

Washington State Rehabilitation Council

May 2021 Meeting Materials



Washington State
Rehabilitation Council

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Section 1



Washington State **Rehabilitation Council**

Meeting Presentation Slides



Transforming
Lives

Washington State Rehabilitation Council Welcome!

May 4, 2021

Justin Poole – Council Chair

Call to Order 9:00am

- Thank you for joining the meeting.
- We will start in a few minutes.
- If you are a Council member or Presenter, please turn on video if possible.
- All others, please turn your video off.
- All: Please mute your audio unless speaking



- **Purpose:** The WSRC is the Voice of the customer.
- **Vision:** DVR customers experience excellent customer service.
- **Mission:** The WSRC collaborates with DVR to develop, review, and analyze **Policies, Programs & Services** and advises on **Quality & Performance** in meeting the division's mission.

Today's Meeting Agenda

9:00 Call to order, member introductions

9:15 Region One Update

10:00 Break

10:15 DVR Update

11:00 Customer Satisfaction & Program Evaluation Committee

11:20 Client Assistance Program

11:50 Lunch Break

12:30 Rural Employment Services Panel

1:30 Council Wrap-Up

2:00 Adjourn

Region 1 Update

Presented by: Pablo Villarreal

May 2021

Topics

- Staffing Updates
- Successes/Challenges in serving rural community
- Labor Market Overview –
 - Popular industries and average wage
 - How has the downturn affected job seekers and people who need support to get a job?
 - Is it taking longer? Impact on delivery of services
- Pre-ETS, School to Work, Job Foundations Updates

Topics Continued

- COVID-19
 - Does this community have more impact/ challenges around industry related to COVID?
 - How are they navigating this?
 - What are the “asks” coming into the DVR offices there?
- Tribal Liaisons/Relationships with local tribes

Region 1 Staff updates

Region 1 Staff

- Pablo Villarreal Region 1 Administrator
- Mary Crago Deputy Regional Administrator
- Genie Ybarra Program Specialist 3
 - Anne Hiatt OA 3
- Valerie Davis VRC 4 Regional Trainer Specialist
- Lesa Dunphy VRC 4 Regional Training Specialist
- Angela Merritt Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Spokane, Colville
- Donna Dalzell Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Spokane, Clarkston, Colfax
- Teresa Kutsch Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Wenatchee, Omak
- Becky Gellerson Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Yakima, Ellensburg
- Francisco Felan Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Sunnyside, Toppenish, Moses Lake
- Jamie Rasmussen Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor – Kennewick, Walla Walla

Spokane, Colville

- Angela Merritt VRS
- Carol Baker VRC 3
- Judy Bales VRC 4
- Martha Burris RT 1
- Carla Caballero Jackson VRC 4
- Jere Jaline VRC 3
- Kally Johnson RT1
- Patricia Mundy RT 1
- Henock Seyoum VRC 3 In-training
- VRC 3 Vacant

Spokane, Clarkston, Colfax

- Donna Dalzell VRS
- Michael Fox VRC 4
- Cindy Havko VRC 3 In-training
- Cari Hay RT 1
- Joann Hoke RT 1
- Elizabeth Lester VRC 3 In-training
- Jennifer Smith VRC 4
- Trina Weathermon RT 1
- Christopher Wilson VRC 3 In-training
- Vacant VRC 3
- Vacant RT 2 Business Specialist

Wenatchee, Omak

- Teresa Kutsch VRS
- Megan Brock RT 1
- Salvador Constancio VRC 3
- Laura Hamilton VRC 3 In-training
- Valerie Smith RT1
- Eric Stemm VRC 3
- Bonnie Vinton RT 1
- VRC 3 Vacant

Yakima, Ellensburg

- Becky Gellerson VRS
- Clara Betancourt VRC 3
- Jeremy Connolly VRC 3 In-training
- Rosa Estrella VRC 3 In-training
- Sarah Kopp RT 1
- Dawn Loescher RT 1
- Juan Ortiz VRC 4
- Rebekah Sirrine VRC 3
- RT 1 Vacant

Sunnyside, Toppenish, Moses Lake

- Francisco Felan VRS
- Ira Cantu RT 1
- Lisa Castillo RT 1
- Tammy Freese VRC 3 In-training
- Gilbert Garza VRC 4
- Jessica Moreno RT Business Specialist
- Rosa Quiroz VRC 4
- Gloria Rios RT 1

Kennewick, Walla Walla

- Jamie Rasmussen VRS
- Esther Bermudez RT 1
- Clarisa Braulick VRC 4
- Martha Chavez-Warf RT 1
- Sara Elkins RT 2 Business Specialist
- Oliva Gonzalez VRC 3 In-training
- Lauri Jordan RT 1
- Adriana Lozano VRC 4
- Nancy Madrigal RT 1

Jessica Rusch VRC 4

Monica Valencia VRC 3

Deputy Regional Administrator Team

- Mary Crago Deputy Regional Administrator
- Sam Blazina VRC 4 Regional Transition Consultant -Yakima
- Maria Buxbaum VRC 4 Regional Transition Consultant- Kennewick
- Bethan Johnson VRC 4 Regional Transition Consultant – Spokane
- Mistie Larch VRC 4 Regional Transition Consultant – Wenatchee
- Mary Marsh VRC 4 Regional Transition Consultant – Spokane
- Assistive Technology Assessment Practitioner 2 Vacant

Successes/Challenges in serving rural communities

- Many rural communities continue to experience difficulty getting reliable internet connection.
- Difficulty using virtual platform to connect with VR staff.
- It's been difficult to connect with schools and students.
- Students have only recently returned to classroom settings in most communities.

Labor Market Overview –

- Popular industries and average wage
- How has the downturn affected job seekers and people who need support to get a job?
- Is it taking longer? Impact on delivery of services

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Region 1 Pre-Ets Contractors

Big Bend Community College

South Central WDC (People for People)

North Central WDC (SkillSource)

Rural Resources (Blue Mountain Action Center)

Spokane Community College – PACE program

The ARC of Spokane

Asotin County (new contract)

School to Work

Spokane School-to-work program

26 students served

11 Closed Rehab as of 1-28-21

Average wage 18.22

Job Foundations

- Okanogan
- Yakima
- Ferry
- Stevens
- Pend Oreille
- Lincoln
- Spokane
- Whitman
- Asotin

COVID-19

- Does this community have more impact/ challenges around industry related to COVID?
- How are they navigating this?
- What are the “asks” coming into the DVR offices there?

Tribal Liaisons/Relationships with local tribes

Carla Caballero-Jackson VRC 4 Tribal Liaison to Spokane Tribe of Indians

VRC 3 Omak – Vacant Tribal Liaison to Colville Confederated Tribes

Currently supported by Laura Hamilton VRC 3 In-training Wenatchee

Gilbert Garza VRC 4 Tribal Liaison to Yakima Nation Vocational Rehab.

Region 1 Update

Q&A

Thank you!
Pablo Villarreal

Break

Please mute mic and turn off video during the break.

DVR Interim Director Update

Provided by Terry Redmon

May 2021

State and Federal funds are used to deliver DVR services. The VR program receives approximately 78% in Federal funds and 22% in State funds. For detailed information on the dollar amount of Federal funds for the program, please visit <https://rsa.ed.gov/fiscal/grant-awards>.

