participant list.

Closed Captioning is available. A livestream is linked in the chat.

Questions and Comments: Please submit feedback, questions, comments via Microsoft Form. The link is copied in the chat. Please keep your microphone muted throughout the meeting.

Your name: please change the name that Zoom displays to your first and last name. An easy way to rename is: 1) go to the participant list and find your name, 2) hover over your name, 3) select “more,” 4) select “rename.”

Technical Issues: If you have technical issues, please contact Jessica.Outhwaite@state.mn.us, Janeen.Oien@state.mn.us, or Anne.Paulson@state.mn.us.

Recording: The session will be recorded and posted to the VRS website along with the agenda, presentation, and transcript. mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/updates
Agenda for Today

I. Welcome
   • Kim Babine, VRS Director of Community Partnerships

II. E1MN Updates
   • Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives

III. PBA Updates: E1 PBA and General PBA
   • Evie Wold, VRS Placement Specialist | Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Specialist

IV. Q&A

V. Conclusion
E1MN UPDATE

VRS Community Partners and Staff Forum
June 1, 2021

Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives
Summary of E1MN Core Trainings

April/May: Three E1MN Core Training sessions

• Recorded sections available on E1MN Training site
• Total attendees: 1,285 (over the three sessions)

• Goals:
  • Learn about E1MN (how and why)
  • Explain the Engage, Plan, Find, Keep framework
  • Have a high-level understanding of Roles & Responsibilities
  • Be prepared for next steps leading up to launch July 1, 2021
E1MN Core Training Feedback

• Total # of surveys completed: 452

• An overwhelming majority of survey respondents agreed that they understood the training’s content in all areas.

• There were some areas where disagreement was higher, particularly regarding having a high-level understanding of E1MN team member roles and responsibilities and feeling prepared for the July 1, 2021 E1MN launch.
E1MN Core Training Feedback

• Some respondents provided suggestions on how the training could be improved, including having materials available to participants before and after the training, and making time to have a question-and-answer session.

• Nearly half of respondents primarily worked in the metro area, and more than two-thirds of respondents have been working with people with disabilities for ten years or more.
Coffee Chats

- March, April, May, and next one is June 10th

- FAQ’s

- 526 people have attended the Coffee Chats

- Continue with Coffee Chats July, August and September
Provider Alignment Webinar

• The Benefits of Becoming Both 245D and VRS/SSB Service Providers Webinar held on 4/8
• 225 people registered
• Break-out sessions focused on 245D and VRS/SSB
• Webinar recorded & available on E1MN website under provider trainings
Training and Technical Assistance Needs Ahead

• Continue Coffee Chats July – September (7/22, 8/26, and 9/23)

• Trainings: specific audience needs and joint trainings. On-demand and available when people need it.

• Regional forums / trainings in the fall

• Centralized E1MN email for questions
DEED General PBA and the new E1 PBA

Evie Wold, VRS Placement Specialist
Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Specialist
• Review of PBA changes
• Update on Work in Progress Items
• Next Steps
• Questions and Answers
ENGAGE, PLAN, FIND, KEEP FRAMEWORK

Adult Services

Engage
Waiver employment exploration services
**Results in:**
- An informed choice
- Barriers and concerns addressed
- Lived experience
- Risk/benefits of choice

Waiver (DHS)

Plan
Waiver employment development services (planning phase)
**Results in:**
- Preliminary employment goals
  - Portfolio to springboard job search

Waiver (DHS)

Find
VRS/SSB job search and stability services
**Results in:**
- Competitive, integrated employment

VRS/SSB (DEED)

Keep
Waiver employment support services
**Results in:**
- Maintaining employment

Waiver (DHS)

Primary funding source for people on waivers who are not enrolled in high school or age 18-21 transition programming:
- Waiver (DHS)
- VRS/SSB (DEED)
Two PBA Models Starting

