
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, June 3rd
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: Department of Workforce Services
Room 157-A
1385 S. State Street
Salt Lake City

Conference Call-in Number: 1-866-456-0016
Access Code: *2658942* (be sure to hit * before and after code)

DWS/Work Supports:

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

(Yvette Woodland)

1:05 Overview of the DWS Newly Proposed "Demand-Driven" Approach to Talent and Workforce Development. (Greg Gardner)

June 22nd – on track to meet reorg of ESD. Raised question of what to do with rest of the Dept. Just at beginning of trying to answer this question. White Paper developed – several phases to this. Now just looking at concepts right now.

Gina – how does E-Rep fit in

Greg – E-Rep really connected with ESD. In Oct. to convert everything to E-Rep. June 29th – all medical programs (but nursing homes) in E-Rep. Basic plan – Oct to roll out E-Rep with community based teams to ESD. November – end of year, phased roll out to medical only teams, early 2010, statewide roll-out. Geography less than an issue now that have ESD.

Jan. 1, 2010 start implementation of DDA. Guiding Philosophies. Understanding better the knowledge, skills and abilities that employers need. Doing a better job to prepare our job seekers for this. Business create the demand, then work on supply – better prepare job seekers for those jobs. “Demand Driven” means the employers define the demand. Feels relationship with employers has faded and employment consultants are now gone.

Discussion about how workforce services is perceived. Employers see it as the welfare office, clients see it as a workforce place and not services. Employment counselors not doing as good a job as they could be.

Helen – different populations – good with low-income people with nebulous workforce connection. There is a new population that has been long-term employed and not know how to look for new job and restructure their expectations and skills.

Greg – goal is to have better tool kit to ECs and will be better informed about what is available.

Bill Tibbits – Does this mean dept is abandoning career ladder modeling designed over past few years?

Greg – Think it builds on the career ladder concept very much, need frontline to understand these better.

Melissa – idea of tax breaks for new companies through GOED for doing training for hard-to-employ.

Gina – National models – “Good Jobs First”

Greg – in paper, seems should do more job development one-on-one with employers. On-the-job training, apprentice programs.

Helen – apprentice programs – weak in this area, reassigned to someone and looking to really strengthen this.

Sheila – is this an old world term. Do business still operate this way?

Gina – is there stimulus money that focuses on hard-to-serve populations.

Helen - It's all coming down now in grants, these are the next big things in stimulus.

George – on website under “what's new” there is a survey monkey to fill out.

1:25 General Assistance Redesign (Helen Thatcher)

Overview of proposed changes to GA and process to implement changes.

Helen – Rules, policies and procedures are being developed now, still in development. Redesign is around the Intake process, the participation tracks, the caseload and the budget. Budget now from \$8 mill to a tad over \$5 mill, goal is to stay in new budget. A lot of money is spent on case management activities. Tackled both issues of case management and caseload.

Major things that will be different:

-disability from 30 days to 60 days, small impact, will see what happens. Won't affect many people.

-“substantial gainful activity” – standard was set at \$500, no longer going to be making determinations based on this. Will be based on a Doc's assessment of the disability and if they can work at all or not. If Doc says you can work part-time, then not eligible. Expect Doctor to tell how long will last, because this will determine their participation track.

Alan – in rural areas there is no doctor, is a PA or NP, so need to consider this.

Helen – looking into MOUs, payback and invoicing easier, would like to limit and have docs who understand the program. Will take time to work out. Will need to change the Form I. On a very fast track, all changes need to be made by Aug. 1st, can't afford otherwise.

Alan – do you need to change the practice act for this?

Helen – not sure, will look into this, need this in the rural areas.

Two tracks – long-term and short-term disability. One thing we do really well is with the long-term disabled (SOAR) program. Is not available everywhere, so will expand it statewide. Majority of cases are long-term (62% going for SSI). These people would have eligibility worker, EC, and a SOAR case manager, and may even have a choose to work worker. This is unsustainable, can't do it anymore. Case managers will be trained in SOAR and will have more people doing SOAR service as case management will be "light" touch now, pulling it back. SOAR is bang for the buck. Not require PCN anymore (though will recommend it), won't require them to meet with EC before complete eligibility. Focusing on getting people on disability. 12 month limit.

For short-term – 6 month limit. Most of these are just hoping to get better and return to former employment. \$261 gets people's foot in the door for other services. Will also just have "light" touch.

WTE will be closed, program is gone. Now have 128 people. Pay after performance and \$261 is most you can get. Huge administration. These people will still get workforce assistance, just no benefit and the requirements.

There will be people hit by this. In Aug. about 140 WTE cases and 475 GA cases. Will probably stop taking applications for WTEs relatively soon, and in June notification to GA customers who will be over the time limit will go out. Need to have their notification before July so they know their July check is their last check. Would like them to come in and work with EC to help with transition. Last check will be July and they will have an EC until July 31st. Aug. 1st is target date of final implementation.

Bill Tibbits – cumulative impact of the rules on the short-term disability, will be hard to know what impact will be on this population. Thinks this will have a bigger impact than have determined. Propose should hold off on 12 month time limit until know impacts of other rule changes, especially with areas there is no SOAR.

Helen – with our projection implementing all these rules, still a little over the \$5 mill. Doing what Bill asks will make it so savings won't come as quickly.

Bill – you really don't know how many people you are going to lose with these rule changes. You have a risk of having a program with 300 people next time go to legislature.

Helen – Most of our Form 1s are much past 60 days. I disagree about 60 day piece. May have to watch how Docs over time use the service. This is the biggest unknown. Jeff Webster is the GA program specialist.

Advocates Questions:

- Can DWS show us the budget back-up that demonstrates the savings that will be achieved by making these changes?
- When will DWS initiate rulemaking? Does DWS intend on implementing these changes through emergency rulemaking?

Will have to be an emergency rulemaking.

1:45 WIA Stimulus Plan & Comment Period

Mike – sent out email (and Melissa did too) with the plan and the comment period is now open. Stimulus plan is response to DOL questions, that is why it is in the format it is in. Is what gets sent in to get approval for stimulus plan. Are investing stimulus dollars in job training. Do encourage people to give comments and respond. **(Forward on the comments I got)**

Meeting on June 9th - Admin North, with partners to put together an infrastructure to apply for grants. Grants are the next stage. Talk about how Utah can be competitive for these grants. Posting up grant information in next few days.

Karen – Summer youth internships – single parents who fit age group are ineligible for these because department won't pay child care. Can you check into this? Found out from a worker at south county.

Mike – will explore this. Not aware of issue. Are still taking applications for this program, but filling up fast.

1:55 Legislative Priorities (Mike Richardson)

Drug testing of welfare recipients – will be on agenda for the 17th, Sen. Stowell will be testifying on it.

Karen – organization “Not with my Tax Dollars”

Mike – Davis county looking at doing this for UI. Sen. Bell. *** Set up Meeting.

Melissa – get hard data and cost data ready for 17th.

Mike – it comes up every two years and never gets its traction.

Melissa – good to be preemptive. (NCSL???) Sheila – coming out of (ALEC)

2:05 Possibility of Adding a Definition to Hardship for FEP Extensions. (Karen Silver)

For those who have timed out of FEP and have worked but lost their jobs because of the economic downturn & don't qualify for UI. This could compensate somewhat for the Employer's Council refusing to give help to part-time workers.

2:20 Position of Intervention Specialist. (Karen Silver)

How helpful has it been? What is the return on investment? Is GA going to have an intervention specialist for those 400 people no longer eligible? It seems like it would be helpful, as we know these folks are very vulnerable.

DOH/Health:

2:30 Welcome and Introductions

2:35 Utah Medicaid Prior Authorization Process (Michael Hales)

In May Utah's Medicaid PDL program began requiring “prior-authorization” before a non-preferred drug can be prescribed. The Department of Health will be providing an overview about how the prior-authorization process works, how the prior-authorization nurses are trained, what standards they use in making a determination.

3:30 Update on CHIPRA and new CHIP Benefit Package

Topics Welcome!

We find these meetings are most productive when topics are generated by the community. Please email ideas for topics to melissa@utahcap.org or lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org. Thanks.