Topics

- Staffing Updates
- COVID-19 Updates:
 - Return to work plan and related considerations
- Budget Updates
- Transition/Pre-ETS
- Performance Measures - Pre COVID/current, by Race/ethnicity
- Order of Selection
 - Current releases, consideration to increase?
- Other Updates

DVR Staffing Update

- Deputy Director – Justin DeFour – April 16, 2021
- EDI Manager – Recruitment closed – Interviews May 10, 2021
- Policy Manager – Interviews April 21, 2021
- Region 3 Deputy Director – Bianca Kolle – April 16, 2021

Budget History by SFY

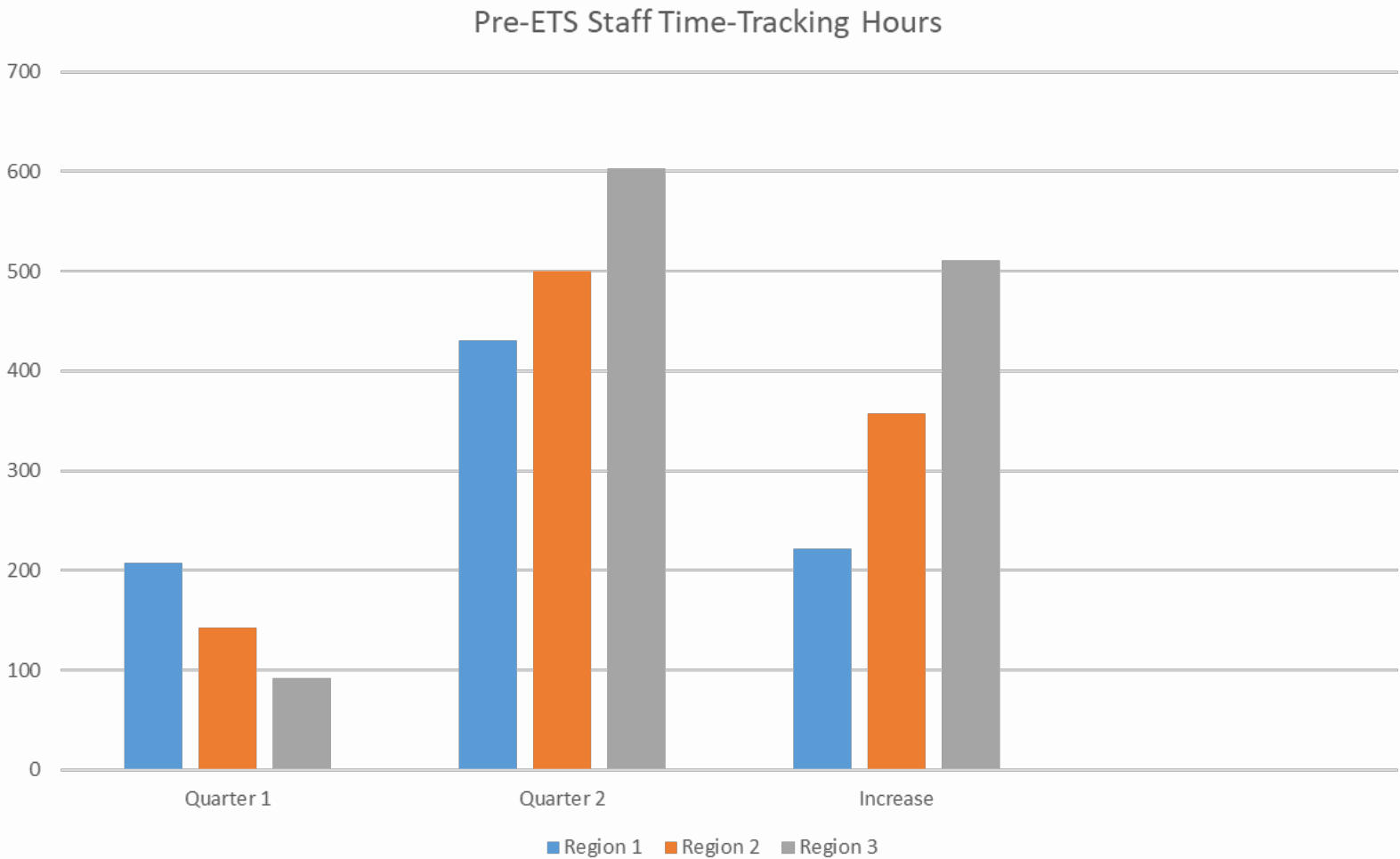
Historical Funds Expended and Returned						
		State	Federal	TOTAL Expenditures	Returned Funds	Total Cost
BI 19-21	SFY 21				\$ 6,476,476	
	SFY 20	\$ 17,609,169	\$ 36,361,817	\$ 53,970,986	\$ 1,888,189	\$ 55,859,175
BI 17-19	SFY 19	\$ 15,252,796	\$ 45,839,580	\$ 61,092,376	\$ 1,988,233	\$ 63,080,609
	SFY 18	\$ 14,876,502	\$ 55,330,861	\$ 70,207,363	\$ 4,548,522	\$ 74,755,885
BI 15-17	SFY 17	\$ 13,007,921	\$ 55,412,097	\$ 68,420,018	\$ 5,715,329	\$ 74,135,347
	SFY 16	\$ 12,840,265	\$ 51,001,275	\$ 63,841,540	\$ -	\$ 63,841,540
BI 13-15	SFY 15	\$ 10,936,513	\$ 46,580,437	\$ 57,516,950		\$ 57,516,950
	SFY 14	\$ 11,554,000	\$ 44,953,864	\$ 56,507,864		\$ 56,507,864

Transition Services

Working on new School To Work (STW) contract for 2021-22 which will go in to effect September 2021

- Meeting with counties to update contract later this month
- Pre-ETS
 - Efforts to spend 15%
 - Training team will be delivering additional Transition/Pre-ETS training to VRC's this summer
 - Regional Transition Consultants have been receiving ongoing training and guidance from new supervisors, and Leadership to help in Pre-ETS delivery
 - New consent portal rolled out, new process in place to track consents and ensure they are entered.
 - Time tracking for staff:
 - time has increased Quarter 2
 - Some billings DVR paid, not reflected in expenditure graph, paid recently

Quarterly Totals



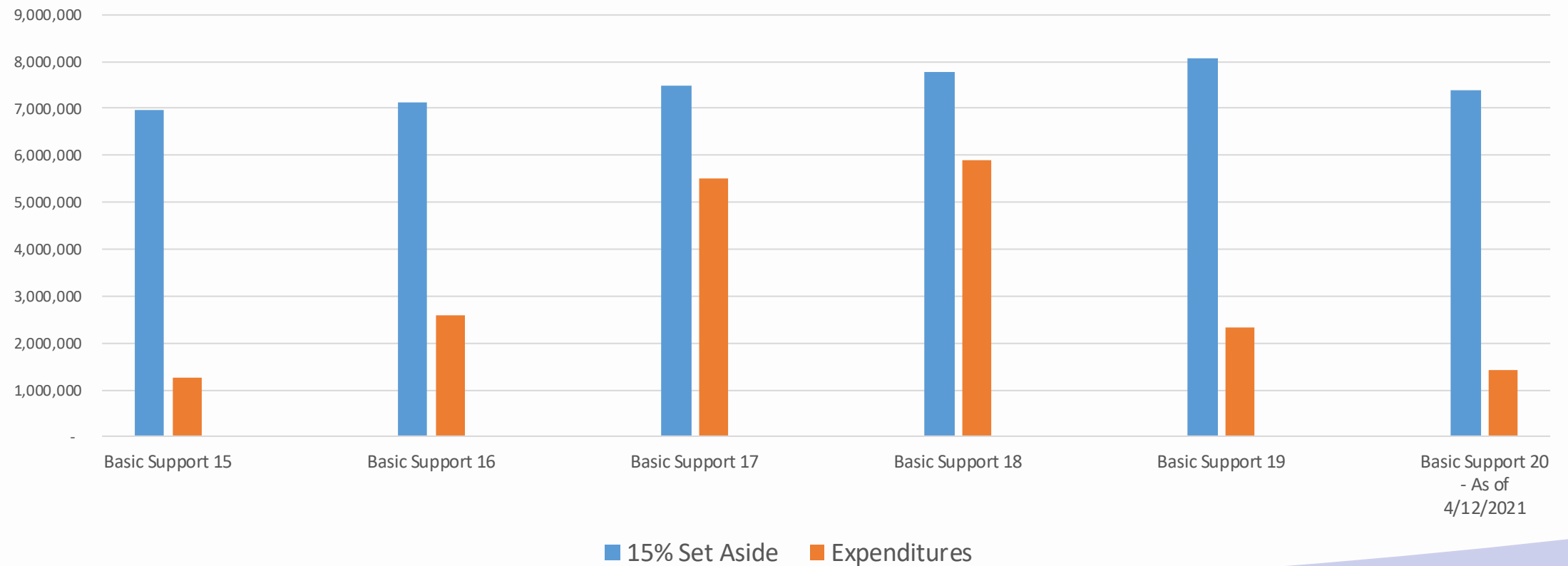
	Region 1 Total staff Hours	Region 2 Total Staff Hours	Region 3 Total Staff Hours
Quarter 1	208	143	91.75
Quarter 2	430	500.5	602.25
# of Increased Hours	+222	+357.5	+510.5

