



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 4, 2018

**TO:** All VR Staff

**FROM:** Lindy Foley, VR Director

**RE:** Process for VR staff in working with the Regions while all categories are closed under Order of Selection

As of 5/21/18, while Nebraska VR is under Order of Selection with all priority groups closed, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) has announced it will *allow* Regions to pay for Supported Employment Milestones 1, 3 and 4 (those milestones usually paid by VR) for persons diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. Each Region will decide its ability to pay milestones under this allowance. The Division of Behavioral Health has set forth the conditions for payment of milestones for SE:

1. The individual has been determined eligible for VR and placed on the VR waitlist;
2. The individual has been assigned to Priority Group One;
3. The SE provider assists the individual to confirm, via email from VR, that he/she is on the VR waiting list (see VR's verification below); and
4. The SE provider documents its efforts in employment planning based on guidelines developed by DBH and VR that are consistent with information VR requires.

The Office Director will verify the BH Region will take part in paying for milestones 1, 3, and 4. Once that is verified, referral of those on the waiting list and under Priority Group One who require BH SE may be referred to the supported employment provider. In making the referral, a copy of the individual's Eligibility/Priority Group letter will be sent to the SE provider as documentation the person meets the criteria set forth above.

Note that DBH has indicated this agreement is effective until June 30, 2018 at which time it will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. The guidance on documentation of employment planning is in development and will be communicated soon.

When VR is able to begin serving individuals from the VR waiting list the protocol for transition will be provided so that VR can pay for remaining milestones, as appropriate.

NOTE: For individuals verified to be on the VR waiting list, DBH will reimburse Benefits Services Providers for up to a maximum of 3 hours at the Milestone 5 payment rate. Referrals and authorizations for these services will be made by the Region/SE provider, if applicable.