

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Meeting Minutes

Riviera Lodge, Saratoga, Wyoming

May 20 & 21, 2008

State Rehabilitation Council Members present:

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| Shannon Bodin | Lisa Osvold |
| Lee Beidleman | Mark Pixley |
| Marion Cotterman | Becky Taggart |
| Dorothy Cronin | Debbie Terech |
| Jim McIntosh, Ex-Officio | Joe Thomas |
| Laura McKinney | Donna Thompson |
| Ray Metcalf | |

Council Members Absent:

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| Terri Dawson | Bob Rowan |
| Kristi Mogen | Diether van Houten |

Others Present:

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| Steve Miedziak, DVR | Susan Hagan, DVR |
| Brian Hickman, DVR | |

Tuesday, May 20, 2008:

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Shannon Bodin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Riviera Lodge, Saratoga, Wyoming. Marion Cotterman, new council member, was introduced and welcomed. Council members introduced themselves and updated the council on recent happenings.

Approval of February 2008 Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made to accept the minutes from the February 5 & 6, 2008 SRC meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Administrator's Update – Jim McIntosh

Federal: The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference in Bethesda, MD. Reauthorization of WIA and the Rehabilitation Act will probably not occur until after a new president takes office (1 to 2 years minimum). VR will continue as if reauthorization had occurred, and specifically with Transition Projects. These projects are in place in the law, and the Senate version that was passed several years ago is still in place. VR will continue to focus a good, strong Transition Program across the state. Reauthorization does not impact on VR funding; we are currently set at 2006 funding levels. VR won't necessarily get any additional funding but a cost of living clause is built into the Rehab Act. No changes in revenue will be allowed without reauthorization. With this information in mind, VR still has all the money they need. If there are special projects, VR can access additional grant money which is not typically accessed.

Departmental: Joan and Lisa are excellent leaders. Jim has taken on the responsibilities of Administrator of Employment Services (ES). Lisa indicated that Jim will be a strong

leader for ES, and that this is a natural integration between ES and VR.

Division: VR has several retirements this month; Diether van Houten from the Sheridan office and Mundy Aron from the Laramie office. Roxanne Parsonault also left VR to work with DWS. All three positions will be filled.

Statistically VR is meeting standards for closures. The Counselor In-Service this year presented more 26 Club awards than any previous year. Both of the 121 Programs (Native American VR Programs) had attendees at this year's in-service. The grant for the 121 Program was recently applied for and they should know soon if this is given to Red Feathered Eagle VR Program.

State Plan – Steve Miedziak

A working draft went out in March to the Review Committee. Responses came back and those changes were incorporated into a new draft, which was presented to Jim McIntosh, Administrator for approval. This new draft was distributed to the Review Committee. The public hearing for the State Plan is scheduled for May 27, 2008 and this year there is an option to phone in to participate. People wishing to access the hearing via phone can call the VR Central Office and receive information on the 800 number to call and the PIN to access the call. After the public hearing, comments will be considered and the final draft of the Plan will go to Jim for his review, and will go to the Feds by June 30th. If approved, it will go into effect October 1, 2008.

Business Cards

All members will get business cards; Blue Seals and Blue Lettering on white cards were approved.

Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

Returned copies were distributed to council members and discussed. The surveys are sent to all closed clients for their feedback. If the client indicates that they would like to be contacted, a council member will call them and find out what they liked, if they had problem, etc. Write a short summary of the conversation and this information is then sent back to VR.

If you have a question on a survey that you are unsure of, Kirk McKinney is the contact person (307) 777-6842, or the client could be referred directly to Kirk for information regarding their concerns that they report to SRC members. Kirk could then provide feedback back to the SRC.

CSAVR – Mark Pixley

Councilmember Mark Pixley reported to the council on his attendance at the Spring CSAVR Conference in Bethesda, MD. Many states and some foreign countries attended the two-day SRC Training hosted by the National Council of State Rehabilitation Councils. Time was spent on development of a state plan as some states struggle with their state plan.

Several states do not have good working relationships between their Rehabilitation Councils and Vocational Rehabilitation. Some SRCs have paid staff, much bigger budgets, some SRCs are good at measuring goals and outcomes and others are not, some SRCs are involved in hiring VR management. One state has a Medicaid agent attend their SRC meetings and it was

discussed that it could be beneficial in Wyoming to invite someone from Medicaid to attend an SRC Meeting.