DVR History of Pre-ETS Expenditures

Pre-ETS by Grant											
Basic Support 15		Basic Support 16		Basic Support 17		Basic Support 18		Basic Support 19		Basic Support 20	
										AS OF 4/13/2021	
15% Set Aside	6,965,253	15% Set Aside	7,139,066	15% Set Aside	7,490,106	15% Set Aside	7,779,874	15% Set Aside	8,054,632	15% Set Aside	7,393,828
Expenditures	1,249,924	Expenditures	2,590,514	Expenditures	5,501,873	Expenditures	5,891,685	Expenditures	2,330,440	Expenditures	1,411,437
Returned to RSA	5,715,329	Returned to RSA	4,548,551	Returned to RSA	1,988,233	Returned to RSA	1,888,189	Returned to RSA	5,724,192	To be spent by 9/30/21	5,982,391
	Total Funds Returned (2015 – 2019)			\$19,864,495							
	Total Funds Expended (2015 – 2019)			\$17,564,437							

Pre-ETS Spending by Grant

Pre-ETS 15% Set Aside vs. Actual Expenditures



COVID-19 Updates

- Return to work plan and related considerations:
 - Telework through at least Labor Day
 - Leadership is currently working on tentative plans for returning to work
 - Each Region and office will require customized plans according to safety protocols and include other factors (size of building/suite, staff size, customer need, telework options).
 - Will follow state guidelines and DSHS Road to Recovery efforts

Performance Pre and Post COVID

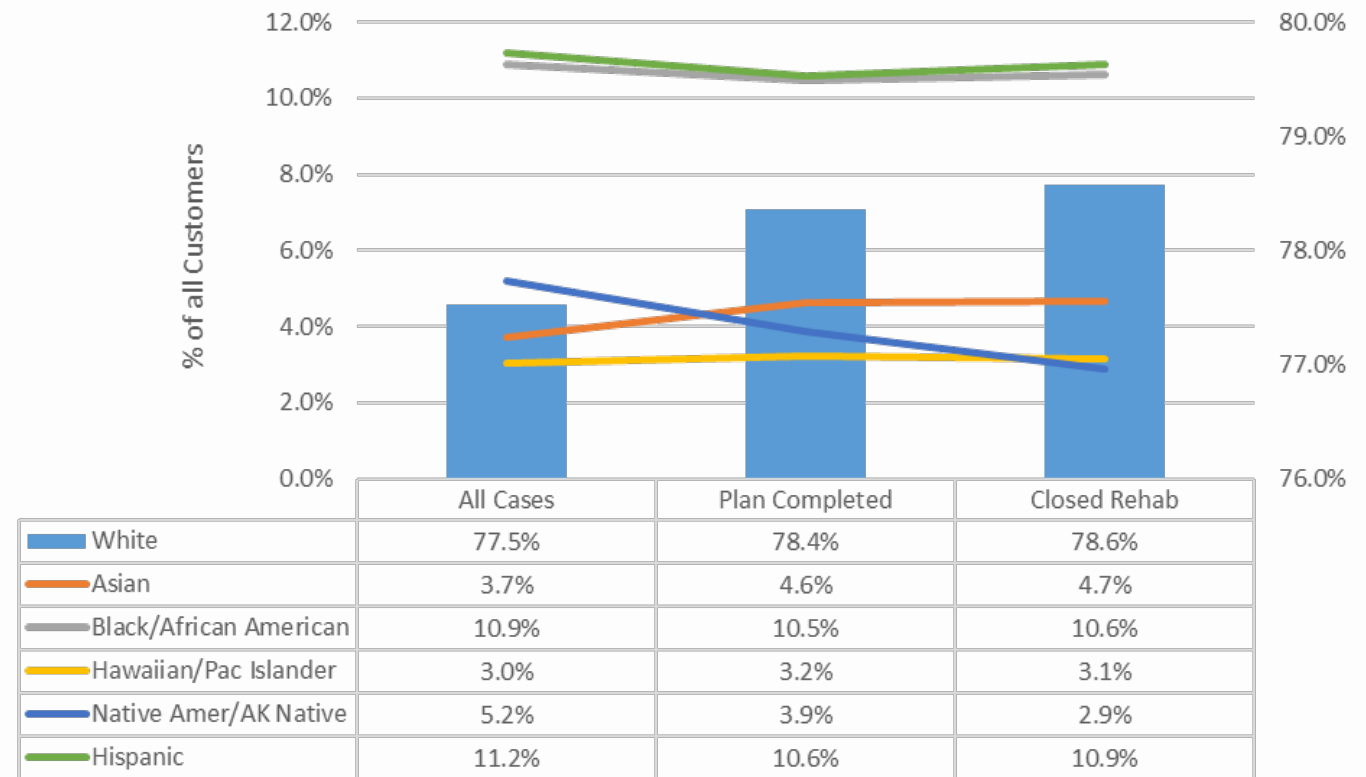
- New applications and plans continued to trend upward in the first quarter of 2021 and average days to plan improved by about 10 days.
- Cases in plan remain fairly stable, as the number of cases closed after plan and new plans are very similar.
- Getting customers into jobs remains challenging. Cases In-Plan Employed declined by 8% from the previous quarter.

Pre- COVID Jul 2019-Mar 2020	Post-COVID Apr 2020-past month	Change	Pre- COVID Jul 2019-Mar 2020	Post-COVID Apr 2020-past month	Change
CASE VOLUME MONTHLY AVERAGE			PERFORMANCE		
5,642 In Plan	5,498 In Plan	-3%	52.6% Rehab Rate	43.4% Rehab Rate	
766 In Plan Employed	562 In Plan-Employed	-27%	42 Ave Days to Eligibility	43 Ave Days to Eligibility	
530 New Applications	192 New Applications	-64%	112 Ave Days to Plan	137 Ave Days to Plan	
535 New Eligibilities	202 New Eligibilities	-62%	CASE SERVICE EXPENDITURES		
246 New Plans	182 New Plans	-26%	\$1,341,179 In Plan	\$802,529 In Plan	-40%
549 Case Closures	447 Case Closures	-19%	\$1,502,063 Total	\$867,936 Total	-42%
286 Closed after Plan	188 Closed after Plan	-34%			
151 Closed Rehab	81 Closed Rehab	-46%			

Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity

- DVR's customers reflect the diversity of working age people with disabilities in the State. However, disparities are evident in case progress and outcomes for Black/African American, Native American, and Hispanic customers.
- For 2020, disparity in case progress was greatest for customers who identified as Native American. Native Americans were 2.9% of customers with successful outcomes in 2020, although they represented 5.2% of all cases closed.

