Introduction

Jennifer Pirtle: Welcome SCSEP grantees to the March all grantee call. We're so glad that you could join us today. I want to introduce you to the staff and the contractor subject matter experts that are joining us on the line today. So with me in the room is Irene Jefferson as you all know. And on the line we have Bennett Pudlin, Shelly Craig, Terry Cram and Sally Boofer who are all going to be here to answer questions and have some information for you a little later.

Late Breaking News

Jennifer Pirtle: I'm going to start with some late breaking news. It's with a very heavy heart that I tell you that Randy Chafkin, who many of you knew, passed away last week after a battle with cancer. Randy was a persistent and passionate advocate for people with disabilities and those who needed assistance overcoming barriers to employment. We'll all remember her deep intelligence, expertise, passion, kindness and love for her work and her coworkers. And I know that many of you have experienced in working with Randy when it was on partially the DEI grants, the ticket to work program and any other programs that she worked on. She was pretty well known in the disability world. I'm really sorry that I had to open the call with that but I just wanted to let you know.

PY '15 Planning Guidance

Irene Jefferson: Good afternoon everyone. I want to start with the PY '15 planning guidance. The planning guidance has been submitted to the approval process. In the past years it usually takes a while for it to go through this process because it goes through ETA and Departmental clearance. We're trying to get it through as fast as we can. We minimalized it for that reason. So we expect it to be released no later than the end of this month. In speaking of the TEGL in all of those days I want to remind you again that indirect cost rates must be updated within 90 days of the award date. If your indirect cost agreement expires on or before June 30, 2014 you probably need to request a new one now. On the norm, we allow you to submit your request letter as a place holder. We will but I'm telling you now you need that indirect cost rate in place prior to 90 days after the award.

Our TEGL will be pretty much the same. We try to give you little hints as we get close to approving it of what's exactly going to be there. Not much will be added to the program narratives this year. It'll have your standard requirements of the minority report as well as your organization description and chart. There'll be a little twist in the requirements for state grantees and national grantees. National grantees will have to present more information. We're tweaking all of that. I don't want to give you too much on that but because the state has just submitted their state plan modifications, we were hoping that they had presented any changes to their service delivery in those modifications. So we're focusing on that, our training strategies and service deliveries. So the requirements thus far are normal, your SF424, your 424A with the budget narrative. You can still work on your assurances and your optional special request which is going to be very important this year.

We want to think carefully about the Optional Special Requests that you'll need for this coming program year. I need you to consider all your options and be sure to look at the applicable regulations regarding your choices and make your case quarterly. As I said, the program narrative instructions for state grantees will be slightly different from those in the national grantees. So please pay careful attention to the program narrative instructions. And now I'll turn it back to Jen.

State Plan Modifications
Jennifer Pirtle: I just want to point out real quickly that I know the states are waiting for the state plan modification letter to come out, and we're working on that and you'll be getting those shortly.

Technical Assistance
Jennifer Pirtle: We just want to remind you that we have subject matter experts and technical assistance available if you need it. If you're having issues with any aspect of your grant, administrative or fiscal program or performance related, we have the experts to help. So please let us know if you need assistance. We just want you to be successful and we're here to help you any way we can.

You can do that by sending an email out to your FPO and the national mailbox and we'll be happy to get you the assistance that you need.

SPARQ Update
Jennifer Pirtle: As announced last month the PY '14 Quarter 3 close is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15. The Quarter 3 QPRs are used to determine a grantee's baseline performance and establish proposed goals for the next program year. So it's essential that the data be as free of rejects if possible. We strongly recommend that you resolve as many rejects as possible before April 1 when the rejects for the missing Quarter 3 hours will start appearing. Duration rejects are the most urgent to resolve.

As always we'd like to remind you to check the user accounts page for locked and expired accounts. And as a reminder, locked means there were three consecutive log-in attempts with an invalid password, and expired means the password hasn't been changed for more than 90 days. Please check the account on a routine basis and address any account that are locked or expired. If you've not already done so please let your sub-grantees and local project directors know that users can now reset their own passwords when their accounts are locked. If you'd like another copy of the email in which that new feature was announced, you should contact BCT Partners or email help@scsep-help.com.

And please remember to always copy the national office on your correspondence and that address is scsep.national@dol.gov.

Terry Cram: I just have one thing to talk about. As announced in our email sent last Friday, February 27 SPARQ release 6.6 is scheduled for mid-March. We'll announce the exact date as soon as possible. And in this release, we're going to a revised E4, common measures average

earnings. The poverty guidelines will be updated and there'll be new edits and management reports to help manage the employer survey process. If you'd like another copy of the email with the details then just let us know, and that's it for us.

