

# Revisiting Employment First in New Mexico

Casey Stone-  
Romero, NMDVR  
Director



# Employment 1<sup>st</sup>

- Philosophy
- 10 Critical Areas
  - New Mexico NMDVR-Where are we today?



# Employment First Policy

1. WIOA emphasis on Competitive Integrated Employment & Supported Employment
2. Integrated employment as the priority option
3. All people with disabilities are capable of employment

## Rate/Reimbursement

1. NMDVR and DDSD have remained in close alignment with rates and reimbursement
2. NMDVR's rate is based on DDSD Rate Studies
3. NMDVR strives to enhance quality employment outcomes

# Capacity Building

1. ACRE Credentialing for VR Staff
  - a. Annual Cohort
2. Active participation in PFE Activities
  - a. Support of provider agencies through College of Employment Services
  - b. Support of provider agencies for ACRE or CESP credentialing
  - c. Training
  - d. Technical Assistance
  - e. SELL
  - f. School to Work Transition/Project SEARCH

# Interagency Coordination

1. Working closely with DDSD
  - a. MOU
  - b. Quarterly Meetings
  - c. Regular check ins
  - d. Coordination of efforts related to supported employment

# Provider Transformation

1. Support for providers to understand the system
  - a. Working DDSD/NMDVR Training
  - b. Develop relationships with Teams
  - c. Coordinate information with DDSD

# 14 (c) Phase Out

1. 511 Counseling
2. Continued support for Competitive Integrated Employment



# Employer Engagement

1. Development of Business Outreach Coordinator Unit
  - a. Training and technical assistance for employers on the ADA, inclusion, tax credits, etc.
  - b. Collaboration with Department of Workforce Solutions to ensure there is no overlap of services

# Mental Health

1. Participation on the BHSD Council and Committee
2. Support trends to implement the use of Medicaid for long-term supports for this population

# Seamless Transition

1. Development of the process
2. Understanding of short-term and long-term funding
3. Close contact to determine the right time for the transition and ensuring successful job match and effective long-term supports

# Data Collection Systems

1. RSA 911
2. ETA 9169
3. Shared Provider System
4. Shared definitions

**For more  
information**

[www.dvr.state.nm.us](http://www.dvr.state.nm.us)

Thank you!

