



DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

New Employment Services Review

Employment Policy Workgroup | Disability Services Division

Goal for this Section

Provide an update to Greater Minnesota Lead Agencies on the passage of three new employment services in the past legislative session.

- Seek feedback on the current waiver amendment language
- Seek feedback on transitioning to the new services





DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

Employment Services

3 Recently Passed Employment Services

- **Employment Exploration Services:** Community-based services that introduce and explore employment, such as work experiences. Service assists people in making an informed choice about working in competitive, integrated employment.
- **Employment Development Services:** Individualized services that help people find competitive, integrated employment or attain self employment.
- **Employment Support Services:** Individualized services and supports that assist people with maintaining community employment in an individual or group arrangement.

Employment Services Update and Timeline

- **June, 2014:** Stakeholder workgroups began developing employment services
- **June, 2017:** Employment services pass in the Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill during Special Session ([S.F. No. 2, Article 1, Sec. 2](#))
- **August, 2017:** Employment services waiver amendment language will be posted for public comment
- **October 1st, 2017:** Employment services waiver amendment will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval
- **January, 2018:** Upon CMS approval, employment services will be implemented

What we are doing now

- Revisiting waiver amendment language for submission to CMS
 - Lean towards keeping existing language vetted through stakeholders
- Planning transition process to implement new services
 - How and when will current day services switch to new employment services for people?
 - What training, technical assistance, and clarification is necessary for partners?
- Seeking stakeholder feedback

Estimating Projects

- Currently conducting two projects to estimate the business impacts of new employment services
 1. Lifeworks (ongoing)
 2. Alexandria Opportunities Center (starting)
- How would new services be provided and what would the business impacts be to service providers?
- Develop a tool that other service providers can use

Waiver Language Review

Proposed Changes

- Allowed Exploration and Development to be authorized/billed during the same week
 - Previously, once you started receiving Development, you could no longer receive Exploration
- Reduced Time Limit for Development from 24 months to 12 months and removed any group activity in Development
 - Matches the time limit for Exploration
- Removed time limits on group sessions in Exploration
 - Previously, one 90 minute session per week
- Created provider training requirements

Questions for Discussion

- **Review the transition plan:** Found at the end of the document. Would this present any complications or difficulties in switching people over to the new services?
- **Review provider training requirements:** Found at the end of the document. What questions or clarifications come to mind? How would this correspond to training providers are currently conducting?
- **Authorization and billing:** Discuss options and directions for authorizing and billing the services. What challenges and clarifications should be addressed?
- **Open discussion on changes:** Do you have any questions or concerns about the changes being proposed? What other feedback would you like to provide?

Thank you!

DSD.EmploymentFirst@state.mn.us

Ryan Merz

Ryan.merz@state.mn.us

651-431-2520