



MINUTES
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
July 31, 2014
Holiday Inn, 920 Broadway, Nashville, TN

SRC Members Present:

Rozann Downing, Marianne Dale, Michael McGrath, Samantha Moreno, Sharon Bryant, Tricia Griggs, Norris Branick, Thomas DePauw, Derek Flake, Mary Little, Jean Saulsberry

SRC Members Absent:

Steve Sparks, Robert Leonard, Yolanda Shields, John Harris

DSU Present:

Cherrell Campbell-Street, Yovancha Lewis Brown, Denise Ragland, Sam Cole

Guests:

2 interpreters and 2 personal attendants

Welcome/Introductions:

The Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting was called to order by the SRC Chair, Rozann Downing. Around the table introductions were made by all in attendance.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the April 3, 2014 meeting were presented to the SRC. One correction needed pertaining to the Client Assistant Program was pointed out by the CAP representative, Tricia Griggs. Norris Branick made a motion to accept the minutes with this change. Mary Little made the second to the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved with the noted changes.

NCSRC Meeting Report:

Michael McGrath presented a report of the recent NCSRC training he attended, along with John Harris. Michael's report is attached to these minutes.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

CAP Program Report:

The CAP report was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Structure:

Rozann suggested we take off the SPARC committee since the whole SRC works on the State Plan now. The council agreed with that and also decided we should retain the C-SNAC, OPRA, and Executive Committees. We can have Ad Hoc committees such as a Policy Committee and Legislative Committee as needed. The committees will be assigned at the next regular meeting in October by the new SRC Chair.

DRS Assistant Commissioner's Report:

Assistant Commissioner Cherrell Campbell-Street started her report by thanking the outgoing SRC members whose terms are expiring; Mary Little, Steve Sparks, and Rozann Downing. She then reported on the newly signed WIOA and how that will impact the VR program. She also discussed the strengthening of services to businesses and transitioning youths with disabilities from school to work.

Officer Election:

The agenda items were rearranged and the officer election took place directly after lunch due to the Memphis members planning to leave early. The Chair explained the election procedure. Tom DePauw read a letter from John Harris further explaining the nomination and voting process. Per SRC bylaws, the chair selected an Ad Hoc nominating committee prior to this meeting. The nominating committee consisted of Committee Chair John Harris, Tom DePauw, and Norris Branick. The committee solicited nominations from each SRC for the three officer positions. The nominating committee received one response. The committee presented the following slate:

Chair, Marianne Dale
Vice Chair, Michael McGrath
Secretary, Samantha Moreno

Voting was made by paper ballot/accessible format including braille with these names and the ability to write in someone other who is on the ballot. The ballots were collected and counted and Tom announced the new Chair is Marianne Dale, Vice Chair is Michael McGrath, and Secretary is Samantha Moreno.

VR Director's Report:

VR Director Yovancha Lewis-Brown's report is attached to these minutes. Yovancha made a request to the SRC Secretary to contact her at least one week prior to the each meeting for a report request.

SRC Membership Report:

DSU Liaison Sam Cole thanked outgoing SRC members: Rozann Downing, Mary Little and Steve Sparks. He presented the membership report which is attached to these minutes.

DRS/SRC Financial Report:

No financial report was given.

Resource Plan:

The final version of the Resource Plan for FY 2013-2014 was reviewed, discussed and a motion to approve was made by Tom and the second was made by Norris. The motion carried. The 2013-2014 Resource Plan was signed by the Chair.

New Business and Wrap Up:

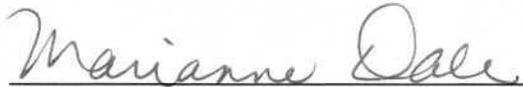
The meetings for FY 2014-2015 were set. The dates and locations are as follows:

October 2, 2014 in Nashville or Murfreesboro
January 8, 2015 in Memphis
April 2, 2015 in Knoxville
June 17 and 18, 2015 in Nashville or Murfreesboro

February 4 and 5, 2015 in Nashville for the State Plan Meeting

Motion to adjourn was made by Mary Little and the second was made by Sharon Bryant. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Marianne Dale, SRC Secretary.



