

Vocational Rehabilitation Subcommittee

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L&I Vocational Conference



The vocational rehabilitation subcommittee

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- Terry Peterson
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What we'll cover today

- VIP background
- Key issues
- Next steps
- Q and A



Current VIP Legislation

- SSB 5362 – Extends the pilot to
June 30, 2016
- HB 1887 – Study feasibility of allowing
broader access to
baccalaureate programs



Key issue: Worker engagement

- The University of Washington survey found that many workers did not feel that they had adequate input into their plan goal.
- When asked, the most common suggestions for improvement were:
 - That there be more training choices, with more opportunity for worker input into goal selection
 - That various players listen to, understand and respect them



Key issue: On-the-job training (OJT)

- VIP law called for expansion of OJT opportunities
- We've learned that OJT leads to employment at a higher rate than formal training
- We're doing fewer OJTs since VIP began in 2008
- How can we turn that around?



Key issue: Plan completion rate

- We've not increased the plan completion rate under VIP
- We're not sure of the reasons for this
- We need to find ways to help ensure that more workers are successfully completing their plans



Key issue: Accountability

- VIP introduced higher accountability for workers employers, VRCs, and L&I
- This appears to be working well
 - Worker Accountability Agreements
 - Employer job offers
 - Timely L&I action



Key issue: Efficiencies gained

- The VIP changes have resulted in a number of efficiency gains:
- The time to submit a retraining plan has dropped by 38%, or 69 days on average
- Repeated attempts at vocational services have dropped 35%



Key issue: Efficiencies gained

- About 27% of eligible workers choose to pursue a vocational award and self-directed training, speeding claim resolution and reducing costs
- Through required partnerships with WorkSource, injured workers are receiving more assistance to find a job



Key issue: Post plan employment

- About 50% of Option 1 plan completers were employed within 6 months of completing their plan
- We know that the recession has likely had an impact on this
- We'd like to see greater effort made to assist workers with work-readiness and job search assistance while workers are completing their plans



WorkSource

- We've learned a lot from our partnerships with WorkSource
- We know that some VRCs regularly refer their clients to WorkSource as part of the job search strategy
- We want to encourage more of this



Next steps



Q and A