**General PBA**
- $3,800
- Three Milestones
- For non-Medicaid waiver VR participants

**E1 PBA**
- $5,000
- Four Milestones
- For individuals on one of these Medicaid waivers:
  - CADI: Community Access for Disability Inclusion Waiver
  - BI: Brain Injury Waiver
  - CAC: Community Alternate Care Waiver
  - DD: Developmental Disabilities Waiver
## VRS PBA Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>General PBA Milestone</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>E1 PBA Milestone</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 1</td>
<td>Initial Placement Plan</td>
<td>$1,330</td>
<td>Initial Placement Plan</td>
<td>$1,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1 Milestone</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>120-days of service</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 2</td>
<td>First Shift of New Job</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>First Shift of New Job Completed</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milestone 3</td>
<td>90 Days Successfully Employed</td>
<td>$1,270</td>
<td>90 Days Successfully Employed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What both PBAs Have in Common

Both PBAs will:

• Include Informed Choice
• Unbundle 20 hours of job coaching
• Allow layering of services; job coaching and job tryouts
• Change from bi-weekly communication updates to a new Monthly Progress Report
• Have 60-day meetings when participant is in job search
• Milestones 1, 2, 3 are the same
• Eliminating the Placement Plan Summary
• Change from “retention” services to “follow up” services
The E1 PBA will have:

- Waiver Case Manager is a team member
- An extra milestone payment called E1 (in addition to Milestones 1, 2 & 3)
- The expectation of more individualized and intensive services and supports
- This payment option will become available on July 1, 2021
- Any partner with PBA on their PT Contract could provide an E1 PBA
- No PT contract amendments are needed if PBA is already listed
No changes in how VR addresses Informed Choice:

Informed Choice engages the VR participant in the process of choosing which community provider they feel will best meet their service needs.

All VR participants go through the same Informed Choice process whether they have a Medicaid waiver/waiver case manager or not.

VR participants may choose internal or external placement specialist to help them with their job search.

Community Partners do NOT have to be 245D to provide E1 PBAs.
Milestone 1: Initial Placement Plan $1,330

• **Milestone 1:**
  - Initial meeting with all team members: minimally the referring counselor, placement provider, job seeker AND for E1 PBA the waiver case manager
  - Completion of the Placement Plan (including all roles and responsibilities of each team member)
  - Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA

• **For Milestone 1 Payment:**
  - Completed Placement Plan AND
  - Invoice from provider
E1 Milestone (120 - Days of Service): $1,200

• **Milestone E1:**
  - Only for individuals with Medicaid waivers
  - Paid at 120-days of service
  - This could be during active job/search placement services OR
  - Could be follow up services once a competitive integrated job is secured

• **For Milestone E1 Payment:**
  - All four (4) Monthly Progress reports (since Placement Plan)
  - A record of the 60-day meetings AND
  - Invoice from provider
Milestone 2 (First Shift of New Job Completed): $1,200

• **Milestone 2:**
  - Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information
  - Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA
  - *E1 PBA - VR Counselor notifies waiver case manager to initiate long term funding

• **For Milestone 2 Payment:**
  - Monthly Progress reports submitted (since last milestone paid) AND
  - Invoice from provider
Milestone 3: 90 Days Successfully Employed

$1,270

• **Milestone 3:**

  • Monthly Progress Reports with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure completed

  • Same requirements for General PBA and E1 PBA

  • *E1 PBA VR counselor will communicate with waiver case manager

• **For Milestone 3 Payment:**

  • Monthly Progress reports submitted (since last milestone paid) AND

  • Invoice from provider
E1 PBA Scenario #1
Partner paid $5,000 | Milestone sequence 1, E1, 2, 3

- Abdi starts job placement and has their Initial Placement Plan meeting on February 1, 2022
  - Partner submits Placement Plan and invoices for Milestone 1, $1330
- Abdi continues in job search and has a 60-day meeting on April 1, 2022 – agreement to continue with job search
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (2 reports since Milestone 1)
- Abdi continues in job search and has reached 120-days of service on June 1, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (4 since Milestone 1) and invoices for the E1 Milestone, $1,200
- Abdi accepts a competitive integrated job and works his first shift on August 16, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information and invoices for Milestone 2, $1,200
- Abdi successfully maintains and is happy with their job on November 16, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure and invoices for Milestone 3, $1,270
E1 PBA Scenario #2
Partner paid $5,000 | Milestone sequence 1, 2, E1, 3