Michael's Report:

National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Leadership and Training Conference

I attended the NCSRC Leadership and Training Conference in Bethesda, Maryland April 5-6, 2014 with John Harris and Derek Flake.

New Chairs Panel

I was picked to sit on the new chairs panel to discuss what is going on with our council and Tennessee's VR program. I told them about the following initiatives.

- Order of Selection - opening of PC2 and release of PC3 waiting list
- Work with TDOT, Omni, and Advanced AutoParts
- Full involvement in State Plan

Roles and Responsibilities of the SRC

We discussed the roles and responsibilities of the SRC which are included in the following list.

1. Review Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act.
2. Council Member Appointments, recruitment, training and development.
3. Resource Plan
 - Designing the Plan (i.e. Physical plant, operational costs, staffing)
 - Designing and maintaining the budget
4. Business Meetings – the annual schedule, 'open meeting requirements', the agenda, material distribution, rules of order, public comment, and follow up activities.
5. SRC record keeping and other daily business operations.
6. SRC Strategic Plan for mandate achievement
7. VR Reports (to be received/reviewed at each Business Meeting)
 - Performance Standards & indicators
 - Needs Assessment
 - Policy/procedure changes
 - New programs and/or services
 - Updates on existing programs
 - Presentations during meetings by program managers/directors
 - Fiscal reports
 - Order of Selection for Services (OSS) update
8. Building relationship(s) with the designated state unit (DSU) State Director and other staff.
9. Customer Satisfaction Surveys:
 - Who funds the survey?
 - Who completes/mailed surveys?
 - Who summarizes survey data into a report?
 - Who sees the surveys?
 - How is the report shared with the DSU staff and public?
10. Designing other methods to gain customer input.
11. Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment
12. Customer Hearings Report
13. Client Assistance Program Report
14. Getting the work done – SRC Committee and/or Work Team Meetings
15. The Annual SRC Report
16. By-Laws – annual review and amendments
17. Policies and procedures
18. Partnerships with mandated organizations
19. The SRC role with Congress and the State Legislature
20. SRC role with other VR functions/activities within state and/or nation

21. SRC role with RSA monitoring visits.

Council Member Recruitment Plans

We also discussed council member recruitment plans with no limitations of costs. The following list contains ideas on how to recruit members.

- Ads/Billboards
- Public Service Announcements (PSA)
- Brochures
- Outreach
- Website
- Social Media

Calendars

At the conference, we discussed the importance of creating a calendar with deadlines to keep the SRC on task. The calendar can also be a tool to keep open communication between the SRC and DSU.

State Plan

We heavily focused on the parts of the State Plan that involve SRC input.

The State Plan is the contract between the Federal Government Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the State of Tennessee. The plan is necessary to receive federal funds for the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program. The Plan describes how the VR services will be provided in accordance to laws and regulations. It essentially acts as the blueprint for the State's VR program.

The SRC provides input to the following attachments that are updated annually.

- Attachment 4.2(c) - Input of State Rehabilitation Council
- Attachment 4.10 - Comprehensive System of Personnel Development
- Attachment 4.11(b) - Annual Estimates
- Attachment 4.11(c)(3) - Order of Selection
- Attachment 4.11(c)(4) - Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds
- Attachment 4.11(e)(2) - Evaluation and Report of Progress

The SRC is the VOICE OF THE CONSUMER in the State Plan ... this was emphasized.

Follow through was an issue with the State Plan. Making sure the comments are actually being addressed. Some council representatives suggested a committee for follow through while others suggested making it an agenda item.

Conference Presenters

Conference presenters included:

- Charlene Dwyer (Former Wisconsin VR State Director): 'Making Work Pay' - Wisconsin based model for work incentive reforms
- Janet LaBreck (RSA Commissioner)
- Sue Rankin-White (RSA)
- Lynnae Ruttledge (Former RSA Commissioner)
- Charles Sadler (RSA)
- Bobby Silverstein (Director, Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy (CSADP))
- Beverlee Stafford (Former Executive Director, NRA)
- Steven A. Wooderson (CEO, CSAVR)

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner Janet LaBreck

RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck pointed out the importance of creative and innovative ways to partner and network to increase successful employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The commissioner talked about the importance of internships to transition individuals into the working world. She will come to any state's SRC meeting but she wants the community to be there. She wants to see the partnerships.