During the trip to the Hill, Jim McIntosh presented a Lifetime Service to Senator Enzi and to Aaron Bishop, Senator Enzi's Aid.

Another SRC has good turnout to their open houses by holding the sessions during the day or on a Saturday. They found that evenings didn't produce good attendance.

It was discussed as to whether or not Wyoming's State Rehabilitation Council should join the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)? Some benefits of joining now might be: no fees for membership are required right now and a council can opt-out at any time; meeting with other SRCs; web based training available free to its members; banding together for a stronger voice by asking for the same bills and amendments.

Training for Wyoming's SRC is desired and it was mentioned that the Regional Rehabilitation Continuing Educational Program (RRCEP) has training available to SRCs available free on the web. The next CSAVR Conference is scheduled to be held in San Diego, CA in November 2008, and it was discussed that several other members might want to attend this session. Also, Lee Beidleman and Brian Hickman will be attending the Regional SRC meeting in St. Louis in June so the council decided to get more information before committing to joining NCSRC.

It was mentioned that a computer could be purchased for the SRC Chair along with a network card. This would pass from Chairperson to Chairperson.

Nomination of officers will be at the August meeting so new officers will take office effective October 1, 2008. The offices are: Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer.

CAP Report – Lee Beidleman

Lee Beidleman, Councilmember, reported P & A has new people on board; two advocates retired and one attorney quit. Some CAP cases are not assigned to Lee – if they are SSI beneficiaries they are not assigned to Lee. Lee indicated that he has been very busy over the last few months as he has more cases on the docket than he has had in the past 4 years. Not all cases Lee has are VR – 2/3's are IL cases. Lee has meetings scheduled throughout the state over the next few months and he will be going to the National Disability Rights Network meeting in New Orleans the first part of June and the Regional SRC meeting in St. Louis the end of June. Lee discussed new publications that P & A has coming out: Help America Vote; IEP Checklist; and Interpreting for Deaf/Hard of Hearing is being reprinted by VR. If you would like copies of any of these publications please call P & A.

SILC – Dorothy Cronin

Councilmember Dorothy Cronin reports that SILC has two new applicants for membership and they have been forwarded to the Governor for appointment.

SILC had some budget issues but thanks to VR they received extra money for the SILC which will allow the council to have face to face meetings instead of having their meetings via video conferencing.

Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation (WILR), which serves eastern Wyoming had someone from their VIP Specialist (Visually Impaired Program) attended a Visually Impaired conference. WILR's Youth Corp Program has 21 youths in the program. Funding for the Youth Corp Program ends in September 2008 but they are working to get the funding continued. Transportation Program has a new contract with Wyoming Department of Transportation. Vouchers for this program help cover gas expenses. Ken Hoff, Executive Director of WILR is working with Wyoming INstitute for Disabilities (WIND) on disaster preparedness. Wyoming Services for Independent Living (WSIL) didn't attend, but SILC is trying to get a board member to join SILC so there is representation on the council for the western portion of the state. Dorothy gave a Brain Injury Association presentation to SILC. Dorothy shared committee reports with the SILC. Ken Hoff talked about Legislative issues with SILC, ADA Restoration Act and RSA conversation about case managers and Medicaid issues for case managers for people transitioning out of nursing homes. Dorothy attended a SILC Congress in New Orleans.

The SILC's Information Forum had only one person attend even though the Forum was advertised and invitations were sent. They need attendance and feedback from clients. One attendee talked about her IL services and gave good input which was shared during the SILC's videoconference.

The SILC's Vice-Chair has resigned as they moved out of state so the council is looking to fill that opening.

Project BRAIN – Dorothy Cronin

Councilmember Dorothy Cronin reported on quarterly activities and had a report on the various activities that the staff has been involved in. Community Resource Director, Jack Nokes has made progress with the Community Resource Teams and getting into hospital and finding staff members to work with in the hospitals in the state. Jack has made personal contact with doctors/neurosurgeons in the hospital in Casper. Tip cards have been developed for use in emergency rooms to help connect families to the Community Resource Teams. The Brain Injury Conference, held in Douglas in March, was directed toward children with brain injuries. A lot of things for the families were offered. The BIAW Newsletter is being revamped to look more like a newspaper which will cost less to print and mail and their distribution will be greater. The Statewide Brain Injury Educator has provided training to more than 200 people and the funding for this position will continue to be provided by Project BRAIN (DVR) and the HRSA grant so this service is still free of charge. Development of the BRAIN Foundation has had progress. They are working on a trust fund and getting the specifics of the trust fund identified for presentation to legislators.

