

State Rehabilitation Council

Meeting Minutes

March 21st, 2017

Title: State Rehabilitation Council Meeting

Location: Conference call, Cheyenne WY

Members

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|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Junge, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tammy Noel, Chair Elect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tobi Cates, DWS Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Zink | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim McIntosh, DVR Administrator | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Jude Hass Tribal DVR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Coleman Burke Consumer/Advocate | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Bailey | <input type="checkbox"/> Aleyta Coffey | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lee Beidleman, CAP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Tanner, Liaison | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terri Dawson, Parent Info Center | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Bachert, DVR Area Manager | | |
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Tuesday March 21, 2017

Review of meeting minutes from February 21, 2017 call

Correction to the minutes: Terri Dawson, PRC was incorrectly left off the members listing for February. She did participate in the call. Her name will be added and marked as present.

Updates from Nicki Harper on Project Search

Project search is officially in Wyoming The trainer from Children's Hospital come to Wyoming and identified all the work that needs to be done. Now that we have time lines it is real and scary. It is a collaboration between Albany County School District, Iverson Memorial Hospital, and DVR for a program for students in there last year of high school and will have the opportunity to do internships. Students can do this in a hospital setting in Laramie. Some states also have other employers involved. Students can do three internships over the course of the year with the end result will being continued employment. The district has the teacher position and VR is supposed to have the trainer position. We still need to figure out a few things on our end as far as payment. Jeff White did a lot of work to get this in Wyoming the start date is around August 24, 2017. Everything should essentially follow the school calendar. They have already formed a steering committee to help out with everything that needs to be done. University of WY has expressed some possible interest in the program and be a host site in the future.

Transition updates

There is a MOU is requirement with the Wyoming Department of Education. A basic draft was sent off to RSA who requested some changes be made to the MOU. The team will meet in two weeks to make the corrections. They are also partnering with Wyoming Department of Education to host the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Transition workshops to be held in Casper on April 28, 2017. Please distribute the information to anyone interested. The Wyoming Department of Education is providing a stipend for parents to take their kids to the training, it is a free training. They are also doing a transition networking in Cheyenne on May 4, 2017. Laramie, Albany, Goshen and Platte County will be invited. We have a few pilot projects going on around the state. One is with Northern Mental Health in Sheridan to provide self advocacy and to provide counseling to students who would be Pre-ets students as clients or reemployment transition students. They are a mental health agency that has expanded their horizons and criteria to allow clients who do not have a mental health diagnosis but have already been identified with a disability by the school. NMH in Sheridan will provide them with

the service. Once that gets going, We hope to expand to the Westin county. We have a college readiness workshop in Riverton June of 2017. It is a three-day workshop where the students will have the opportunity to live on campus and have peer support. They will also have some hands on opportunities. In area four we have a couple of partnerships with the school districts and they are doing programs like how to pay the bills, etc. Natrona County is providing and independent provider is who will be doing quite a few workshops and some one-on-one services. In Platte County, we have a retired VR counselor who is providing the Pre-Ets transition services. Evanston has partnered with Valley Learning Center to offer a Job Academy and the Evanston BLN is going to do a transition day. Laramie has the STEP Program, an eight-week after school program for job readiness skills. Lander is trying to partner with the Wind River Casino and they have the gaming commission and school district on board but are running into a problem because they only want to only provide services to native kids. Cheyenne is looking at a possible Self-advocacy day camp in maybe this summer. Newcastle is working on a program with the Department of Corrections for student inmates. It's a learning process and we're making progress. Nicki and Ann will be contacting all forty eight school districts to get feedback on how things are going with vocational rehabilitation.