Racial/Ethnic Identity of DVR Customers at Case Milestones
Cases Closed Jan 1-Dec 31, 2020



OOS Waiting List

- 301 SD-P2 cases were released on May 3.
- Earliest application date for SD-P2 at that time will be 9/1/2020.

Priority Category	Number	Application Date Range
SD-P2	144	09/01/2020 – 03/01/2021
SD-P3	2,020	10/05/2017 – 03/04/2021
SD-P4	594	08/11/2017 – 03/15/2021
NSD	312	02/01/2017 – 02/22/2021
Total	3,070	

Projects Update

- Business Management Modernization Project
 - Case Management System (CMS)
 - WellSky is our vendor.
 - Kick-off early May
 - Go-live scheduled for 7/1/22
 - Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)
 - Go-live in May
 - Current cases being sent to be scanned in phases to limit impact on service delivery
- Other projects
 - Developing strategic plan for Business Engagement
 - We have had meetings with cross functional teams to evaluate how to support businesses hiring people with disabilities

DVR Interim Director Update

Q&A

Thank you!
Terry Redmon

Customer Satisfaction & Program Evaluation Subcommittee

Members: Peggy Frisk - Chair, Justin Poole, Jen Cole.

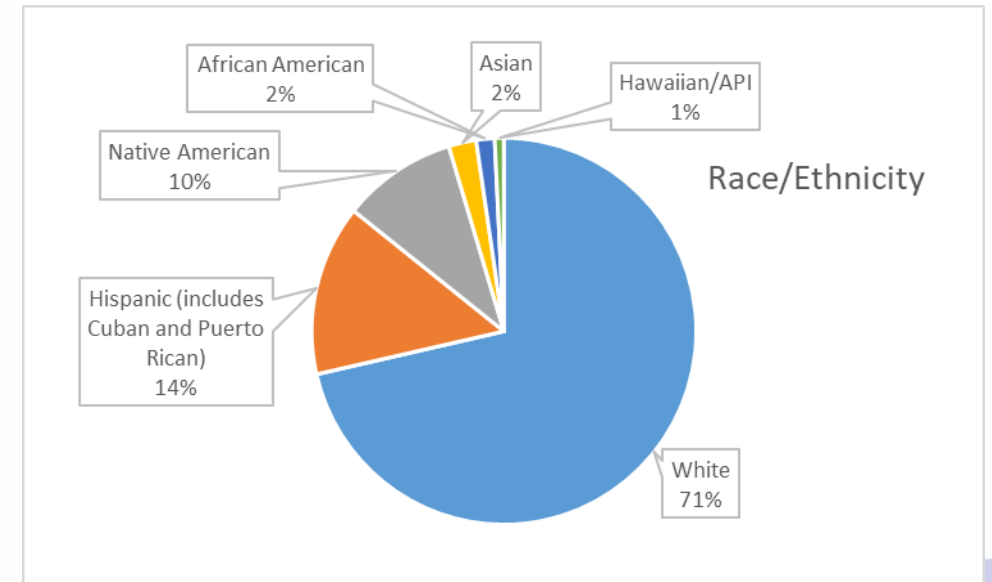
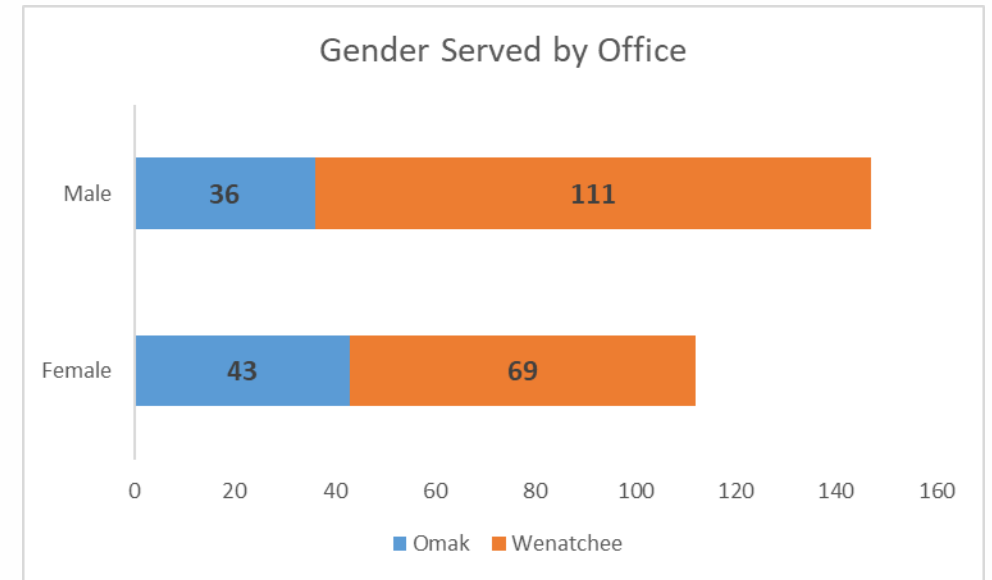
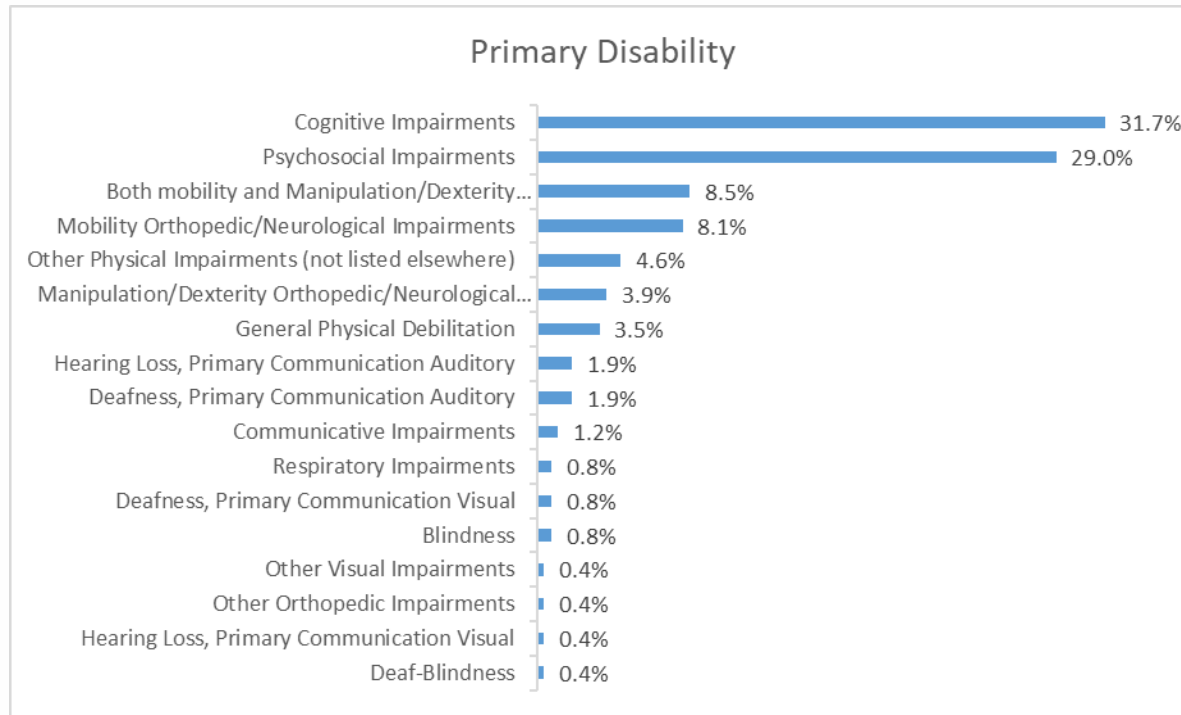
May 2021