NCSRC Website

All conference materials are on the NCSRC website at <http://www.ncsrc.net/>.

SRC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

July 31, 2014

Upcoming vacancies for which nominations will be needed: (within 3 mos.):

Vacant	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	State Education Agency
Vacant	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Client Assistance Program
Vacant	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Business, Industry and labor
Vacant	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Business, Industry and labor
Vacant	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Derek Flake	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Parent, Training and Information
Yolanda Shields	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
Marianne Dale	(09/30/14-09/30/17)	Disability Advocacy
Thomas DePauw	(09/30/12-09/30/15)	Disability Advocacy

Nominations pending:

Nominations pending in Governor's office:

- NONE

Nominations pending in Commissioner's office:

- NONE

Nominations pending on Barbara's desk:

- NONE

Appointments made since last Council meeting (or within last 4 mos):

- NONE

Yovancha H. Lewis-Brown's Report:

SRC Notes from July 2014

- Discussion of the newly passed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The act focuses heavily on Transition School to Work Activities. While the act has been signed the details of implementation have not been shared.
- Project Search- At the beginning of this school year, there are three Project Search Sites using the Transition School to Work Model that are accepting students
 - Memphis/Shelby County-Host Site-LeBohner Children's Hospital
 - Metro Nashville- Host Site- Embassy Suites
 - Murfreesboro- Host Site- Embassy Suites
 - Each site will have 10 to 12 students
- Post -Secondary Alliance- There are 4 Universities in Tennessee that participate in the Post- Secondary Alliance. The PSE provides an alternate post-secondary experience with job training and job readiness activities on a college campus. It is geared towards individuals with developmental disabilities. See attached for Memo on VR support for those programs.

Thanks.

Yovancha H. Lewis-Brown

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – July 22, 2014

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will help job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and match employers with skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed WIOA, the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years, by a wide bipartisan majority. In doing so, Congress reaffirmed the role of the American Job Center (AJC) system, a cornerstone of the public workforce investment system, and brought together and enhanced several key employment, education, and training programs. In recent years over 20 million people annually turn to these programs to obtain good jobs and a pathway to the middle class. WIOA continues to advance services to these job seekers and employers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WIOA REFORMS TO THE PUBLIC WORKFORCE SYSTEM

Aligns Federal Investments to Support Job Seekers and Employers: At the State level, WIOA establishes unified strategic planning across “core” programs, which include Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs; Adult Education and Literacy programs; the Wagner-Peyser Employment Service; and Title I of the Rehabilitation Act programs.

Strengthens the Governing Bodies that Establish State, Regional and Local Workforce Investment Priorities: WIOA streamlines membership of business-led, state and local workforce development boards. The Act emphasizes the role of boards in coordinating and aligning workforce programs and adds functions to develop strategies to meet worker and employer needs.

Helps Employers Find Workers with the Necessary Skills: WIOA emphasizes engaging employers across the workforce system to align training with needed skills and match employers with qualified workers. The Act adds flexibility at the local level to provide incumbent worker training and transitional jobs as allowable activities and promotes work-based training, for example by increasing on-the-job training reimbursement rates to 75 percent. The law also emphasizes training that leads to industry-recognized post-secondary credentials

Aligns Goals and Increases Accountability and Information for Job Seekers and the Public: WIOA aligns the performance indicators for core programs, and adds new ones related to services to employers and postsecondary credential attainment. Performance goals must reflect economic conditions and participant characteristics. It makes available data on training providers’ performance outcomes and requires third party evaluations of programs.

Fosters Regional Collaboration to Meet the Needs of Regional Economies: WIOA requires states to identify economic regions within their state, and local areas are to coordinate planning and service delivery on a regional basis.

