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EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors with Employment Specialist – Individual Programs

FROM: Janet Brock Priest, Associate State Director-Operations 

DATE: September 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Input Requested: New Service

In SFY23, 95.9% of the DDSN-eligible people who were known to be referred to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) exited the program without achieving a successful employment outcome (i.e., did not get a job). In the FY2021 Report on the Review of South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Programs conducted by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services Administration (“RSA Monitoring Report”) it was noted that “a significant percentage of individuals exited the program at various stages of the VR process.” The report suggested that people exited because they were unable to be located/contacted or were no longer interested in receiving/continuing to receive services. The RSA Monitoring Report opined that this could be due to lack of continuing engagement by VR with applicants/participants, the provision of services that are not adequately meeting the needs of participants, or the lack of or delay in the provision of needed services.

DDSN is committed to ensuring that people receive the services and supports they need to live full and meaningful lives. For adults, meaningful lives often includes work. SCVRD is the agency in state government whose mission is to prepare and assist eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.

DDSN is seeking your input regarding a new service which is intended to support DDSN-eligible people as they seek assistance to achieve and maintain competitive employment from SCVRD.

The proposed service Employment Navigation would be delivered by DDSN-qualified providers of Employment Services - Individual. Staff delivering the service must be qualified as an Employment Specialist and preference may be given to staff who are Certified Employment Support Professionals (CESP through Association of Persons Supporting Employment First, APSE). The staff delivering the

service would be responsible for supporting the person from SCVRD referral to the SCVRD outcome and may include tasks such as:

- Referring the person to SCVRD.
- Providing information to SCVRD that will establish eligibility.
- Continual engagement with SCVRD regarding services through monthly phone calls and emails.
- Attending key meetings (including Application and Plan Development) with the person supported and SCVRD staff.
- Advocating for community-based services versus a Work Training Center (also called Job Readiness Training Center).
- Advocating for timely service delivery and employment outcome.
- Coordinating follow along supports with a DDSN provider upon successful VR case closure.

The proposed unit would be a 15-minute unit, with units per person averaging 65. The proposed rates per unit would be approximately \$20.00 travel /\$15.00 non-travel.

Statewide, it is estimated that about 50 people a month would benefit from the assistance of an Employment Navigator.

Please [click this link](#) to answer a brief survey regarding the potential provision of the Employment Navigation Service. Please complete before Friday, September 13, 2024. Survey responses are anonymous unless you provide contact information