

Memorandum

TO: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and Job Placement Specialists
CC: Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists, Nancy Sedlacek
FROM: Glenn Morton
DATE: January 11, 2012
SUBJECT: Meeting Announcement & Results of November 2, 2012 meeting

The next informal meeting between court staff and certified vocational rehabilitation service providers is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2013, at 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the court's administrative offices at 1221 "N" Street, Suite 402, in Lincoln. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis, with future meetings tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2013, July 26, 2013, and October 25, 2013.

The following are the results from the November 2, 2013 meeting. Please bring any questions or concerns regarding the discussions or decisions to the attention of court's Vocational Rehabilitation Section and they will be considered at the next meeting.

- 1. Future Meeting Schedule:** Future quarterly meetings were tentatively set for January 25, 2013, May 10, 2013, July 26, 2013, and October 25, 2013.
- 2. ACH/Debit Cards:** It was announced that the court will soon begin requiring that payments from the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund to new vocational rehabilitation clients be made by direct deposit into a checking account or by debit card. Implementation is tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2013. The court's Business and Human Resources Manager and a representative of the State Treasurer's Office made a presentation regarding the program and responded to questions. Further information will be provided to the counselors as the implementation date draws nearer.
- 3. Case Closure Form:** A report was provided by the committee working on draft revisions to the case closure form. Proposed revisions to the form will be circulated prior to the next quarterly meeting and discussed at that meeting.
- 4. Legislative Activity:** There was discussion regarding legislative resolutions heard by the Business and Labor Committee on October 19, 2012, including Legislative Resolution 581. This resolution was introduced to "analyze the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation in workers' compensation cases in Nebraska..." and to "determine the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation by examining the outcomes of those persons in the system who receives vocational rehabilitation." It remained unclear as to whether any further action will occur as a result of the study or whether legislation will be introduced during the upcoming legislative session.

5. Next meeting agenda items: At the next meeting on January 25, 2013, the following will be addressed as time permits:

- a. ACH/Debit Cards: Update on current status of ACH/Debit Card implementation.
- b. Legislative Update: Discussion of bills introduced in the 2013 legislation session of interest to vocational rehabilitation.
- c. Case Closure Form: Ongoing discussions regarding changes to the case closure form.
- d. Functional Capacity Evaluations: A counselor has requested a discussion regarding functional capacity evaluations.
- e. General Issues: Discussion of any other issues of concern or interest to the counselors or court specialists.

6. Future meeting agenda items: No additional agenda items are currently identified for future meetings. Suggestions are welcome.