Targets Workforce Services to Better Serve Job Seekers: WIOA promotes the use of career pathways and sector partnerships to increase employment in in-demand industries and occupations. To help local economies target the needs of job seekers, WIOA allows 100 percent funds transfer between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. WIOA adds basic skills deficient as a priority category for Adult services. WIOA also focuses Youth program services to out-of-school youth. The Act strengthens services for unemployment insurance claimants. It also merges WIA core and intensive services into a new category of career services, clarifying there is no required sequence of services. The Act allows Governors to reserve up to 15 percent of formula funds for activities such as innovative programs.

Improves Services to Individuals with Disabilities: WIOA increases individuals with disabilities’ access to high-quality workforce services to prepare them for competitive integrated employment. It requires better employer engagement and promotes physical and programmatic accessibility to employment and training services for individuals with disabilities. Youth with disabilities receive extensive pre-employment transition services to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment. It creates an Advisory Committee on strategies to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Supports Access to Services: To make services easier to access, the WIOA requires co-location of the Wagner-Peyser Employment Service in AJCs and adds the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program as a mandatory partner. WIOA establishes dedicated funding from AJC partner programs to support the costs of infrastructure and other shared costs that support access to services. It asks the Secretary of Labor to establish a common identifier for the workforce system to help workers and employers find available services. In addition, WIOA allows local areas to award pay for performance contracts so providers of services get paid for results. It also allows direct contracts to higher education institutions to provide training.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

DOL, in coordination with the U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Health and Human Services (HHS), is working diligently to ensure that states and local areas, other grantees, and stakeholders are prepared for implementation of WIOA. DOL will provide technical assistance, tools, and resources to States and local areas through the WIOA Resource Page (www.doleta.gov/WIOA), Webinars, and virtual and in-person discussions.

DOL will actively engage stakeholders in the implementation of WIOA. Opportunities to provide input will be communicated through the WIOA Resource Page.

WIOA PROGRAMS

WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

WIOA authorizes the Job Corps, YouthBuild, Indian and Native Americans, and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs, in addition to the core programs.

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

President Barack Obama signed WIOA into law on July 22, 2014.

In general, the Act takes effect on July 1, 2015, the first full program year after enactment, unless otherwise noted. The State Unified Plans and Common Performance Accountability provisions take effect July 1, 2016. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will issue further guidance on the timeframes for implementation of these changes.

DOL will issue proposed regulations reflecting the changes in WIOA soon after enactment.

WIOA RESOURCE PAGE

Visit www.doleta.gov/WIOA to learn more about WIOA and access relevant guidance and technical assistance tools and resources developed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). All relevant guidance will also be posted on the ETA Advisory Website (<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/>) Please email your questions to DOL.WIOA@dol.gov or contact your ETA regional Office.



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165
TTY: 1-800-270-1349
www.tn.gov

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

Memorandum

July 10, 2014

To: TDRS Staff
Postsecondary Education (PSE) Alliance- Tennessee

FROM: Yovancha H. Lewis-Brown, M.S., C.R.C.
Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director

RE: VR Support of Students in PSE Programs in TN

Effective July 1, 2014, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program will provide support for VR eligible students participating in PSE Alliance Programs in Tennessee. These programs are currently located as follows:

- University of Memphis- TigerLife
- Vanderbilt University- NextSteps
- Lipscomb University- IDEAL
- University of Tennessee- FUTURE

The PSE Programs focus on Postsecondary options for students with Intellectual Disabilities at Colleges and Universities. These programs are another option to assist students in the transition from school to work.

This is a pilot program, and for this initial year the amount authorized by VR will be a flat rate of \$2400.00 per student.

Prior to the beginning of each semester, the school's program staff, the student and the VR Counselor will discuss recommendations.. The recommendations will be based on observations and assessments. Recommendations should include activities that:

- Assist the individual to acquire personal and work habits, skills and techniques that will enable functioning in a formal training or employment setting;

- Develop or increase work tolerance; or
- Orient the individual to the world of work.

The amount that VR will authorize per semester is \$2400.00

The VR Counselor will ensure this service is added to the IPE prior to the beginning of the program. The client and VR counselor will agree that this is a needed service. An authorization will be sent to the school stating the amount authorized

We are excited for the opportunity to provide these services to the individuals we serve.