WIOA Update
Jennifer Pirtle: Over the past month the HHS office of the Administration for Children and Families released a report and an issue brief on (unintelligible) and TANF.

Also Administration released TEGL 19-14, a vision for the workforce system and initial implementation of WIOA. This is the vision for the workforce system and offers some practical advice for state and local areas as they're planning implementation activities WIOA. There was a webinar today at 1:00 Eastern. Some of you may have attended discussing the vision. If you missed the webinar and are interested in viewing it or hearing what was said, the recording will be available on Friday on the website wioa.workforce3one.org.

The information regarding the HHS report and issue brief on (unintelligible) and TANF is available on the www.doleta.gov/wioa. The vision TEGL is also there if you'd like to take a look at it.

SCSEP 50th Anniversary Conference
Sally Boofer: Hello, thanks Jen. Well today I just looked and we have 173 individuals who have registered for the conference. So that's exciting and I know that we have probably about 20 more that are planning to register. The Conference- as I think most of you probably know this- is planned for April 29, 30 and May 1 in Washington D.C. at the Grand Hyatt. It'll be three days of training and networking. And on Thursday evening we'll be having a reception to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

We did make a change in the registration fee. We moved that back to the early bird rate so everyone will get the $498 registration fee. However, on April 7 registration will close. We have to have a pretty solid number of - for meals and that kind of information for the hotel. And on March 15, we'll be turning back rooms to the hotel. So if there are any rooms that are still available they'll be able to resell those rooms.

There are eight workshops that'll be going on at a time. There are different tracks and there are tracks that are applicable to anyone that works in the SCSEP and even in the workforce system. So we're excited that the Secretary for Administration on Aging has confirmed that she'll be speaking. We have some other excellent speakers that have confirmed. We have invited the Secretary of Labor and we're waiting to hear from him. And I think that Jen has been working on trying to get a letter of congratulations to the SCSEP and that's moving forward. So it's all coming together. We're really excited and we hope that everyone will be able to commit to an opportunity for learning and networking and sharing of best practices. So I'll be on the call if there are questions later.

Q&A

Paul Magnus: **I wanted to add a little bit to what Sally said. We're working on a private to update the 45th anniversary to the 50th anniversary video. And we did put a call out to the friends of SCSEP but I wanted to take advantage of today's format to ask if anybod has any videos or pictures that they'd like included. There's no guarantee they'll make the final cut but we're especially looking for some updated pictures and video of all the workers at work. And we like the idea of them in action doing things and just so we can update the last video. Also if anyone has some music, maybe if they have some Title V participants that play music, or want to send me any audio clips as well that'd be fine too because we want to replace the music we had on the last one. Some of you had remembered it was very melodic heart music and we're looking for something with pick up the pace just a little bit.**

If you want to just email me, you can email me your link to your YouTube. Some of you have YouTube channels and you have videos on or else I can take it on a CD or a thumb drive as well. I believe our email will cover everything up to 25MB. So if you could do that that'd be great. We'll try to get as much inclusion in as we can. Thank you. My email by the way is pmagnus@mccurservices.org, and I'll refer it to your marketing department.

Beverly Donahue: **I just had a quick question about the guidance for the next grant application, just wanted to ask if the programmatic assurances have changed any. Will we need to wait until those are released or can we go ahead and use last year's and just get that done?**

Jennifer Pirtle: There are a handful of the assurances that the language has tweaked on. So you might want to wait but there are not many changes from last year. So if you look at last year's they're okay with all of them then it's almost the same.

Margaret Watson: **I just wanted to get some understanding about is it the real (low) program.**

Jennifer Pirtle: Yes. We allowed the workforce innovation an opportunity act. WIOA, that's the new one that's replaced WIA.

Margaret Wilson: **W-I-O-A. All right great then, thank you.**

Audrey Krebs: **I've been studying and having conversations with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. And they actually came to a training with a group of people that I work with on the taskforce and helped us find out the - actually what's the highlights of WIOA. I was on this webinar today and there were no specifics, none. And I'm happy that they did give us the website to look on with the Web address but I'm sure the specifics are still pretty tentative as far as that goes. It's pretty sketchy. How is it now SCSEP is changing how we interact with WIOA is going to be different as with the workforce centers to how we have in the past. Isn't that correct**
Jennifer Pirtle: The major change is that SCSEP is no longer required for a member on the workforce investment board. That's the only major change. The service delivery aspect, there's

still an interest in integrated service delivery and including SCSEP where that's an option in the one-stop and the entire workforce development system.

