

Job-Driven Technical Assistance Center (JD-VRTAC) Partnering with Workforce Development in Business Engagement

Yvonne Wright, Director
Business Outreach and Workforce
Development
Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation



Job-Driven Center Goals

Improve skills of state VR agency staff, other rehab professionals & providers of VR services, who are trained to provide “job-driven” VR services & supports to PWD, employers & customized training providers.

Four Topic Areas:

1. Business Engagement
2. Employer Supports
3. Labor Market Information (LMI)
4. Customized Training Providers

www.explorevr.org



Job-Driven Center Partners

Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at Univ. of Massachusetts,
Boston

In Partnership with:

- Jobs for the Future (JFF)
 - Univ. of Arkansas
 - Univ. of Washington
- Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)
 - United States Business Leadership Network (USBLN)
 - Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

In Collaboration with:

- National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB)
 - Technical Assistance Center Collaborative



Webinar Objectives

- How Missouri developed their partnership with Workforce Development
- How WIOA implementation grew the VR/DWD partnership
- The positive effects of the partnership with business engagement



History/Background of MOVR/ Workforce Relationship

- Location of agencies
 - Separate departments
- Disability Initiatives
 - DEI
 - Disability Navigators
- Landscape of Missouri Workforce Development
 - 14 WDBs and regions
 - 34 Full Service One-Stops



VR/Workforce Development Liaison

- Began with 1998 Workforce Investment Act
- Assumed role in early 2000's
 - Statewide liaison plus local engagement
 - Position on local board
 - State Workforce Board meetings
 - Missouri Association for Workforce Development
 - 2013—Addition of Director for Business Outreach



WIOA!!!!

(Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act)

- Established Departmental Liaison for WIOA planning and implementation
 - Co-Chair with Workforce Development
 - Responsible for coordination of all Core partner WIOA activities
 - Communication
 - Meetings
 - All Combined plan activities



Taking a Leadership Role

- “Front and Center” with WIOA planning
 - Representation on all subcommittees
 - Special initiatives (ie. Sector Strategies)
 - State Workforce Board meetings
 - State TEAM (Local Workforce Board Executive Director) meetings
 - Trainings for local workforce staff
 - Missouri Association for Workforce Development



Leadership going local

- VR's role at local level is well—established
 - Local plans and MOUs
 - Sector Strategies
 - WDB Disability Subcommittees
 - Disability-focused events

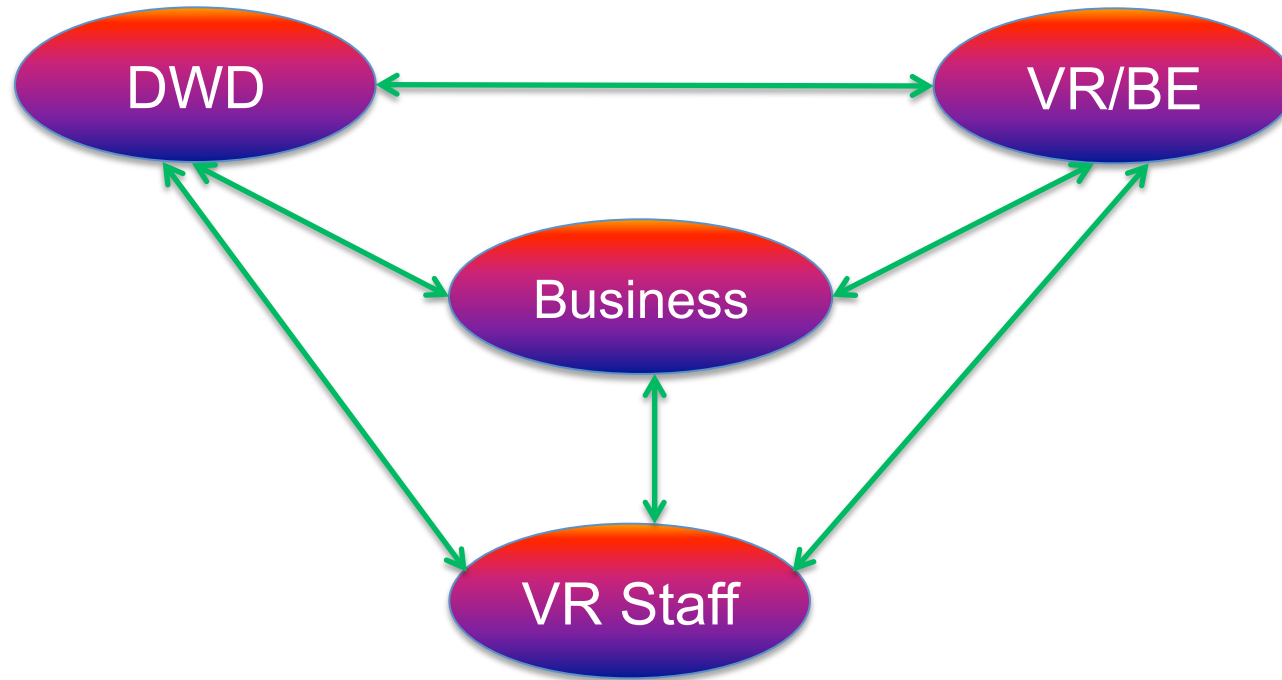


WIOA and Business Partnering

- WIOA Sub-committee on Employer Engagement
 - Fall 2015 Business Partnering Summit
 - VR business staff integrated at all 14 local regions
 - VR Business staff has access to WD case management system to record business contacts
 - VR staff attends regular business team meetings in their regions
 - VR and Veteran's Reps visit Federal Contractors together



WIOA and Business Partnering



Moving Forward.....

- LEAD Center Technical Assistance collaboration
 - Staff, job seeker and employer surveys
 - Follow up with employers conducted as partners
 - Has developed into training webinars for workforce staff on serving persons with disabilities
- Co-marketing of Business Services on websites
- Collaboration on Employer Surveys for Effectiveness in Serving Employers Performance Measure



Impact/Outcomes

- Co-referrals and co-enrollment
- Service and funding braiding
- Increased opportunities and outcomes through collaboration
- CVS Grant
- Lebanon, MO Apprenticeship Program



Final thoughts

- Collaboration allows us to work smarter, not harder and accomplish more
- VR leadership
- Workforce Development partners



Contact information

Yvonne Wright, Director

Business Outreach and Workforce
Development

573-522-3021

Yvonne.wright@vr.dese.mo.gov

