

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn – Cheyenne, Wyoming
January 30 & 31, 2007

State Rehabilitation Council Members present:

Shannon Bodin, Chairperson	Lisa Osvold
Lee Beidleman	Mark Pixley
Dorothy Cronin	Bob Rowan
Jim McIntosh, Ex-Officio	Debbie Terech
Laura McKinney	Donna Thompson
Kristi Mogen	Diether van Houten

Council Members Absent:

Terri Dawson	Joe Thomas
Becky Taggart	

Others Present:

Joan Evans	Susan Hagan
Woody Absher	Marla Lewis, CBLN
Earl DeGroot	Kirk McKinney
Merle Derdall	Steve Miedziak

Tuesday, January 30, 2007:

Welcome and Introductions

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Shannon Bodin at 1:00 p.m. in the Sheridan Room of the Holiday Inn, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Introductions were made and everyone in attendance was welcomed.

SRC Member Vacancies

Four new members were included into the following Committees: Dorothy Cronin, Kristi Mogen, and Mark Pixley to the Business, Industry and Labor Committee, and Bob Rowan, Section 121.

Debbie Terech and Donna Thompson's commissions were to expire March 4, 2007. It was discussed to extend these two commissions for another term. **Motions were made to forward these two names to the Governor for re-appointment to the SRC. Motions were seconded and all passed unanimously.**

DVR Administrator's Report - Jim McIntosh, DVR Administrator

Jim mentioned that the new director of Department of Workforce Services, Joan Evans, would be stopping by to be introduced to the Council.

Federal: Charles Sadler, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Representative, will be in Cheyenne the week of May 21, 2007, and would like to meet with the entire SRC.

Section 107 Reviews (Section 107 of the Rehabilitation Act is the Federal Audit and Review). This used to be done by Regional Offices (Denver), but now comes from Washington, DC. RSA is interested in speaking with stakeholders, service providers, anyone that would be able to provide suggestions and feedback.

Senator Edward Kennedy is a strong supporter of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and he suggests, to Sen. Harpan & Sen. Spector, the new Chairs to the Help Committee, that they include language in FY2007 Labor, Health and Human Services on Education Appropriations that prohibits the U.S. Department of Labor from issuing regulations on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) until Congress can authorize WIA, and the Department of Labor is exceeding its authority and preempting Congress' prerogative to legislate this important policy area. The Help Committee will consider reauthorization of WIA early in the 110 Congress. Senator Kennedy views the Department's intention to modify the regulation of these programs constitutes an effort to preempt the process and could very well cause confusion among state and local operators in these critical workforce programs. They are going to move quickly to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act in the near future. Senator Kennedy is taking a very active role in getting this passed, and is also a proponent of Transition, and he will continue to support this particular piece of Legislation be part of the Act. Senator Kennedy was trying at one time to include funding for VR to provide better Transition services statewide. All is still pending.

Department: Legislators are currently in session. VR doesn't have any bills on the floor that directly impact the Council. Several bills that affect Department of Workforce Service (DWS) were discussed.

Division: Still have all of our counselors and Area 01 Area Manager Position is still open. Kirk McKinney and Jim McIntosh are currently filling in for vacant Area Manager Position. Retirements are pending for several positions – 1 Lead Assistant in Casper, and 1 Lead Assistant in Riverton. This is a tremendous resource to lose, and there are not any potential replacements.

Section 107 Reviews.

Severe & Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI): There is open dialogue with State Mental Health in the hopes of beginning to have more impact on the SPMIs. DVR will be working more actively with Mental Health to come up with a way to make an impact on this particular group statewide.

Department Employee Retention: Kirk McKinney reported that the retention survey, a 20 page report, identified four areas DVR needs to improve: 1) communication; 2) reward and recognition; 3) training; and 4) on board orientation. Kirk outlined the efforts DVR is making to achieve these objectives.

Wyoming Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs (WYARN) – Earl DeGroot

Mr. DeGroot gave an update on his progress on the WYARN. Several changes were made to the Draft Copy and he provided handout of these changes (*A copy of these documents will be available for those who were unable to attend this meeting*). One change regarded the Ticket to Work Program, and the other regarding the Continuum of Services for People with Disabilities. Mr. DeGroot discussed updates on what he found, the details regarding the Focus Groups, and the mail survey. A special emphasis was placed on students in Transition, but DVR overall was explored. The needs and recommendations were fine tuned for the final assessment.

DVR Employer Award

The recipient of the SRC Employer Award in Cheyenne was Tatooine Electronics.

SRC Open House- 4:30-6:00 at the Holiday Inn – Sheridan/Saratoga Room.

Wednesday, January 31, 2007:

Open House Discussion

One person attended the Open House the prior evening.

Client Satisfaction Surveys

Returned surveys were distributed to members to contact clients.

DVR Employee Surveys

Kirk McKinney discussed the Employee Survey. Several changes were made and it will be distributed to Counselors/Assistants in each District Office. Results will be compiled by Brian Hickman, QA/Training Officer for VR, and made available to SRC.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

Review Committee: Discussed the State Plan. Draft was distributed to Council members.

Communications Committee: New Committee. Discussed Committee taking over responsibilities of press releases, advertising, VR web site of SRC.

Client Assistance Report (CAP)

Councilman Lee Beidleman indicated that his report would be brief. He has traveled to schools throughout the state. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and employment have been explored, as well as Transition. He has more travel scheduled

State Independent Living Council (SILC) Report:

Wyoming Transportation has a Public Transportation Project Out in the works with funding from Medicaid. Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Wyoming Services for Independent Living (WSIL) has person for transportation – Gay McDonald. The council set their schedule of meetings for the year.

Project B.R.A.I.N. – Dorothy Cronin

Ms. Cronin indicated that the B.R.A.I.N. Program (Brain Rehabilitation and Information Network) has hired CMT Director Jack Nokes. Mr. Nokes has experience with teaching, sales, hospitals, staff training, etc., and will start February 2007. The contract for web hosting, etc. has been signed. Policies and By-Laws have been updated. A CPA has been hired. Quarterly meetings are scheduled with the next one set for March 6 in Cheyenne. Funding needs were discussed.

Transition – Donna Thompson

Council member Donna Thompson explained to the council Indicator #14. *(A copy of this document is available for those who were unable to attend this meeting).*

Approval of November 2006 Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made to accept the minutes from the November 2006 SRC meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Report on RSA Monitoring of DVR and IL Programs

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: July 31 & August 1, 2007
TBA
Buffalo, Wyoming

