



DHRM HR Highlights June

COV Learning and Development Network Spring Meeting

The COV Learning and Development Network held our Spring Meeting on 6/17/2025 where we had the opportunity to network and learn more about “The Importance of Coaching and Mentorship: Synchronized Development in an Asynchronized Environment”.

In today’s fast-evolving professional landscape, the need for impactful personal and professional development has never been more critical. This session explored how coaching and mentorship stand apart as transformative tools that foster synchronized growth in an increasingly asynchronized world of remote work and diverse schedules.

Our expert panelists shared the fundamental differences between coaching and mentorship and offered a behind-the-scenes look at the strategies that make their programs so effective. We also discovered how these approaches go beyond traditional training, driving long-term success and leadership readiness while adapting to the unique challenges of today’s workforce.

Many thanks to our panelists for sharing their experiences with coaching and/or mentoring in their agencies: Kimberly Jones (VDSS), Rik Cropley (DHRM), Dena Washington (VITA), Jonathan Singleton (DHRM), Jasmine Hardy (DJJ), and Robyn Madar (GMU).

We also recognize the exceptional COV Learning and Development Network Leadership and Planning Team who are the force behind Network events: Andrea Simmons (VDOT), Steve Smith (VDH), Crystal Barrett (DGS), Brooke Bullock (VDH), Kristine Konen (DBHDS), Katherine Fisher (VDSS), Susie Arce (CNU), Dena Washington (VITA), Brad Bradley (DHRM), Rik Cropley (DHRM), and Deanna Goldstein (DHRM).

The COV Training & Development Network is a collaborative of learning, training, and workforce development professionals across state government agencies. Our goals are to:

- Share expertise, promote efficient resource utilization, and leverage ideas and best practices with learning professionals across the Commonwealth.
- Partner for professional development for all learning professionals.
- Strengthen the learning community’s alignment with each other.

If you are a learning professional or have responsibility for learning in your agency and have not connected with us, contact [Deanna Goldstein](#) to learn more about the COV Learning and Development Network.