Audrey Krebs: **So you're saying that SCSEP is not on a mandatory partner anymore with WIOA but we're going to be part of the one-stop system as a mandatory partner for services. Is that correct?**

Jennifer Pirtle: Yes, SCSEP remains a mandatory part of the One-Stop Service Delivery System; SCSEP is not a required member of the board. The board has very specific requirements according to the legislation, and there'll be more guidance coming about the board. If you were on the webinar today there was some information about some things that states can do now to help with WIOA implementation and some of the information talks about the board. And so that may help but the webinar today was really a visioning webinar. It wasn't really to give you a ton of specifics.

The proposed rulemaking is coming out in the spring. So that's going to have the actual specifics in it. The TEGL that I mentioned today, [TEGL19-14](#), there's a section that talks about activities that states should be doing now to prepare. It's pretty general, look at your partnership on the list, look at your service delivery strategies, see ways that you can integrate. There are some things that states can be doing now but it's at that higher level because those specifics haven't come out yet. Once the NPRM is published, there'll be program guidance that come out for the system and we'll be providing guidance as well on how SCSEP is affected by this.

Audrey Krebs: **Okay. Well thank you. I really appreciate that. And then I'm curious because we did an integrated state plan with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. And being we're not part of - we're not mandated with WIOA anymore but the state plan WIOA, is there something for April that's due an update with the state plan including WIOA? And how is SCSEP affected by that? Is there something that we have to write, that I'd have to write, into April WIOA update? That's what I'm concerned about.**

Jennifer Pirtle: So I don't think there's a WIOA state plan update that's due in April. I did hear on the webinar today that, I don't know if it was education or HHS, has the requirement for our plan for a particular program. That's what's due in April. So you might want to check your agency to see what that looks like. So for SCSEP, we don't have additional state plans requirements because we just went through that process.

Audrey Krebs: **Right, okay. Well so we'll just be giving guidance by all of you what needs to happen as far as WIOA goes and not stress out about WIOA, that we'll be taken along for the ride. Is that correct?**

Jennifer Pirtle: Right. And don't stress right now because the specifics are coming. We have to have time to work on them and figure it out. We want to do our best in making sure that this is a thoughtful process and that our policies are good policies and not just throwing something out there.

So I know everybody is anxious to get more information and to jump right onboard, and there are some things you can do. So I do encourage you to take a look at TEGL 19-14. The vision part is pretty broad and non-specific but the activities portion about what you can be doing now is a little bit more specific that you can get into.

There is also a practitioner website that we have on – http://wioa.workforce3one.org and that's where we've housed all of the webinars, all of the consultations, information that we have up to date, all of the information on WIOA that could affect any practitioner. So if you have questions or you want to see anything that's been presented that you may not know, those consultations did get into specifics. So you may want to take a look at those.

Audrey Krebs: **All right. Well thank you. That's really helpful. And I am excited about WIOA as far as targeting people with multiple barriers to employment. So of course you've got participants to be a big part of that. So hopefully we'll be more into working with the workforce centers that still work with us. That'll be great. Thank you**.

Jennifer Pirtle: And there is an increased pressure on all of the states and local areas to have a more integrated service delivery strategy. And that includes all types of programs including SCSEP. And so we want to make sure that that's an open dialogue. So that'll be a theme that runs throughout that'll you be hearing over and over again.

Tony Morales: **Good afternoon. This is a follow up question to one that I posed in January, the filing with IRS 294C, 295C for next year. Has there been anymore discoveries or anymore discussion about this? Are the participants going to be considered our employees and we need to file those forms on their behalf?**

Jennifer Pirtle: I have been looking into this. We have raised this issue up with a contact that we have over at IRS that isn't actually the right person so we're still trying to get in contact with the right people. So I'm sorry that I haven't provided an update but I don't have any information right now. But we have post some thoughtful questions and hoping to get an answer soon. Sorry about that. I should've mentioned that.

Tony Morales: **Not a problem.**

Jennifer Pirtle: I know a lot of you have sent us a number of different questions, some of them having to do with the gap in funding between program years. This issue about the IRS and the Affordable Care Act and some other things, it's not that we're trying to ignore you. It's that these are very complicated questions and there are multiple people that need to be involved. And I just don't have the answers right now. When we do get them we'll either send out a blast email to everyone or if it's closer to the call I'll include a policy corner where we talk about that on the call.

Conclusion

Jennifer Pirtle: I want to thank you all for being on the call today. If you do have any other questions for us feel free to email the mailbox at scsep.national@dol.gov. If we can answer them right away we will. If we can't we'll tell you that we're working on it and I'll be sure to get back to you. I'm sorry to keep you hanging for a month. That seems like a really long time. And make sure you talk to your FPO.

The next call will be Wednesday April 1 at 3:00 pm Eastern. So thank you very much for joining us today and happy March.