



**EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

VRS Community Partners + VRS Staff Forum

With Special Guests: SSB Community Partners and SSB Workforce Development Unit Staff

February 2, 2021



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- Please rename yourself to your first and last name, and who you work for. You do this by hovering over your name in the participant tab, then click on “more,” then click on “rename.”
- Please mute your microphone if you are not speaking.
- For captioning, click on “More” (three dots) or CC button on your toolbar, then select “show subtitles.”
- Please send questions for the Q&A Discussion through the Microsoft Forms link here.
- If you have technical issues, please contact Sara.Sundeen@state.mn.us or Anne.Paulson@state.mn.us.
- 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

Dee Torgerson, VRS Director

II. DHS/DEED MOU and What it Means for DEED Community Partners

Chris McVey, Director of Strategic Initiatives | Kim Babine, Director of Community Partnerships

III. Pre-ETS Updates

Alyssa Klein, VRS Pre-ETS and Transition Specialist | Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Program Specialist

- COP Pilot Overview
- Contract Changes
- Pre-ETS Training Modules

IV. Open Discussion/Q&A

V. Conclusion

Dee Torgerson, VRS Director | Natasha Jerde, SSB Director

DHS/DEED MOU and What it Means for DEED Community Partners

Chris McVey, VRS Director of Community Partnerships
Kim Babine, VRS Director of Community Partnerships

E1MN Topics for Today

1. Overview for Discussion – Holly Johnson, Lanterna Consulting
2. E1MN Overview – Chris McVey, VRS Director of Strategic Initiatives
3. SE PBA Framework Overview - Chris McVey
4. Roadmap to Launch – Kim Babine, VRS Director of Community Partnerships
5. Other MOU Preparation - Chris McVey
6. E1MN Wrap-Up – Holly Johnson



DHS – DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

DEED – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES + STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DEED Framework for Placement & Retention Services PBAs

- Supported Employment PBA is in development
- DEED-VRS will also review standard/traditional PBA
- VRS & SSB have agreed to align messaging to reflect DEED's framework for Placement & Retention Services PBAs
- VRS & SSB will likely continue to have different levels of PBA funding
- SSB will not be creating an SSB-specific Supported Employment PBA. However, because SSB staff can use VRS contracts, SSB staff will be following the VRS Supported Employment PBA if SSB staff were to use a VRS-specific contract.

Roadmap for Next 18 Months: January 1, 2021 – July 1, 2022

Individuals statewide working with VRS, SSB, and DHS have greater access to services through VRS, SSB, and 245D service providers.

First Half of 2021
January 2021 – June 2021

- Develop SE PBA
- Develop LUV Contract Standards
- Communication, Training, Rollout of SE PBA and LUV Contract Standards
- Open applications for new LUV providers, apply LUV standards, execute new LUV contracts

Second Half of 2021
July 2021 – December 2021

- Review and Refine SE PBA
- Review and Refine LUV Standards
- Continue communication and training on SE PBA and LUV Contract Standards
- Continue to receive applications for new LUVs, apply new LUV standards, execute contracts

First Half of 2022
January 2022 – June 2022

- Review and Refine SE PBA
- Review and Refine LUV Standards
- Continue communication and training on SE PBA and LUV Contract Standards
- Continue to receive applications for new LUVs, apply new LUV standards, execute contracts
- Prepare and execute contract renewals for all VRS P/T contracts by June 2022

Roadmap for Next 6 Months: January 1, 2021 – July 1, 2021

2021 Quarter 1 January 1, 2021-March 31, 2021

- **SE PBA:** Create Framework for Job Placement and Retention PBAs (SE PBA, General PBA, SSB PBA)
- **LUV Standards:** Create DEED Quality Standards and Requirements Framework for LUVs
- **Process:** Update Contracting Process for New Contracts and Amendments
- **Information for Community Partners and VRS Staff:**
 - Dual Provider Alignment and Marketing
 - Current VRS community partners have the E1MN context and information they need to make a decision about becoming a 245D provider
 - Current 245D providers have the E1MN context and information they need about VRS to make a decision about becoming a VRS community partner
 - Coordinated Preparation of DEED Staff and Community Partners

2021 Quarter 2 April 1, 2021 – July 1, 2021

- **New LUVs:**
 - April 1, 2021: VRS opens applications for new LUV contracts
 - VRS evaluates new partner applications against new LUV standards
 - VRS develops executes P/T contracts with willing and qualified 245D providers
- **Current VRS Community Partners**
 - No amendment needed to add SE PBA to P/T Contract