Fiscal Updates

It is not an easy time for state agencies with budget cuts and the hiring freeze that we are about to embark on. There's been a lot of stragtric planning in the agency that will support VR to maintain the level of funding. This does not give us more funding, it just makes up for the cuts we had faced under the 8% reduction the penny plan that we are facing for the next biennium. We are getting guidance from the feds again. WIOA challenged most of our programs and said we had to spend more money on youth. It drove some of our formula funding within employment and training and also youth for VR. Nicki and Ann, the state transition specialists, are looking very closely at Youth fund expenditures. We have multiple options to stay out of Order of Selection and are figuring out how we can efficiently move forward on doing this every year.

Active Partnership

Amber Alexander of WIL and Cheryl met last month on better ways that we could collaborate between our two organizations and perhaps identify some things that can be done in tandem when we do get together for our face-to-face meetings with SILC. We hope to have a better focus to our purpose and efforts in meeting. Some ideas talked about included gathering information for our needs assessment, doing some public meetings jointly, participating in doing some of the surveying that is going out, doing some counselor surveys to identify things that might be of interest to the council, having some understanding of Employment First, identifying what might be needs around various areas of the state; for example identifying vendors or trying to create more focused activity between the various partner organizations we are required to interact with. We are supposed to have feedback opportunities between WASPF, the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and the State Workforce Investment Board. The purpose being to have avenues to get as many voices from all across the state to provide appropriate information to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation on how they may serve folks better in our state. Tobi suggested that we consider working with the newly formed Workforce Advisory Groups (WAGS). The WAGS and their contact information is attached.

Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference

Cheryl has received information from Aleyta Zimmerman about the Wyoming Development Disabilities Conference formally known as the Mega Conference. We discussed on our last call ways to solicit more membership and more participants to be on the council. She was wondering if we could use the conference as a venue for outreach. We could offer a presentation about the State Rehabilitation Council, what it has to offer, its purpose, etc. and how to join if interested. We could also have a vendor booth to pass out applications and talk to folks who are attending the conference. If we do the booth, we have to pay \$125 and it has to be manned at all key conference times. They are currently accepting presentation calls and we have not missed the deadline. The conference will be held on June 21st and 22nd in Casper at the Ramkota Hotel. We have until May 26th to submit out vendor form for a booth and April 28 for submission if we plan to do a presentation. Tammy will develop a survey and send it to all members to determine availability to support these two options.

Subcommittee Updates

REVIEW COMMITTEE: There was a report that was sent out with the agenda. Lee provided a historical outline of the SRC Client Satisfaction Survey. It is the responsibility of the State Rehabilitation Council, has but because of the size of our state, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Council has always done this for the group. The only population that the survey was sent to was status 26 clients that were successfully closed. We felt like we were getting skewed information on only the people who were successful closures. The goal was that we were going to try and serve more people who have applied for DRV services. It was decided we would refer them to the client program, once we changed that, we did not receive any calls. We have not developed a new survey at this time. If we want to do a survey we need to put it on the next agenda and really spend some time on what information we want and what we are going to do with it. We also need to see if DVR is still willing to do the survey since the State Rehabilitation Council does not have the manpower to do this. A copy of the survey that was sent out was provided to the State Rehabilitation Council for review. Cheryl reported guiding information she received from the people she reached out to with the NCSRC on what other states are doing to get participation in the process. The suggestions offered had previously been tried but were not successful, partly because we are a rural state. Lack of transportation for folks to get to the meetings and the times meetings were held were primarily during the day when people had conflicts in attending. There was some discussion on how we can reach out to employers to partner with DVR for greater opportunities for on-the-job training and how to better market our success stories. We always have the opportunity to have guests to our meeting. Mike is going to do some ground work and invite some folks to our meeting in Lander in May. Cheryl is going to work on having orientation for new members and will be on the agenda for our May meeting as well as a more formal agenda for our joint time with SILC in August. Please send potential agenda items to Cheryl.

Action Items

- Rhonda will work with Brian to get a link to the Needs Assessment on the SRC website, once the State Plan is completed it will be on the SRC website.

Meeting Dates:	City
August 15 th -17th	Casper SRC/SILK

RSA website: www.rsa.ed.gov

WIOA webinars: www.ion.workforcegps.org

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