

## Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Update

October 5, 2016

Following is an overview of recent DVR activities of note.

- DVR completed a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) at the end of July. The the Rehabilitation Services Administration requires that a CSNA is completed triennially. The document is available on our website <http://intranet.labor.ak/public/dvr/>
- DVR conducted an all-day strategic planning session on 9/21/16. A written strategic plan is being developed utilizing the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, 2016 strategic plan, input from staff and key stakeholders.
- The final rules for implementing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) were announced by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor and published in the Federal Register on 8/19/16. DVR staff are continuing to review the final rules to determine the need for revisions DVR policies and procedures as well as possible changes to Alaska Administrative Regulations.
- WIOA requires that State VR programs serve students and youth with disabilities. Historically some youths received DVR services however adults traditionally have been DVR's primary focus. DVR is determined to meet the challenge of increased services to students and youth. Staff training and support is an important element of the change process. All staff training sessions on the topic of Motivational Interviewing (with a focus on youth) are scheduled this month. DVR offices will have to be closed in order to ensure this training is provided to all staff (trainers are coming to Alaska from out of state for this one time training).

Closure dates are as follows:

Juneau – October 5-7

Debarr and Wasilla – October 10-12

6<sup>th</sup> and K – October 10, 11, 13

Fairbanks – October 11-13

All necessary steps will be taken in order to ensure services to clients are not impacted in any way. Many thanks are extended to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for assisting with travel costs associated with this training.

- DVR is currently working with the Divisions of Senior and Disability Services, Behavioral Health and Public Assistance to develop Memorandums of Understanding.
- An onsite planning meeting was held on 9/13 & 9/14 with representatives from six technical assistance centers to coordinate the development of a technical assistance plan for ADVR to meet WIOA implementation requirements. The expenses for the technical assistance provided by these groups will be entirely paid for by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- School is back in session and DVR pre-employment transition services have begun.

### Announcements:

- There is a Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) round VI site visit scheduled for October 3-5 in Juneau. The purpose of the visit is to orient newly appointed DEI project staff, new Disability Resource Coordinators and project partners to the mission and objectives of the Round VI DEI project.
- Mike Andrews Division of Employment and Training Services DETS Director retired. Ed Flanagan is the new Director. Long timers may remember Mr. Flanagan. He served as the Commissioner of Department of Labor under the Knowles administration.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Cannon  
Director Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation