**BPRO TANF/VIEW Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

* TANF/VIEW – Program Updates – Karyn Thornhill
  + Transmittal updates and new legislation from the General Assembly were shared.
    - Full Employment Program - The employer stipend is increasing up to $1,000 and allows the client to keep getting the TANF payment during the six month placement. We will add two job developers at state level. The way we see this working is they would find employers, send job openings to the local worker, and the worker would send suitable clients to the employer.
    - 10% increase in TANF - Payments will increase by 10% and will be implemented through a mass change, to be effective with 7/1 payments. Also, the TANF-UP payments will go back to being equal to the TANF payments. The state budget also included language that the standards of assistance will be increased by 10% annually until the standards equal 50 percent of the federal poverty level.
    - Individual Development Acct. - $2.1 million was appropriated by the GA. With IDAs, TANF eligible individuals save funds in an individual development account established for the purposes of home purchase, education, starting a business, or transportation. We are considering an 8 to 1 savings rate. Financial training and areas of savings training will be required.
    - American Rescue Plan - The state of Virginia has been awarded $15.7 million which includes TANF funds for short-term non-recurrent benefits. Final decisions have not been, but we are considering a one-time benefit to TANF eligible families.
    - Virtual One Stop - We will be moving to replace the ESP component of VaCMS with a new case management software- the Virtual One-Stop (VOS). This system is used by other workforce partners in the commonwealth and allows greater access to case management tools. We are in the contracting process and will have a better idea as to the roll out once a contract is executed.
    - Workforce Plan - A broadcast was released on April 16th announcing that a webinar for the Employment and Training Plan for VIEW and SNAP E&T will be held on May 20th. This webinar will cover the updates to the plan as well as answer questions that the locals have concerning the plan.
* Committee Charges
  + Generic template for Truancy Plan to be used statewide
    - A lengthy conversation was had discussing the need for a generic template for both the Truancy Plan and a Truancy Notification Letter. This idea came up during “TANF and Learnfare” Presentation in October 2020. Currently, guidance states that children in the assistance unit must comply with the compulsory school attendance requirement. When the worker is notified that there is a truancy issue, the worker must notify the applicant/recipient of the truancy, and then work with them to develop a plan for the child to comply with attendance requirements. Up until now, each agency has been responsible for developing their own method of truancy notification and plan for compliance. Our group plans to work on developing a Truancy Notification Letter template as well as a Truancy Plan template to present to BRPO for approval. Once it has been approved by BPRO, we plan to submit it to the State and suggest it be added to FUSION and VACMS to be accessible by all agencies. A subcommittee was formed and tasked with this project. Christie Bruce will schedule a meeting for the subcommittee and they will provide an update at our next committee meeting.
* Scholarship Reminders
  + Bitsy Candelario Scholarship and Be All You Can Be Award application deadline is April 30th. Members were reminded of eligibility factors and where to go to apply.