Mini Retreat Agenda
Southwest District Advisory Council Meeting
VA DARS – Real Pay for Real Jobs: EPIC Approach
November 19, 2024
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

10:00 a.m.
Welcome and Introductions
- Welcome and Purpose of the Retreat *(John)*
- Ice Breaker *(Adrienne)*

10:20 a.m.
Overview of VA DARS EPIC Approach *(John and Christi)*
- Understanding the goals of EPIC the approach
  - **E**ducation
    - Family Navigator(s)
    - Peer Mentor(s)
  - **P**artnership Development
    - Local Advisory Council
  - **I**ndividualized Services
    - Integrated Resource Team Approach
  - **C**apacity-Building
    - Supported Employment Training for Providers
    - Customized Employment Training for Providers
    - Targeted Training for DARS and Community Partners
- DARS Case Coordinator's role *(Christi and Ingrid)*
- Partners Roles' *(GW/Center for Family Involvement/ARC/VCU-RRTC/Griffin-Hammis etc.) (GWU Team)*

11:00 a.m.
- *Chris Martin-SOAR365 Discussion*
  - *Brief background on SOAR365 related to subminimum wage employment*
  - *Value of participation in EPIC from the provider perspective*

11:30 a.m.
Working LUNCH and Local Advisory Council Framework
- Purpose and Role of the Advisory Council *(John and Christi)*

12:30 p.m.
Local Advisory Council (LAC)/Community - *"Elevated" elevator pitch (GW and DARS Teams)*
a. Agency Overview
b. Goals/objectives of your agency
a. Services
b. Primary audience
c. Outcome measures
d. Staff
e. # of participants served
f. Funding sources

1:00 p.m.
Mapping Agency Programming through Lens of Participant *(DJ and GWU Team)*
- How do people find out about your organization? Who do you do outreach to? How are they referred to your program/agency?
- Eligibility criteria
- Enrollment process
- Group Discussion
  a. Where is there overlap?
  b. Where

1:30 p.m.
Group Discussion/Engagement *(GW and DARS Teams)*
- Questions around LAC?
  - What support and/or professional development would your program/agency want to move forward?
    - Training
    - Additional information/clarification on EPIC process
- What does partnership look like to you for LAC/EPIC?
- How would outreach look working with EPIC population?
- Review language that we believe is "common?" (job ready, "success", etc.)