



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

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SRC Order of Selection Working Group

600 Washington Street Boston MA, 02111

July 18, 2018

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

- Richard Colantonio, Bill Noone, Felishia Byrdsong, Douglas Mason, Joseph Panciotti, Steve Aalto, Jim Riley, Kristopher Callahan (MDDC), Michael Stepansky (DMH) Naomi Goldberg (CAP), Alex (CAP), Dawn Clark, Kate Biebel, Toni Wolf, Joan Phillips

MRC Budget Overview - Yogita Koopar (MRC Budget Director)

Ms. Koopar discussed VR funding streams that included a federal grant award, state funding, and a SSA trust fund. She detailed a set of funding challenges that included the Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (unfunded mandate), decreased re-allotment funds, and salary, cost of living and infrastructure increases. Ms. Koopar presented FY18 strategies to address fiscal challenges that included hiring controls, elimination of temporary positions, office consolidation, service contract reductions, and increased internal controls, monitoring and policies. MRC is facing a 15M variance of projected costs to revenue stream. Strategies in FY19 include maintaining hiring controls, exploring space and lease options and satellite spaces, and reducing contracts based on utilization and/or performance. MRC has requested a one-time supplemental budget of 10.1M. After consultation with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, MRC is considering an order of selection (OOS). OOS is the fiscal mechanism recommended by RSA to control costs.

Overview of Vocational Rehab and OOS – Bill Noone (MRC Director of Research and Development)

The Rehabilitation Act, as amended by the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), requires a state vocational rehabilitation services (VR) agency to implement an order of selection when it does not have sufficient resources to serve all eligible individuals. OOS must be used to prioritize consumer services to individuals with the most significant disabilities first through a process of establishing priorities and identifying what priority categories are currently open. MRC financial forecasting has determined it does not have sufficient resources to serve all eligible individuals. OOS can be used to prioritize consumer services to individuals with the most significant disabilities first through a process of establishing priorities and

identifying what priority categories are currently open and closed. Dr. Noone reviewed potential case flow with OOS, as well as options when considering how to define priority categories. He reviewed the steps to implement OOS that include:

- Development of a draft implementation work plan
- Notify Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
- Draft Order of Selection (OOS) policy and procedures
- Consult with State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
- Consult with MRC workforce
- Conduct listening tour with key stakeholders (e.g., DMH, ILCs)
- Review draft policy with RSA
- Conduct public hearings
- Respond to public hearing input
- Amend state plan including OOS policy and service and financial forecasting
- Implement OOS

Q&A

Will we receive any re-allotment money the FY 2019?

We have requested re-allotment dollars from RSA but will not know an amount till later this year.

How will OOS affect current consumers?

OOS will not change services for current consumers. The impact of OOS will be on new consumers.

Are youth and young adults presumed eligible for OOS?

No. They must be determined eligible.

Next Steps

Establish upcoming SRC OOS workgroup meetings. Identify a MRC VR counselor who can speak at the next OOS meeting re: process of determining priority categories.

Documents presented

- MRC Financial Overview/VR July 18, 2018 (ppt)
- Order of Selection Overview July 18, 2018 (ppt)

- MRC Draft Policy and Procedure Template for OOS for VR (doc)
- OOS Policy Work Plan (xls)
- OOS Quick Fact Sheet (doc)
- OOS Overview (doc)
- WINTAC Order of Selection Table (doc)
- Executive Summary OOS Paper (pdf)