THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
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Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Presentation (2-17-2021)

To

Alaska Commission on Aging

1. Virtual Update
    a. Online virtual platform
        i. Go To Meetings
        ii. Zoom
        iii. TEAMS (internal)
    b. Application is online
    c. Certain assessment tools are online
    d. Telework is used to mitigate COVID 19
    e. Safety protocols are in place
    f. The impact of telework has benefits to Americans with disabilities
    g. Telework is not for everyone

2. Recently sent a letter to the Alaska delegation for the following:
    a. Direct the Secretary of Education to authorize a waiver of the Maintenance of Effort Requirements for FFY 2021 and FFY 2022. This will allow state agencies flexibility to address the economic impacts states are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and remove the risk of financial penalties due to circumstances outside of our control.
    b. Authorize the Secretary of Education to extend period of performance for FFY 2020 until September 30, 2022, providing VR program grantees an additional year to obligate and expend VR funds, including the 15% Reserve of the VR Award for the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services.
    c. Authorize the Secretary of Education to extend period of performance for FFY 2021 until September 30, 2023, allowing VR program grantees an additional year to obligate and expend VR funds, including the 15% Reserve of the VR Award for the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services.

3. DVR Priorities
    a. Senior Employment Initiative
        i. Standing committee now in place
            1. MASST

2. ACOA
3. DOL/Division of Employment & Training
4. DOL/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
5. Alaska Adult Education, new acquisition
6. Senior & Disabilities Services – invited

ii. Social media
1. AARP
2. Podcast
3. U Tube approval
4. Facebook
5. Senior Voice

iii. Researching best practices in other states

4. Alaska Work Matters Taskforce (time limited)
   a. Support letter from DOL & DHSS Commissioners
   b. Letter from Federal DOL Deputy Secretary Pizzella – Sept 2020 to all governors
   c. ACOA, AMHB, ABADA, AMHTA, SILC, GCDSE support
   d. Administrative support from GCDSE
   e. Taskforce will conduct 4 quarterly meetings
      i. 24 members
      ii. GCDSE will take the lead to appoint the members
      iii. Director Mayes will chair the taskforce

As always, we appreciate the support of the ACOA. Thank you!!

Sincerely,

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