**General Announcements**

* **e-QIP System Temporary Suspension -** Regina Bowden (SSA) discussed the temporary suspension of the web-based, e-QIP system used for federal background investigations. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has taken the system down for possibly the next four to six weeks as part of a proactive step to implement security enhancements. This is out of the control of SSA and impacts SSA, our contractors, and VR agency staff seeking suitability determinations (9 VR agencies are in process and waiting). Here is a link to OPM’s website about the temporary suspension: <http://www.opm.gov/news/releases/2015/06/opm-notifies-agencies-of-temporary-suspension-of-e-qip-system/>
* **Potential Payment Report (PPR) –** The PPR was introduced as a replacement for the Quarterly Beneficiary Earnings Report (QBER) and will be sent quarterly (encrypted). The first report was sent to the Signatory Authority on record with a PIN number sent in a separate email. Agencies that did not receive the PPR and PIN were instructed to notify the VR Help Desk (VR.HelpDesk@ssa.gov) and indicate who should receive the report if someone other than the Signatory Authority. Cost Reimbursement claims must continue to meet all criteria, the same as when using the QBER.
	+ SSA currently not able to provide the type of earnings information that was contained in the QBER. That data was derived from IRS information and the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and, according to SSA’s Office of General Counsel, the current status of agreements do not allow for the sharing of this information. SSA is working on negotiating new agreements and ORDES is working internally on finding an alternative way to provide earnings information. The PPR is an attempt to provide something while other options are explored.

**Cost Reimbursement (CR) Update**

Danielle Armstrong announced there were 1,395 claims processed in June, with a little over 1,000 claims pending. During the transition to new processes, VR staff may be contacted by SSA to re-submit information on some SSNs. Please respond to these requests so all information is updated to ensure CR claims continue to be processed efficiently.

**Ticket Portal Update**

* Ticket Portal went live June 15 and currently has 633 users representing 335 ENs and 57 State VR agencies.
* 3162 assignments and/or unassignments and 4,763 payment transactions have been processed using the Portal.
* During the call, SSA presented a step-by-step presentation on Ticket Portal features specific for use by the State VR agencies.
	+ The information featured in the presentation is included in the Ticket Portal User Guide located on the secure Ticket Portal Training and Resources site. Information on how to access the User Guide is in the “Welcome” email received are granted access to the Portal.
	+ The presentation covered Ticket assignment and unassignment, ways to change information (e.g., closure status) and fix errors, and processing batch Ticket assignments. Regarding batch Ticket assignments, VR agencies must use the Ticket Portal in place of the MoveIT process and begin using the Ticket Portal for the submission of July files. June files will be processed through the OSM. Note that if a Ticket is not assignable on the date of the IPE, it will not be put In-Use and there will be no data manipulation as provided in the past. Also note the file extension must now be “.csv” (not .txt). “Clean up” files will not be included in the new Portal.

**Effective Practices presented by Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS), Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB) Speakers: Lee Ann Russo, IVRS, Sheila Stoeckel, IWD; Keri Osterhaus, IDB**

This presentation featured key partners, common goals, and collaborative processes that create a successful Partnership Plus strategy in Iowa. Information was shared on how their inter-agency agreement was developed, how coordination occurs, and what post-VR services are provided including benefits and Work Incentives planning.  Speakers discussed positive outcomes and future outlook for Partnership Plus Iowa beneficiaries. Resource materials for the presentation were e-mailed to participants and will be available with the archived presentation at <https://yourtickettowork.com/web/ttw/events-archive#2015-National_Calls>

**Reminders**

* VREN Call: Wednesday, July 29 at 3 p.m. Eastern Time
* All VR Call: Tuesday, August 11, 3:00 – 4:00 pm: Questions from the July call will be addressed and a follow up will be provided.

The full transcript and audio from the call are available at <https://yourtickettowork.com/web/ttw/events-archive>