



## Collaborating for Employment – DEED and DHS Partnership

December 10, 2019

# Welcome and Housekeeping

- Welcome!
- Approximately 1 hour webinar
- Power Point slides available on [training archive page](#)
- Audio recording of webinar will be available Wed. 12/11 – 3/10
  - Dial 800-585-8367
  - Conference ID: 8699842
- One way webinar – no audio or chat function
- Have questions we do not answer? Send them to: [dsd.employmentfirst@state.mn.us](mailto:dsd.employmentfirst@state.mn.us)

# Today's Presenters

- **Amanda Jensen-Stahl** – Rehabilitation Program Specialist, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), DEED
- **Chris McVey** – Director of Strategic Initiatives, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), DEED
- **Lesli Kerkhoff** – Human Services Manager, Disability Services Division (DSD), DHS
- **Natasha Jerde** – Director, State Services for the Blind (SSB), DEED
- **Ryan Merz** – Employment Coordinator, Disability Services Division (DSD), DHS

At the end of today's session, participants will have answers to the following questions:

- **Why** DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS-DSD have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and will be working together to align our systems
- **What** is the content of the MOU and the agreements that will be implemented in the future
- **How** stakeholders will be able to contribute in the coming year to develop the resources and process that will bring the MOU to life

# Agenda

- Introductions and Housekeeping
- Motivations for MOU
- MOU Content
- Co-Design Phase
- How to Stay Involved

# Motivations

# Purpose of the MOU

*The purpose of this agreement is to establish terms and conditions that will guide the partnership between DHS-DSD and DEED-VRS/SSB in fulfilling our shared vision. Both DHS-DSD and DEED-VRS/SSB offer employment services for people with disabilities. This MOU lays the framework of how we will provide those services in a coordinated manner to get to better outcomes.*

*We will work together to align our systems so that people who are on HCBS disability waivers get seamless and timely supports to make informed choices and meet their competitive, integrated employment goals.*

# Shared Values and Principles - 1

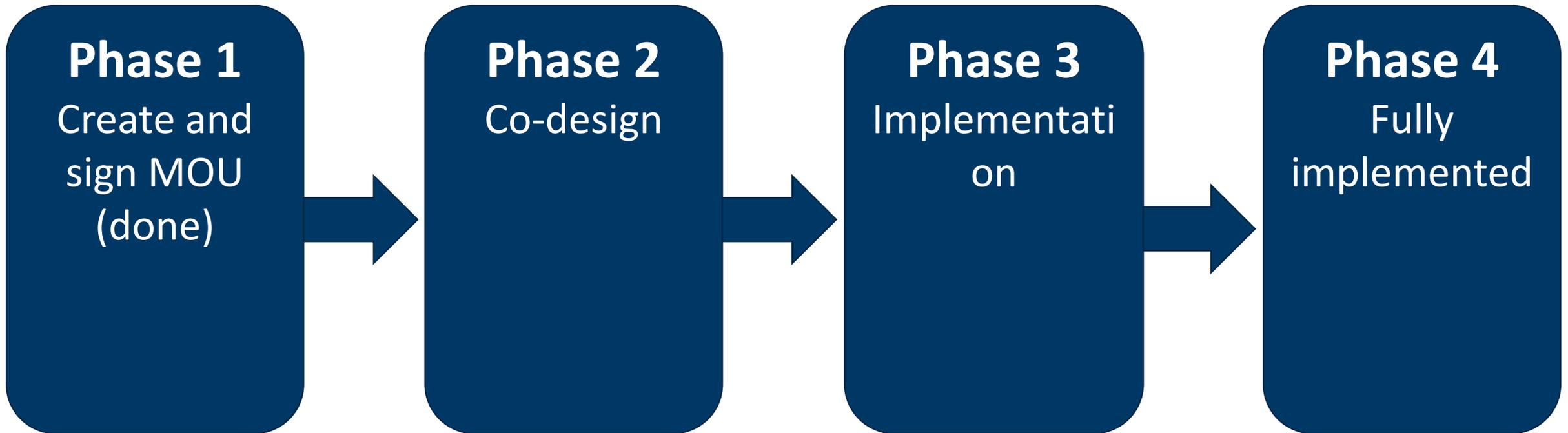
- **Employment First:** MN's Employment First values and guiding principles will serve as the foundation of our work.
- **Person centeredness:** We will embed person centered thinking in our work to help people move towards meaningful work that builds on their unique interests, strengths and talents.
- **Collaboration:** We will work together to build coordinated and consistent communication, training, and support.

## Shared Values and Principles - 2

- **Simplicity:** We will work to develop a system that is easier to understand, implement, and navigate.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We will engage with stakeholders, leverage best practices, and use data to adapt efforts and improve outcomes.
- **Maximize resources:** We will use resources efficiently, within the bounds of federal guidelines.