Customer Satisfaction Survey Updates

- WSU – Social & Economic Sciences Research Center
 - Wrapping up 1st quarter survey – October to December 2020
 - Preliminary response rate – as of April 16th

CASESTATUS * REGION Crosstabulation						
Count		REGION				
		1	2	3	Total	
CASESTATUS	1 Eligible	33	27	28	88	Response Rate
	2 Plan	36	64	61	161	
	3 Closed Rehab	17	37	35	89	
	4 Closed-Other	17	36	34	87	
Total		103	164	158	425	
						35%

Omak/Wenatchee Demographic Data

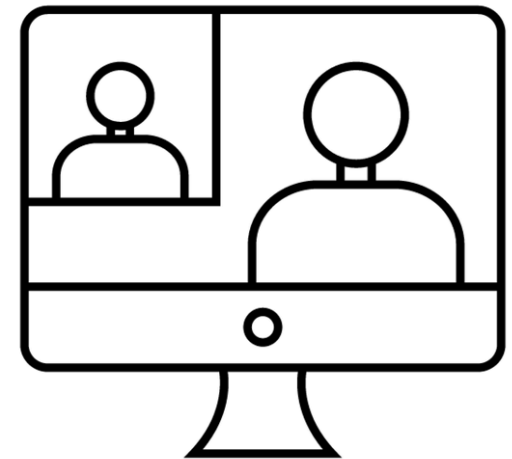


Customer Listening Sessions

- Held last two weeks of March for customers in Omak (4) and Wenatchee (4) offices.
- Status
 - Eligibility – Waitlist (2)
 - Plan (6) - including one receiving Transition Services
- Average Rating for services during pandemic: 3
 - 4.5, 1, 5, 3, 5, 3, 1, 1.5

Themes

- Case progress
- Scope of DVR Services
- Job Goal/Education Support
- Technology
- Transition Services
- Case Transfer/Caseload Turnover

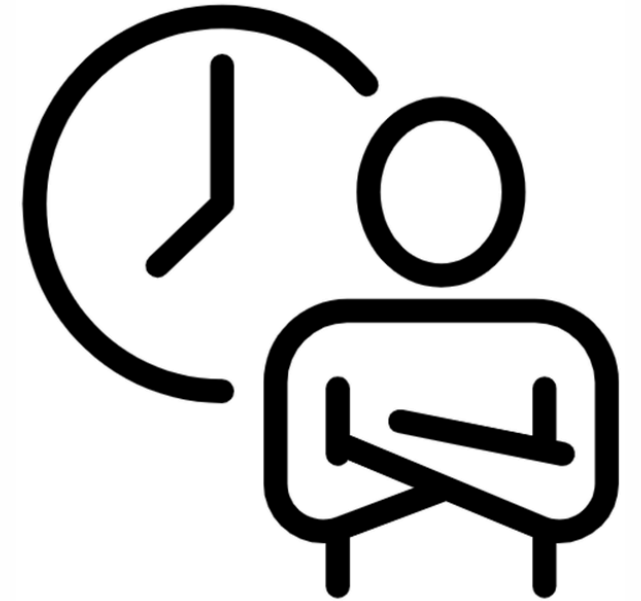


Communication

- Check-in
- Phone or mail offered, video conferencing not offered
- Response time
- Acronyms

Order of Selection – Waitlist

- Information and Referral
- Priority Category Determination



What has DVR Done Well?

- Counselor helpful and knowledgeable
- Referrals
- Brainstorming
- Meeting where customer is
- Timely Communication and check-ins
- Happy with new counselor

WSRC Council Member Suggestions

- Consistent and responsive communication concerns
- Ensuring customers understand why requests are denied
- Increase understanding of how DVR and DDA work together
- How to clarify services available through DVR
- Counseling and guidance
- Counselor turnover impacts, how to mitigate?



CSPE Update

Q&A

Thank you!
CSPE Committee



Client Assistance Program

Jerry Johnsen

Jen Bean

May 2021

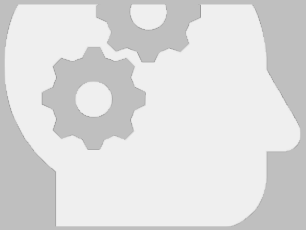
Listening Sessions: Telework Experience

- CAP and SRC
- 15 units + RCD group (more scheduled)
- Purpose: Keep what works, improve what doesn't
 - Meet and connect with staff
 - Acknowledge the hard work under challenging circumstances, impact on personal life, and uncertainty of the last year
 - Understand staff experience with telework
 - Hear staff impressions of customer experience with remote services
 - Share feedback to consider for future planning