- Dillon start job placement, has their Initial Placement Plan meeting on February 1, 2022
  - Partner submits Placement Plan and invoices for Milestone 1, $1,330
- Dillon accepts a competitive integrated job and works first shift on March 15, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information and invoices for Milestone 2, $1,200
- Dillon continues working and is still “in service" at 120-days on June 1, 2022 *no meeting required
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report (4 since Milestone 1) and invoices for E1 Milestone, $1,200
- Dillon is stable, working, and happy with their job on June 15, 2022
  - Partner has submitted Monthly Progress Report with Employment and Follow Up information AND Job Placement and Follow Up Service Closure and invoices for Milestone 3, $1,270
Updates Since May’s Forum Meeting

• Two new workgroups are preparing for July 1, 2021, launch of PBA changes
  • Meeting weekly to dig deep into the Work in Progress list shared last month: Sara Sundeen, Evie Wold, Maureen McAvoy, Michelle Chmielewski, Marci Jasper, Jess Outhwaite, Gretchen Ykema
  • Providing on-going review and consult: Sara Sundeen, Evie Wold, Jennifer Bielke, Laura Cheney, Claire Courtney, Heather Farmer, Sherry Hendrickson, Erin Main, Meighan Nelson, Janeen Oien, Anne Paulson Mimi Schafer, Brad Westerlund

• June 29, 2021, Partner and VR staff training on PBAs

• July 1, 2021, E1MN (MoU) begins

• July 1, 2021, Changes to the General PBA begin

• July 1, 2021, E1 PBA becomes available as a payment option for Job Placement and Follow Up Services
Work in Progress List

• Update Job Placement and Follow Up Forms
• Clarify “90-day clocks” and Milestone 3 payment
• Provide more guidance around Holds
• Preparation for the July 1st transition for General PBA
• Preparation for the July 1st start for E1 PBA
• Reminder on Pre-ETS and PBAs
Updated Forms

• On July 1, 2021 updated versions of these forms will be used:
  • Monthly Progress Report
  • Placement Plan
  • Invitation to Placement
  • Job Coaching Communication and Reports
Clarify “90-day clocks” and Holds

• We acknowledge that there has been confusion and inconsistency with:
  • When Milestone 3 is paid
  • How long a PBA should be on hold

• We will clarify this and will train on the guidance the June 29, 2021 PBA training
In anticipation of July 1st changes

• June 30, 2021
  • Will be last submission of bi-weekly Communication Updates

• July 1, 2021:
  • Start using the Monthly Progress Report template (the first report will be due August 10, 2021)
  • Any job coaching needed will be paid for on an hourly basis and will need to be on the job seekers VRS Employment Plan
No Retroactive E1 PBA

• Starting July 1, 2021: E1 PBA will become a placement payment option with a rolling implementation for new PBAs

• Individuals currently in a VRS General PBA will continue in the General PBA for the remainder of their job placement and follow-up. VRS will not change the authorization to E1 PBA

• Individuals who are in a VRS General PBA and attain a waiver while in the General PBA will continue in the General PBA for the remainder of their job placement and follow-up
Current Job Seekers with a Waiver

During the month of June:

• If a job seeker wants to start job search right away a General PBA should be done

• If a job seeker waits until July 1st to begin job search an E1 PBA will be done

• Counselors should discuss with the job seeker the pros and cons of waiting until July 1st to start a PBA.

• If a job seeker decides to wait until July 1st, other resources and hourly services may be considered and added to the Employment Plan
• Guidance remains the same as before for Students and PBAs
  
  • If a student is seeking short-term work experience or "intermediate job", they would not use a PBA
  
  • If the student is looking for a permanent job and PBA is appropriate whether they have a waiver will determine if this is a General PBA or E1 PBA
Next Steps

• PBA Training June 29, 2021: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

• Questions about today's presentation: PBA Questions

• For more information on E1 MN
  • Attend a Coffee Chat
  • Visit the Disability HUB https://disabilityhubmn.org/for-professionals/work/e1mn/
Please submit questions using the Microsoft Form at linked in the chat.

If you have questions regarding E1MN or the DHS/DEED MOU, please submit those questions to the E1MN Coffee Chat question form.
Thank you
The VR program receives 74.05 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2019, the total amount of grant funds awarded were $41,796,129. The remaining 25.5 percent of the costs ($14,300,000) were funded by Minnesota state appropriations.