

DRS Employer Advisory Committee Update

August 26, 2016

Welcome to the first DRS Employer Advisory Committee (EAC) Update. As you recall, after polling EAC members and discussing options, we decided to change the frequency of the EAC meetings to twice a year, and to replace the February and August meetings with an update produced by the EAC Chair. Our aim is to provide information that is up-to-date and useful to the employer members of the EAC.

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in the EAC Update, please send your request to Sarah Chaplin at sarahc@drs.wa.gov. Any items that cannot be included in the Update will be included as agenda items for our next meeting at DRS.

Mike Ricchio – EAC Chair

New DRS Director

DRS Director, Marcie Frost, announced that she will be leaving DRS to become CEO of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, CalPERS. Marcie's last day with DRS is Aug. 26, 2016.

In selecting a successor to Marcie, Governor Inslee and his team have been focused on identifying a respected and trusted leader who will support the culture and values of DRS. Tracy Guerin, the current Deputy Director of the state Office of Financial Management, has been appointed by the governor as the incoming leader of the department.

Tracy's appointment is effective Sept. 1. Please see the governor's [press release](#) for additional information.

We are excited to begin working with Tracy, look forward to welcoming her to DRS and to introducing her at a future EAC meeting.

DRS Leadership Team Work Session & New Breakthrough Initiatives Map

The DRS Leadership Team recently attended a three-day planning session to set goals for the next fiscal year. Among the initiatives discussed were some new things like an "Autocalc" Pilot, EFT Withdrawals, and launching an Enterprise Change Management program. Several existing initiatives were extended and include Online Withdrawals, Facility Planning, planning for a new IT Hosting Environment and DRS University.

DRS is also exploring potential options for eliminating the prorating of final "month of death" payments and treating these final monthly benefit payments as fully accrued regardless of the date of death. This treatment of benefits would be similar to how the Social Security Administration treats final Social Security benefit payments. Stay tuned for more updates regarding this issue.

A graphic of the updated Breakthrough Initiatives Map is included below.

| KEY GOAL | July 2015-June 2016 | July 2016-June 2017 | July 2017-June 2018 |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
| Elated Customers | Recalc Black Belt Project (Seth) | Autocalc Pilot (Seth) | |
| | Online Service Enhancements (Rose) | EFT Withdrawals (Mike) | |
| | | Online Withdrawal (Shawn) | |
| | Recordkeeper Enhancements (Shawn) | | |
| | DCP Auto-Enroll for New Hires (Shawn) | | |
| Engaged Team Members | Facility Planning (Mike) | | |
| | "DRS U" (Chris) | | |
| | | Enterprise Change Mgmt (Shawn) | |
| Vigilant Resource Steward or Best Practice Leader | | System Modernization Planning – Phase 2 (Rose) | |
| Reliable Partner | Employer Reporting Application (Shawn) | | |
| | | Hosting Environment (Rose) | |
| | | Implement 2016 Legislative Projects (mix) | |

Revised 2015-2017 Breakthrough Initiatives Map

New Plan Choice Booklet & Employer Handbook Redesign

Plan Choice Handbook – The update of the DRS Plan Choice Handbook – *Choose Your Retirement Plan* – was completed in June. The new, streamlined publication is available on the DRS website at www.drs.wa.gov/choice.

Employer Handbook – The overhaul of the online Employer Handbook is nearing its final stages. The DRS Employer Support Services team is currently reviewing a new design of the handbook, which features improved navigation and content presentation. It is expected that feedback from the DRS team will be received in the coming week, followed by a review and comment period by employers who provided input at the start of the project. DRS plans to launch the revamped handbook this fall.

Current Account Activity

DRS is working with a group of employers to test the Current Account Activity feature that allows employers to view real-time account information through eServices. We've received great positive feedback so far, with users commenting that the new look-up feature is fast and very helpful.

This feature is expected to go live for all employers in September of 2016, eventually replacing the current account statements that are being mailed. No action will be taken to discontinue mailing statements, however, without notice to employers and an opportunity to identify concerns. More information will be available through employer communications as we move forward with this initiative.

Legislative Updates

Legislative updates are available on the [DRS website](http://www.drs.wa.gov). The site also provides the ability to subscribe to email notifications that are pushed to subscribers automatically when updates are made.

Employer Reporting Application (ERA) Update

Please see attachment for the [ERA Update as of August 2016](#). (For the most current ERA information, visit the [ERA section](#) of the DRS Employers website).

New EAC Meeting/Communication Schedule

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| November 17, 2016 | EAC Meeting |
| February 23, 2017 | Written Communication |
| May 25, 2017 | EAC Meeting |
| August 24, 2017 | Written Communication |
| November 16, 2017 | EAC Meeting |

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at our next EAC meeting on Nov. 17.