Strengths: Staff



Working from Home




Innovation

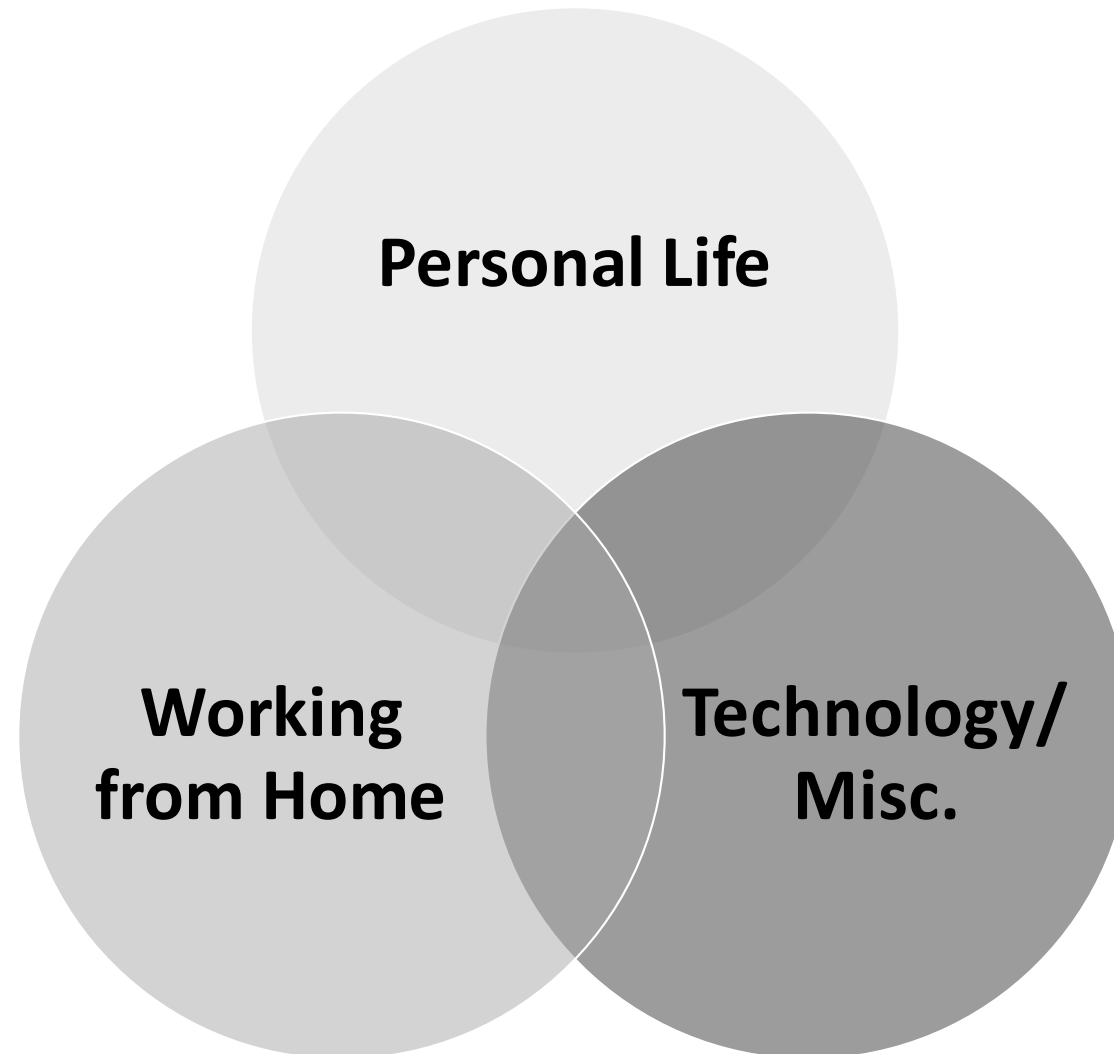


Technology

Strengths: Staff

Working from Home	Innovation	Technology
Ability to work from home Slowing down Focusing on what is most important Being home with family, children, animals No commute Saving time and money Better self-care Work/Life balance More focused and efficient Sick less	Creativity, thinking outside the box Flexibility Adaptability Resiliency Learning opportunity Camaraderie of shared experience	More connected Zoom Paperless More access to other staff, connecting to those around the state More access to training 

Challenges: Staff



Challenges: Staff

Personal	Working from Home	Technology/Misc.
<p>Loneliness, miss family and friends</p> <p>Freedom - Everyday life more complicated</p> <p>Work/life balance</p> <p>Homeschooling</p> <p>Self-Care</p> <p>Mental health</p> <p>Uncertainty</p>	<p>Miss face to face with customers</p> <p>Stressful!</p> <p>Casual conversations</p> <p>Staffing cases, help</p> <p>Learning a new job – hard to understand big picture, learning takes longer, hard to develop relationships with customers and staff</p> <p>RT's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking details between two workstations • Managing paperwork when files are at the office 	<p>Getting signatures</p> <p>Coordinating services</p> <p>Connecting customers to schools and businesses</p> <p>“Widens the gap for customers” – limited access to technology, transportation, decreased independence</p>

Strengths: Customer



Engagement & Connection




Technology

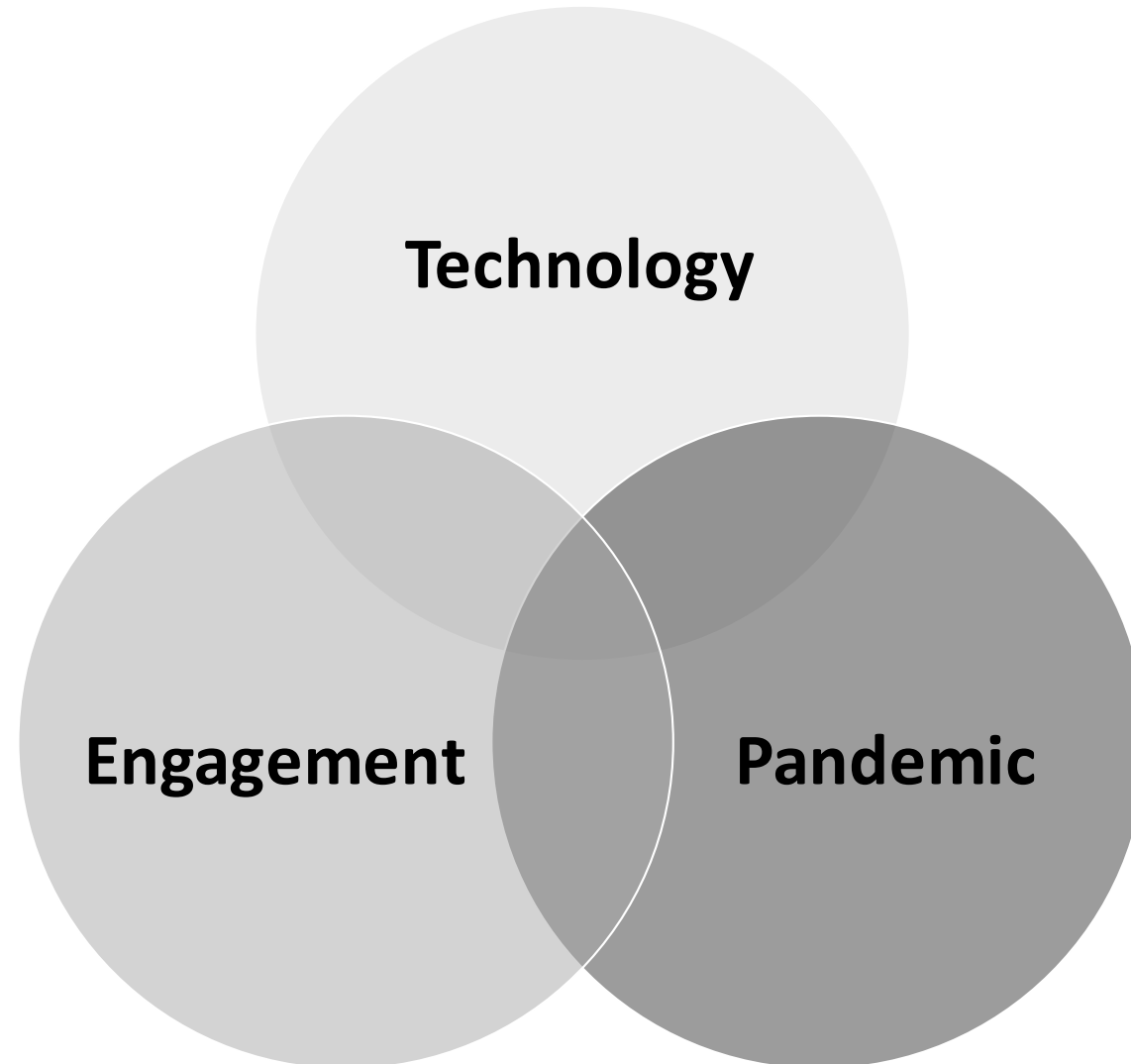


Opportunity


Strengths: Customer

Engagement & Connection	Technology	Opportunity
<p>More engagement Fewer no shows Spending more time with customers Learn more about customers lives Camaraderie of shared experience Easier for customers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost• Time• Public transportation• Childcare	<p>Access, ability and comfort using technology</p> <p>Easier to do paperwork, saves trips to the office for signatures</p> <p>More access to interpreters</p> 	<p>More opportunity in the future for telework</p> <p>Better societal understanding of mental health issues and impact on work</p> <p>Increased access of Pre-ETS services</p>

Challenges: Customer



Challenges: Customer

Technology	Engagement	Pandemic
<p>Limited access, ability, bandwidth</p> <p>Accessing and signing documents</p> <p>Need for tech training and support</p> 	<p>Miss face to face meetings with VRC</p> <p>Decreased engagement and follow through</p> <p>Not understanding what DVR can do for them</p> <p>Decreased intakes</p> <p>Inability to provide immediate services</p> <p>Pre-ETS, hard to get schools engaged</p>	<p>More isolation</p> <p>Not feeling safe</p> <p>Increased mental health issues</p> <p>Dropping out or decreasing courses in higher education, remote learning not working well</p>

Benefits

- *“All things are possible!”*
- *“I am thriving at home.”*
- *“We are in this together.”*

Challenges

- *“This is not working well for me.”*
- *“Working from home is really hard.”*
- *“Paper chasing!”*



- Feedback from staff, and our conversations with customers, indicate that most prefer a balance of in person/in the office and telework/remote options.
- IT support for customers
- Field staff involvement writing SOP's. important for day-to-day workflow to be considered
- Maintain technology at industry standard levels to ensure future disruptions are more manageable

Vision for the Future

- Maintain integrity and quality of DVR
- Provide confidential and professional access to services
- Recognize that counseling and guidance can be affected by environmental factors
- Feedback from conversations and experiences:
 - New ways of doing business should be integrated that complement service delivery
 - Increased access through technology for staff and customers
 - Forced into the future, this does work!
- Avoid DVR to becoming a “drive-thru” program



Before the pandemic, many managers got away with a narrow focus on performance at work. Now, I hope more are recognizing that they can't afford to ignore well-being in life. You don't get quality work when people are struggling with quality of life.

