Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
Strengthening the Partnership

teamwork
I LOVE TEAMWORK!

IT'S GREAT! IT'S PERFECT!... IN FACT, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING HARD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S THAT?

WORKING TOGETHER.
A brief history

• MOA – August, 1995
  – Advance, improve, and expand employment opportunities for disabled veterans
  – Mutual responsibility of VA and VETS

• VETS promoted cooperation and coordination with State Workforce Agency staff (DVOP specialists)

• Passage of time led to erosion of cooperation

• New MOA signed in October, 2005
In the interim

- GAO Report to Congress (2005)
  - Improve and standardize DVOP and VR&E business practices
  - Establish demonstration project
    - Standardize referral and tracking processes
    - Create shared performance metrics
    - Use common data collection and reporting
    - Clearly define roles and responsibilities
The VR&E Partnership

The Joint Workgroup (JWG) was born!
The JWG Charter

Increase the number of Veterans suitably employed as a result of services from the VA VR&E and DOL (through State Agencies)

– Improve collaboration
– Develop performance measures
– Assess results
– Develop joint data collection
Demonstration project – the end result

• VPL 01-09 released December 11, 2008
• Technical Assistance Guide
  – Common referral and tracking process
  – Common terminology
  – Refined roles and responsibilities
  – Improved data collection and reporting
  – Potential performance measures
  – Short and long range goals
  – Information sharing and security policies
Henry Ford

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is a process. Working together is success.
The Disabled Veteran

38 USC §4102: The Congress declares as its intent and purpose that there shall be an effective (1) job and job training intensive services program, (2) employment placement service program, and (3) job training placement service program for eligible veterans and eligible persons … with priority given to the needs of disabled veterans …

38 USC §3100: The purposes of this chapter are to provide for all services and assistance necessary to enable veterans with service-connected disabilities to achieve maximum independence in daily living and, to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment.
Opportunities to collaborate

- Common goals – mutual responsibility
- Provide seamless and efficient service to the Veteran
  - Cooperate to enroll
  - Coordinate efforts and resources
  - Share information
  - Work as a team of partners with shared goal
  - Focus on needs of the Veteran and be mutually accountable
We each bring something to the table

VA VR&E & State Agency (ISC and DVOP)

- Comprehensive evaluation
- Vocational counseling and rehab planning
- Employment services
- Special employer incentives and job accommodations
- OJT, apprenticeships, etc.
- Post-secondary training and education
Roles and responsibilities

- Technical Assistance Guide, page 10
  - VR&EO
  - VRC
  - State Agency
  - ISC
  - DVOP or OSCC staff
  - DVET
The DVOP

- Ensure referred Veteran is registered
- Contact the veteran within 15 days
- Provide services that may include:
  - A job readiness assessment
  - Labor market information (LMI)
  - Suggested part-time jobs and other opportunities
The ISC

• Track referrals, registrations & services
• For each referred Veteran, document the:
  – Date referral received from VR&E
  – Date veteran contacted
  – Date(s) of meeting(s) with veteran
  – Results of job readiness assessment
  – Date services completed
  – Date referred back to VR&E
The lynch pin

The DVET
The Process

TAG, page 9...
Preview of coming attractions

Data collection and reporting…
Thank you!

teamwork

is that th