Client Transition Report – Donna Thompson

Councilmember Donna Thompson reported to the council on Focus Monitoring visits are completed for this year; they visited 9 districts. They are doing follow up with the districts that were monitored last year that had corrective actions that needed done. The technical assistance that has been done in the districts has to do with setting up appropriate post secondary goals and completing the summary of performance document. The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) has put out a document to help districts struggling with helping people set post secondary goals. A team of individuals went to the Secondary Transition State Planning Institute in North Carolina, this was an opportunity to network with other states and

training was also very good information. The next Transition Council meeting is scheduled for June in Laramie, with a focus on setting appropriate post secondary goals. A Leadership Symposium is scheduled for July 28 through August 1, 2008 in Lander. Topics include relating to students with disabilities.

Committee Breakouts

Wednesday, May 20, 2008:

Committee Reports

Executive: Seeking nominations at the August meeting for offices of: Chair-Elect, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. Joe Thomas will move into the Chair. The August meeting will join with the SILC for ½ day with a start time Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. and have the councils conduct their separate meetings Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. During the joint meeting SRC will discuss their duties, such as: Review of State Plan, Committees and their functions, Team Charter, History, etc. SILC will discuss their duties. Shannon and Bill Marsh, SILC Chair, will coordinate. A certificate recognizing his service to the Council will be presented to Diether van Houten.

Review: Not much to discuss other than the report that Steve presented earlier on the State Plan the Public Hearing coming next week.

Communications: Two new members on the Communications Committee: Marion Cotterman and Ray Metcalf.

Get organized by assigning duties.

Change the time on the Information Session to be during the day instead of the evening and hold the session right after the morning session on second day of meeting from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. which would allow members travel time to get home.

Possibly get guest speakers or people to provide information to attend the Information Session; possibly someone from Medicaid, the local Chamber, Dept. of Family Services, an Employer, Veteran Services, etc. Provide information on services available.

MEGA Conference – start planning now for October 15 – 17, 2008, in Casper.

Severe and Persistent Mental Illness Training/Information

Peggy Hayes, Clinical Director of Carbon County Counseling Center (CCCC) in Rawlins and Dan Meyer, Peer Support Specialist, also with Carbon County Counseling Center, presented information/training on Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). Services that the CCCC provide were outlined and the treatment needed to assist someone with SPMI were discussed. Working with employers to help them understand the needs of these clients is a very important service the center provides to their clients. National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) is a very good resource for information regarding SPMI.

Team Charter – Lisa Osvold

Councilmember Lisa Osvold reviewed Team Charter information gathered at the November SRC Meeting in Thermopolis as well as what a Team Charter is and does. This is a working document and will continue to develop and grow. The purpose of a charter is to help keep the purpose of the SRC clear, and it assists in planning for the future. A charter also helps new members understand what the group is about, the roles within the group, and the

mission and goals of the group. Lisa will put this information along with the information from the November meeting into a handout for future use.

Information Session

One person came from Rawlins to attend the Information Session. He had multiple accidents, and experiences pain and weakness. He wanted to start a graphic design business but couldn't get VR to contact him; he was denied/rejected by SSI. With later clarification it was discovered that he had confused with the distinction between VR and SSI; it was SSI that took too long to contact him. He has been encouraged by Holly Simoni to continue to apply with SSI and he has a review meeting coming up. He has an IPE that included a Small Business Plan but the Small Business Coordinator has not yet talked with him.

Schedule and rotate attendance at Employer Award and the Information Session with a diverse mix of people to provide information to the people coming to the Information Sessions. Send reminders to people participating at the August session – Dorothy, Ray, Joe, and Shannon.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

The director of the BLN in Lander/Riverton has resigned so they are need of a new director. For more information, please contact Debbie Terech on this position opening.

Rehab Roundup – newsletter that Brian Hickman does for VR, would like input from the SRC to post in the newsletter. Brian would like information by mid-June.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.



Next Meeting: August 12 & 13, 2008
Casper College
Casper, Wyoming