

## Vocational Habilitation Framework- Talking Points

- Important to review the Vocational Habilitation Fact Sheet (point in time data pull, looking at an 18-month time period)
  - Just over 54,000 adults 18 years of age or older currently active in DODD system
  - Just under 33,000 adults receive an adult day or employment service (local or waiver funded)
  - Just under 17,000 people were marked as receiving the vocational habilitation service
  - Almost 300 providers have billed for the vocational habilitation service
  - 115 million paid out for the vocational habilitation service
  - 75% of those in the vocational habilitation service are younger than 50.
  - Highest age range is 23-37- 43%
  - 26 is the #1 age using vocational habilitation
- The Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Workgroup has been meeting since September 2017 to review payment practices in the Vocational Habilitation Service.
- The group's focus expanded in August 2018 to ensure systematic compliance with both service and compensation standards.
- The group has met 5 times since August. The meetings covered the following topics:
  - The Future of Adult Services in Ohio
    - Principles, Phases, and Goals
  - System Impact
  - Other State Features- Evaluated 8 states (New York, New Jersey, Iowa, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Missouri, Pennsylvania)
  - Communication
  - 50% Minimum Wage Calculation
  - Draft Framework for Aligning Vocational Habilitation Service Delivery with State and Federal Requirements
- Summary of the Draft Framework
  - This document outlines the federal requirements that impact the vocational habilitation service in Ohio.
  - The document outlines four columns per each regulation.
    - Orange Column- What the regulation requires?
    - Grey Column- How Ohio is or can meet the regulation requirements?

- Blue Column- What system changes need to happen to help make the changes work?
  - Green Column- What tools can be created to help with the changes?
- Five Main Points to the Framework
  - **Development of New Retirement Service-** Ohio will develop a new service that will “carve out” individuals 50 and over to maintain services as they are today. It is important to note that this does leave Ohio at a potential risk because Medicaid does not fund a service to support people in a sheltered work setting to produce a good or provide a service with no end. We do feel we can justify our efforts to right size the vocational habilitation service for 18-49 year olds. We estimate this service would be available in 2020.
  - **24-month statewide time limit to Vocational Habilitation Service for 18-49 year olds-** This would be a cumulative total. Yearly extensions would be available based on ISP span. DODD will develop an authorization process for the extensions. There will be no limit to the number of available extensions.
  - **50% Wage Calculation-** Yearly, based on State of Ohio minimum wage, and BLS annual # of the average Americans hours worked per week. Employment services providers would be required to add annual wage earnings to the annual written progress report submitted to SSA’s. Written progress reports are a planning tool to aide a person’s progression on the path to community employment.
  - **Increase community based prevocational services-** 2019 (gather baseline data), 2020-2024 (set yearly targets to increase community based prevocational services)
  - **Identify available funding to provide technical assistance and training to sheltered workshops who are interested in being only an employer for individuals with disabilities. This TA would focus on business practices to discontinue being a vocational habilitation provider.**
- Next workgroup meetings
  - March 28, 2019
  - April 19, 2019
  - May 30, 2019
- Next Steps

- Finalize the framework and plan for implementation, including setting timelines
- Provide guidance to the field about August 2018 memo and instructions on the required plan to be developed by August 1, 2019
- Implementation of the system change items listed in the blue column
- Develop the following tools:
  - Communication outreach tools
  - Service flow charts
  - Employment decision trees
  - Ongoing training and technical assistance
  - Outline details of 24 month vocational habilitation extension process
- Frequent Questions
  - The 24<sup>th</sup> month time-limit would be cumulative
  - The DODD authorization process is being developed and the target is that DODD uses internal information (waiver authorization data, Outcome Tracking System Data, billing data) to determine general information. The CB's will be asked to provide minimal information. The target is to make the process as easy as possible and ensure this process does not delay authorization or service delivery.
  - If someone continues to need support while working, there are a total of four employment services. We are working to develop statewide tools and resources regarding those services.
  - If someone wants to use vocational habilitation to keep working and they have no interest or goal for future work in the community, the vocational habilitation service may not be authorized.