Adam Grant



Trends

- Pandemic challenges:
 - Scope of services limitations with providers creates hesitancy
 - Understanding what DVR can do for customers
- Communication
 - Connecting with DVR staff
 - Quality of conversations
- Order of Selection and Waitlist inconsistencies

The word "QUESTIONS" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. It is centered and appears to be floating above or resting on a series of vibrant, overlapping brushstrokes. These strokes are in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, creating a dynamic and artistic background for the text. The overall composition is clean and modern, set against a plain white background.

QUESTIONS

Lunch Break

Please mute mic and turn off video during the break.

Rural Employment Services Panel

Facilitated by Shelby Satko

May 2021

State and Federal funds are used to deliver DVR services. The VR program receives approximately 78% in Federal funds and 22% in State funds. For detailed information on the dollar amount of Federal funds for the program, please visit [RSA Grant Awards](#).

Rural Employment Services Panelists

- Peggy Vines – North Central Washington Union Representative
- Debbie Doran Martinez – Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce & Business owner of Cornfusion
- Bryan Blann – Columbia Basin Elks
- Jennifer Killian – First Choice Employment Services

Thank you, Panelists!

Q&A

Thank you!
Shelby Satko

Presentation Discussion & Wrap up

Justin Poole – Chair

May 2021

Adjourned

Tomorrow meet at 9:00am

Shelby Satko, Executive Director

(360) 725-3690

shelby.satko@dshs.wa.gov

Mari Heusman, Executive Lead

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www.wsrcwa.org

Thank you!

Welcome!

May 5, 2021

Justin Poole – Council Chair

Call to Order 9:00am

Transforming
Lives

- Thank you for joining the meeting.
- We will start in a few minutes.
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- All others, please turn your video off.
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- **Vision:** DVR customers experience excellent customer service.
- **Mission:** The WSRC collaborates with DVR to develop, review, and analyze **Policies, Programs & Services** and advises on **Quality & Performance** in meeting the division's mission.

Today's Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 Call to order, member introductions
- 9:05 Honoring Kelly Boston
- 9:30 Partnership Expanded Update: Special Education Advisory Council
- 9:45 Partnership Expanded Update: Tribal VR
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Partnership Committee
- 10:45 Policy Committee
- 11:00 Public Comment
- 11:15 Executive Updates
- 11:30 Meeting Wrap-up
- 12:00 Adjourn

Honoring Kelly Boston

Partnerships Subcommittee

Members: Erica Wollen – Chair, Erin Williams, Tania May,
Ivanova Smith, Dion Graham

May 2021

Partnership Expanded Update: Special Education Advisory Council

- Overview
- Importance for partnership with DVR
- What's working? Where are areas for improvement?
- Opportunities moving forward

Partnership Expanded Update: Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

- Overview
- Importance for partnership with DVR
- What's working? Where are areas for improvement?
- Opportunities moving forward

Break

Please mute mic and turn off video during the break.

Partner Updates

- Full updates in Pre-Meeting Packet from the following Partners:
 - Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction & Transition Collaborative - Tania
 - Developmental Disabilities Council - Ivanova
 - WA Assistive Technology Act Program - Erin
 - Workforce Board - Erica
 - State Independent Living Council - Dion
 - Behavioral Health Advisory Council - Mari

Policy & Planning Subcommittee

Members: Jerry Johnsen - Chair, Laurae MacClain,
Michele Stelovich, Lesa Dunphy

May 2021

DVR Training

- Current Core VR Training Activities
 - VR Institute
 - Medical Aspects of Disability Part C
 - Vocational Assessment
 - New Counselor Training Group
 - Everyday Ethics!
 - Transition
 - Youth Services Training
- Electronic Document Management System

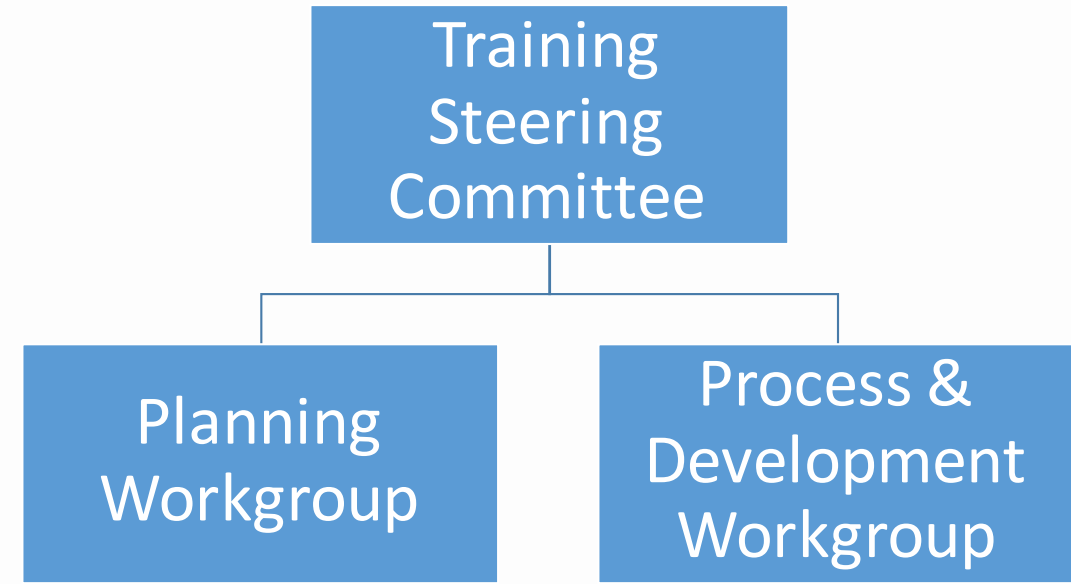
Training Steering Committee

- Planning Workgroup

- Major Priorities
 - Eligibility Determination
 - Transition
- Smaller Scope Priorities

- Process & Development Workgroup

- Create an effective & streamlined process to propose, create, and deliver new training content to DVR staff



Policy Committee Updates

- Eligibility Determination
 - Training Steering Committee
- Order of Selection
 - Releases
 - Information & Referral (Waitlist Customers)
- Equipment Policy updates

Public Comment

May 2021

Executive Updates

Members: Justin Poole – Chair, Jerry Johnsen – Vice Chair
Peggy Frisk, and Erica Wollen.

Executive Director: Shelby Satko

May 2021

Council Announcements

- General & Advocacy Updates
- Elections – August
- Term Renewals
- Recruitment

Presentation Feedback and Wrap-up

Justin Poole – Chair

May 2021

Adjourned

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Thank you!

