



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DARS/ESO Monthly Update

September 9, 2020



Supporting Virginians' efforts to secure independence and employment

Housekeeping

- Do not share access links
- Registration open until 7 am the morning of each webinar
 - https://vadars.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I-9An6nVRI-jp-4-4gQeow
- Please use Q&A feature or chat feature for questions/comments.



General Updates

- DARS began taking people off Cat 2 waitlist on August 15
- Will take additional consumer of the waitlist in September
- We expect to continue until all are taken off waitlist
- Not opening Cat 2



DARS – Reopening Plan

- Reopening team continues to meet to discuss how/when DARS offices will be open to the public.
- Each division within DARS may reopen differently
- Anticipated DRS office reopening schedule
 - September 15 - Staff begin working in offices – staggered schedules
 - September 28 - DARS staff begin to see clients - by appointment only
 - November 2 - Group services/Visitors – (Psychologists, ESOs, etc)
- This is subject to change for the division or individual offices.
- More information about ESOs scheduling to see clients in DARS offices will be shared on the October ESO webinar
- WWRC staff returned to work Monday, August 24, 2020,
- Expect to readmit current students to WWRC beginning September 28



Pre-Employment Work Based Learning

- DRS can support WBLEs for students
- We are following the schools leads. Many schools that are starting virtually are allowing face to face services for SWDs. Connect with local office managers and Pre ETS counselors.
- Services must individual
- Specific, reasonable and necessary.
- Communication with counselors is critical.
- RFAs should be sent to the VR counselor only after discussion about needed services



ESOSC

- Next meeting is October 6, 2020 at 10:00 am
- Meeting will be held electronically
- Live stream will be on YouTube
- Public Comment to Anita Mundy by:



Provider Forums

- DARS will be restarting the quarterly provider forums.
- They will occur virtually
- Statewide not district specific
- Training will be offered at each forum



ESO Directory update

- Google Form will be sent out in the next few days
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11OVN2uazo0MWH0I_JqkSyh6sbMI_PgZuc4D8ujihW30/edit
- Please fill it out completely to update your organization
- Additional Service Locations
 - Locations where you have a staff presence and an “office”
- Service Locations
 - Where are you approved to provide services
- Supported Employment Contact
 - Should be different than the primary contact. SE Contact will be added to the SE Manager email list.



ESO COVID 19 Policies

Staff/Client exposure protocols

- Virginia Department of Labor and Industry temporary regulations
 - <https://www.doli.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RIS-filed-RTD-Final-ETS-7.24.2020.pdf>
- DARS is asking ESOs to share protocol/policies regarding staff/client/employer exposure, reporting expectations regarding COVID 19
- Protocols must include client/employer/staff notifications processes and expectations.



VOICE Stakeholder Survey

- VOICE Implementation team created survey with Allan Bergman, ODEP SME, to determine barriers to Competitive Integrated Employment across stakeholders throughout Virginia.
- Survey will be shared with all stakeholder beginning today
- https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employment_First_Competitive_Employment_Survey



Next Webinar will be October 14, 2020

Questions?

www.vadars.org



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DARS

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