Roadmap for Next 6 Months: Other MOU Preparation

VRS/SSB Staff + VRS/SSB Community Partners + DHS/Counties/Lead Agencies

- Service Provider Alignment
- Products and Tools
- Training Communication
- Technical Assistance and Post Launch Support
- Policy and Procedures
- Metrics and Dashboard



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON E1MN:

[HTTPS://DISABILITYHUBMN.ORG/FOR-PROFESSIONALS/WORK/DEED-DHS-MOU](https://disabilityhubmn.org/for-professionals/work/deed-dhs-mou)

Pre-ETS Updates

Alyssa Klein, VRS Pre-ETS and Transition Specialist
Sara Sundeen, VRS Community Partnerships Program Specialist

Metro Pre-ETS Community of Practice

Mission: Create a seamless system of Pre-ETS services and supports between Community Partners and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

- Goals & Purpose:

- Gain a better understanding of Pre-ETS
- Share ideas, best practices, strategies and resources
- Build and strengthen relationships and communication
- Improve processes and resources
- Plan strategically together and measure success
- Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 9:00-10:30 am
 - Pilot till June, discuss possible expansion
- For an invite/questions contact:
 - Taylor McLaughlin, tmclaughlin@mssmn.org or Sara Sundeen, sara.sundeen@state.mn.us

FAQs Related to Pre-ETS & Contracts

- Difference between “intake” (for VR eligible students) and “first meeting” (for potentially eligible students)
- Transportation:
- General VR Services: \$28/hour, separate line item on auths and invoices
- Pre-ETS: \$75/hour, time authorized and billed within the Pre-ETS service(s) (NOT a separate line item)
- Referral information: We do not typically receive disability documentation for potentially eligible students (ie. IEPs)

Items that can be included within Pre-ETS service time

- 1. Service Time:** Providing Pre-ETS to students, individually or in groups
- 2. First Meeting Time:** The time for the student who is *potentially eligible for VR*, VRS and provider to meet and talk about the services that will be provided. (Students *eligible for VR* will have a Pre-ETS intake authorized instead).
- 3. Preparation Time:** Prepare/revise lesson plans; prepare content for 1:1 sessions; get materials for sessions ready; communications/attempted communications with students/parents/schools to get meetings set or plan for/coordinate services; edit resumes, cover letters and other documents related to work experiences. (Billed at 50% max of service time)

(These are NOT separate line items on authorizations or invoices)

Items that can be included within Pre-ETS service time (continued)

4. Employer Development Time: Calls/emails/visits to arrange for work-based learning opportunities, internet search for job leads, etc.

5. Team Meetings: Attending a meeting (such as an IEP meeting) with the student's other "team" members (i.e. family, VRS, school staff, county case managers) to report on progress of Pre-ETS.

6. Travel Time: Round trip time traveling from primary work location to where services to a student or group of students is provided. Can include time for a provider to pick up/drop off a student.

• **NOTE:** For Pre-ETS only, providers CAN bill for travel time even when a student doesn't show up for their appointment. However, VRS asks providers to remind students of appointments that are scheduled and to communicate no-shows to VRS staff.

(These are NOT separate line items on authorizations or invoices)

5 Pre-ETS Training Modules

- Module 1: What are Pre-ETS? Who Can Receive Them? (20 minutes)
[Recording](#), [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- Module 2: Definitions and Contract Titles of Pre-ETS Services (21 minutes)
[Recording](#), [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- Module 3: MN VRS Pre-ETS Service Delivery Structure (17 minutes)
[Recording](#), [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- Module 4: Pre-ETS Referrals, Authorizations, Reports and Invoices (18 min.)
[Recording](#), [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- Module 5: Work Experiences (22 minutes)
[Recording](#), [PowerPoint Slides](#)

Discussion – Questions and Answers

Questions to Consider

1. What questions do you have about E1MN and the MOU Launch?
2. For the MOU Launch: What connections and implications do you see for your work and the people you work with?
3. What questions do you have about today's Pre-ETS updates?
4. For today's Pre-ETS updates: what implications do you see for your work and the people you work with?



2021 VRS Community Partner + VRS Staff Forums

Forums will be held the first Tuesday of every other month, 10:30am - 12:00pm, via Zoom.

- Tuesday, February 2, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, April 6, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, June 1, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, August 3, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, October 5, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Tuesday, December 2, 2021: 10:30am - 12:00pm

*For more information, including past recordings and forum materials:
mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/partners/updates*

Thank you



Funding Notice

- 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.