



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

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**DVR/CRP Conference Call Meeting  
June 16, 2009**

**Members/Guests representing DVR:** Ed Davis; Elizabeth Bishop; Phil Protz; Brenda Williamson; Beth Coberly; Joan Wofford; Carl Thompson; Beth Newcomb; Lenora Mathis; Veta Cooper-Henderson; Tara Myers; Jim Swain; Philip Weatherbourne; Jim Pleasants; Trish Harper

**Members representing CRPs:** Davan Cloninger, LifeSpan/NCAPSE; Michael Maybee, WOI/NCAPSE; Patricia Little, JCI/NCARF; Carol Collins, Community Partnerships/NCAPSE; Alicia Camacho, DECI; Tom O'Brien, Industrial Opportunities; Kathy Sticksel, OE Enterprises; Carol Collins, Easter Seals/UCP

**Members Absent:** Tim Goodson, NCDVR; Julia Augustoni, Monarch; Beth Barwick, Easter Seals/UCP

This meeting was established at our last DVR/CRP Steering Committee meeting when we met with Linda Harrington to discuss our recommendations. Due to the fact that we are facing time constraints in terms of getting recovery monies spent, we all agreed to an emergency conference call to brainstorm ideas about how these dollars might help our CRPs.

Before we began, Ed reviewed some ground rules that included:

- Identify who is speaking;
- The length of the meeting will be 1.5 hours;
- We need to limit our comments to 5 -10 minutes;
- Our goal is to determine how to spend the Stimulus dollars.

All agreed on these ground rules.

Ed suggested that we utilize this time to brainstorm and didn't want to set parameters on the discussion during this session. All ideas are welcome.

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Tom O'Brien suggested the monies be considered for capital improvements much like the old Establishment Grant funds. Phil Protz informed that no more than 10% of these funds may be spent on construction. Ed commented that Robert Deans gave him feedback that stressed the importance of these dollars being used for service related projects and consumers related project that result in employment.

Kathy Sticksel suggested a marketing program whereby CRPs would develop a website so that the public knows more about what they have to offer, and possibly geared towards employers to educate them on what services DVR and the CRP offer. We agreed that there are multiple ways to use this idea, and Jim Pleasants commented that it may help to foster informed consumer choice.

Carol Collins suggested considering utilizing recovery resources to fund Job seeking/Job development classes for consumers and provide a stipend for the consumer. Job shadowing experiences might be included in the community with a stipend

Tom suggested developing a business effort at the CRP or in the community to create jobs. Creating mobile crew and enclave.

Carl suggested mobile business (detailing cars, shredding, etc.) DVR might be able to purchase the start-up equipment

Phil suggested CRPs create transportation choices for consumers who have difficulty accessing transportation.

Phil Protz suggested an internship effort whereby DVRS pay a stipend for the individual to the employer. Utilize OJT funds?

Joan submitted an idea for a provider whereby the WA consumer would have off-site WA and have their wage paid by DVR. Reimbursement could be to employers through OJT and to CRPs with Major Benefit 03. The idea is to supplement wages as an incentive for employers

Michael Maybee suggested that OJT would help with the cost of hiring a consumer at an affirmative industry CRP and DVR should consider paying the major benefit.

Elizabeth advised us that we might be able to remove needs test for OJT and work adjustment training.

Joan suggested that we provide joint training with CRP employment specialists and VR Business Relations Representatives (BRRs) for better job development and job placement services.

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Use resources to hire job coaches at CRPs (Kim Auman).

Per Trish, no ARRA money has been budgeted to-date. DVR is considered the prime recipient of the grant funds. All sub-recipients of those funds will be required to follow the same federal reporting requirements as DVR.

Next conference call is July 13 at 10am. Ed will email the call-in number.