



**Local Management Executive Committee (LMC) Meeting
and Finance Committee
August 14, 2018**

CAO Executive Directors Present: Becky Mitchell. **Via Conference Call:** Jim Keltz, Greg Lezanic, Gail Valora. **Finance Committee members present:** Susan Kefover, Bob Cardamone, JoAnne Ryan.

WDB Staff Present: Susie Snelick, Vanessa Hasselman, Linda Franco

Topics Discussed: Use of Performance Funds awarded for the EARN Program

Summary: The conversation began with Vanessa providing everyone with an update on the amount of performance dollars currently available. The total to date is \$991,973. Susie explained that these performance dollars can only be used to support activities that serve the less than 150 EARN customers across the region. Becky, Greg, Gail, and Jim discussed the various barriers these customers face from transportation to child care, and further outlined that many of these services are paid for by DHS but with limitations. JoAnne and Bob asked why these monies could not be used to further programs that served a broader population that included EARN customers but was not limited to EARN customers. Susie explained that these monies are based on performance in the EARN program and that DHS expects these dollars be used to support those customers. Linda mentioned that we have combined some performance dollars with money from other sources to develop programs that serve not only EARN customers but also other job seekers; and Susie added that we have done this with smaller projects but there would not be enough money from other sources to match this dollar amount.

The group discussed various options such as the purchase of vans to transport customers with transportation barriers to and from PA CareerLink® centers in order to participate in services; the pros and cons of purchasing vehicles for EARN customers; parenting classes; housing assistance; help with criminal backgrounds and DUIs; more intensive job coaching, comprehensive case management, and social case work; more child care options; and a diversion program to aid those customers that struggle with the loss of financial assistance once they've obtained full time employment. Susan Kefover discussed the appointment of a county-wide coordinator of social services in Potter County and the benefits of family retreats; Susie and Linda then discussed the DHS approach to treating the whole family in an attempt to end the cycle of poverty. The group further discussed the idea of employing a comprehensive human services coordinator(s) to advocate for families and provide in-home counseling on a region-wide basis.

It was decided that board staff would develop a plan to present to DHS outlining the ideas the two committees generated for their review/approval. We will also request that the scope of use of performance funds be expanded to include services to other job seekers.

Action Items for WDB: There is no action for the board at this time as this was mainly a brainstorming session.