# MOU Content

# MOU Phases



# Phased-In Implementation

- The rollout of the agreements in the MOU will be phased in over time.
- It will involve the coordination of:
  - ✓ Revision of the HCBS “interim guidance”
  - ✓ Expansion of the waiver exploration service
  - ✓ Revision of DEED-VRS Performance Based Agreement (PBA) payment method for job placement services

# Service Alignment

- Waiver Employment Exploration: DHS will expand waiver employment exploration services to cover supports and services up to the point of a job goal.
- When a person is in school, they have access to the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and VRS/SSB will provide “exploration-like” activities.
- DEED-VRS/SSB provides job search and placement services.
- Waiver Employment Support services provide on-going supports

# Where we are going:

Waiver

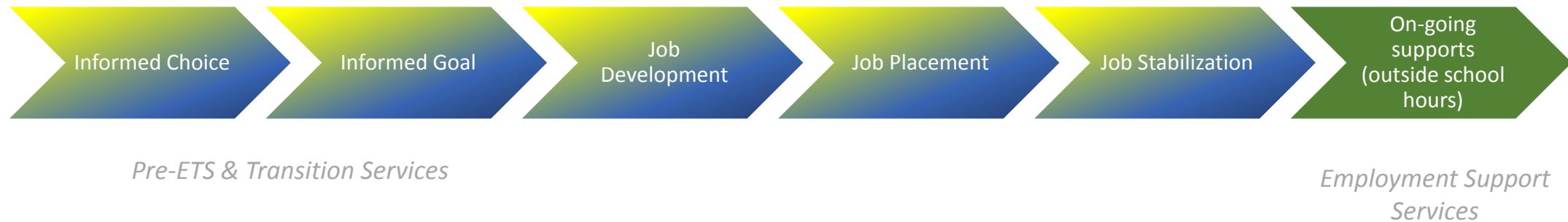
VRS/SSB

VRS/SSB and  
School Districts

Not enrolled in high school or transition plus



Enrolled in high school or transition plus



# Provider Alignment and Payment Structures

- **Provider Alignment**

- DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS/DSD will work to align our provider pools and encourage dual enrollment
- No change to CARF or 245d requirements at this time

- **Payment structures**

- DEED-VRS/SSB will review and consider a new payment structure that is responsive to serving individuals with more intensive levels of service and support.

- We will work to speak in one voice – as one employment system.



# Referral Process & Customer Flow

- Develop a clear referral process between programs for people who want to pursue and maintain competitive, integrated employment.
- Clear and well understood eligibility requirements for each program.

# Interim Guidance

- At this time “VRS, SSB, IDEA and home and community-based employment services- Interim guidance” remains in effect
- Provides guidance to lead agencies (counties & tribal nations) to determine whether VRS/SSB, or Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services are available

# Co-Design Phase

- We want to co-design this with you!
- To get input on how these agreements will work, we will be reaching out to key stakeholders over the next year

# What is the Co-Design Phase?

- During the coming year, DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS-DSD will be building the structures, policies, tools, and resources that will allow us to fulfill the agreements in our MOU.
- This work will be primarily conducted through a steering committee, workgroups, and an advisory committee

# MOU Interagency Steering Committee

Currently in place is the interagency steering committee:

- Provides overall leadership and management of the co-design phase and the MOU implementation.
- Is comprised of DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS-DSD staff at multiple levels, including leadership
- Charters and consults with an advisory committee for stakeholder input at key points in the co-design process

# MOU Workgroups

- Starting in 2020, these groups will be comprised of state interagency staff from DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS-DSD.
- The first three identified workgroups will be focused on:
  1. Service Process and Experience (end to end with an emphasis on transitions)
  2. Service Provider Alignment
  3. Quality and Performance Improvement
- Workgroups will develop the processes, policies, tools, and resources that will allow MOU agreements to be carried out
- Workgroups will each engage with stakeholders to create materials in a collaborative fashion

# MOU Advisory Committee

- In 2020, the Steering Committee will charter a MOU Advisory Committee representing the broad range of key stakeholder groups to help inform the work of the other groups.
- The Advisory committee will play a vital role by providing input on MOU implementation and identifying areas for improvement
- Look for an opportunity to apply through DHS elist and DEED emails soon!

# MOU Consulting Support

DEED-VRS/SSB and DHS-DSD will be leveraging two consulting groups to assist with the co-design phase:

- **Facilitation:** Workgroups, steering committee, and advisory committee
- **Communications:** Support strategically communicating MOU status and developments in a manner that empowers stakeholders to participate

## What we are doing now

- Preparing advisory committee application
- Forming workgroups charters and schedules
- Conducting interviews/focus groups

## What you can be doing now

- Stay tuned for more information!
- Sign up for [DSD eLists](#)
- Sign up for [DEED emails](#)

# Email Question Answering



Thank You!

- Send questions from this webinar or generally regarding interagency partnership and the MOU to [dsd.employmentfirst@state.mn.us](mailto:dsd.employmentfirst@state.mn.us)