Section 2



Washington State **Rehabilitation Council**

Partner Updates



WATAP Report for WSRC- April 2021

A. WATAP COVID-19 Services Update

WATAP has completed some modifications on our new space which includes a new demonstration lab. The WATAP team has been fully vaccinated and many of our services are being offered as was usual pre-COVID, including our short-term device lending, device demonstrations, and services provided through the iCanConnect WA program are up and running. We continue to provide assistive technology webinars in lieu of in-person events, which will continue to be on hold until it is safe to gather in larger numbers indoors. Latest updates and announcements are being provided on FaceBook and Twitter.

B. Short-term Device Lending to DVR Clients

During the last quarter (January 1-March 31), we provided 28 devices for decision making purposes to 15 DVR clients; 2 Benton, 1 Jefferson, 9 King, 1 Snohomish, 1 Wahkiakum, and 1 Whatcom.

C. WATAP-DVR trainings update

We had 7 75 minute trainings via webinar to 284 DVR staff, Tribal VR staff, CRPs, and other DVR partners between January 1 and early April:

- January 12th AT for Cognition and Mental Health: 47 participants
- January 26th AT and Transition: 40 participants
- February 9th Computer Access: 53 participants
- February 23rd Mobile Technology for Supported Employment: 32 participants
- March 9th AT to Support Farmers and Agriculture Workers: 34 participants
- March 23rd AT for Cognition and Mental Health: 58 participants
- April 6th AT and Transition: 25 participants

D. WATAP-DVR Contract for 2020-2022

The contract was written with the flexibility for us to return to in-person training beginning in July of 2021, but this will depend on the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic in the summer. We are holding off scheduling any in-person trainings for the time being until we have a better sense as to whether we need to continue to offer webinars through autumn.

The next offering currently scheduled is:

- April 27th, 10 AM- 1 PM: Mobile Technology for Supported Employment



Washington Workforce Development News Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

**Washington Workforce Development News
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
April 26, 2021**

CAREER BRIDGE SPORTS NEW HOME PAGE, CAREER VIDEOS

The Washington Career Bridge website (www.CareerBridge.wa.gov) is looking fresh these days with a brand new homepage that features oh-so-clickable icons, instead of photos. The popular, public-facing career and education portal created and managed by the Workforce Board also features new videos on hundreds of careers courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor. So take the career quiz. Then catch a video and see if a new career might be right for you!

FINANCIAL AID NAVIGATION WEBINARS OFFERED APRIL 27 AND APRIL 29

School and college counselors, financial aid staff, and anyone who wants to learn more about and teach their community about financial aid are encouraged to attend a webinar on financial aid application navigation. Two sessions are being held, including April 27 from 10 a.m. to noon, and April 29 from 1-3 p.m. They're being offered by the Washington Student Achievement Council in partnership with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Council of Presidents, and Independent Colleges of Washington. More details and register at: <https://bit.ly/3dIV1ks>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK SEEKS EMPLOYER FEEDBACK THROUGH MAY 9

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network is once again ready to hear from employers around the state about their greatest health workforce needs. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention, and skills issues being confronted, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and make that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. Washington's Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board, the Health Workforce Council, and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details: <https://bit.ly/3sWmx26>

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE HEALTHCARE CAREERS THIS WEEK

Sound Careers in Healthcare, a virtual weeklong mix of live and interactive presentations, starts this afternoon (April 26) and runs through Friday (April 30). This free event is open to all Washington 9th through 12th graders who would like to explore different health career pathways. Sessions run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. each day. Participants are not obligated to attend all sessions. Help spread the word and get more details: <https://bit.ly/2QSPheM>

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO MEET MAY 19

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The agenda is in progress. Get more details soon at: <https://bit.ly/3sMq8zC>



Developmental Disabilities Council Update – May 2021

- The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) will be publically posting a draft of its new 5-year State Plan at the end of April. Folks are encouraged to share throughout their communities to get input from people who have a stake in developmental disabilities issues.
 - The DDC is leading efforts within the developmental disabilities community to establish a “North Star” vision and corresponding omnibus legislative request. This will articulate what success looks like for the developmental disabilities community and what resources they need to thrive, not just simply survive.
 - The DDC is seeking applications for governor-appointed members to fill several open positions this summer. Folks are encouraged to share [this link](#) with anyone who may be interested and qualified.
 - For more information, please contact: Jeremy Norden-Paul, executive director, Jeremy.norden-paul@ddc.wa.gov
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**Washington
State
Independent
Living Council**

WA State Independent Living Council
WSRC Quarterly Report – Dion Graham

WASILC Partner Report May 2021

- Spokane Center for Independent Living closed their doors. The State Plan for Independent Living committee made recommendations to WASILC at a special council meeting. WASILC accepted the recommendations. The key focus of the plan is:
 - Keep funding in the Spokane Region
 - Work with the Office of Independent Living Programs of ACL to access funding for services as soon as possible
 - Through a SPIL amendment, build a new center with input from the disability advocates in the Spokane region
- Develop a Asian American Pacific Islander solidarity Statement in response to the increased hate crimes committed against the AAPI community
- Council Membership: We will have four positions open and are actively recruiting. We are looking to fill geographic locations such as Eastern, Central WA, and coastal with folks who identify with having a disability
- WASILC staff took the lead in reaching out to various state agencies to address the issue of Homebased people with disabilities who want a vaccine. Those efforts lead to a group of disability organizations, the Governor's office, DOH, ALTSA, HCA, and others to meet and begin addressing that gap. Although state agencies are able to identify people who receive state services and are homebased, there is a bigger concern about how to reach those that want a vaccine and are not in the state system. Our networks of Centers will be involved in helping identify those individuals.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Update – May 2021

Updates will be provided in-meeting

Currently in BHAC:

- BHAC created a legislative subcommittee to determine how they can better involve the council in the legislative process. Our first step is having Rep Lauren Davis to our next BHAC meeting to discuss how they could potentially work together.
- BHAC has a section come in during each meeting. Next section update will be from the Prevention Section at DBHR.
- BHAC is still hosting meetings virtually and will be for the foreseeable future
- BHAC's next meeting is Wednesday May 5th, 2021.

BHAC is regularly looking for guest speakers to come and present at our meetings. Topics can include anything as long as it relates to behavioral health. If anyone is interested, please reach out to me at victoria.mcdermott-hale@hca.wa.gov



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

OSPI May Updates

Biennial Operating Budget:

- \$57M (\$52.7M for K-12 and \$4.4M for PreK) American Rescue Plan funds for special education services direct to school districts
 - \$24M (\$12M in 2021-22 and \$12M 2022-23) for Transition Recovery Services to support transition services for students beyond age 21
 - \$12M (\$7M in 2021-22 and \$5M 2022-23) for Inclusionary Practices Project, PreK to age 21
 - Funding for a second Special Education Family and Community Liaison and for a Nursing Corps at regional educational service districts (ESD)
 - \$560K (\$310K for 2021-22 and \$249K for 2022-23) for Language Access for families
 - \$628K (\$318K for 2021-22 and \$310K for 2022-23) for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) staffing and database
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Special Education Advisory Council Update – May 2021

SEAC Belief statement:

“We believe that every student in Washington State has the right to reach his or her full human potential. We believe that students will fully and meaningfully participate in their education and community. We will use our strength as a broad based and diverse constituency group to play an active and influential role in decisions affecting education policies, programs, and services. Our priorities are focused on building a strong public education system that is inclusive, equitable, proactive, and supportive of students, families, and educators.”

Current SEAC Roster:

https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/seac_roster.pdf

SEAC Brochure in English:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/SEACBrochure.pdf>

SEAC Brochure in Spanish:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/specialed/seac/SEACBrochureSpanish.pdf>

Updates will be provided in-meeting