

**NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**

February 26, 2013

DETR
500 E. Third St.
SAO Auditorium, 1st Floor
Carson City, NV 89713

Vocational Rehabilitation
3016 W. Charleston Blvd.
Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Elko JobConnect
172 6th St.
Elko, NV 89801

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maureen Cole
Martin Florsheim
Jane Gruner
Kevin Hull
Jennifer Kane
Sheena Kaufman
Robin Kincaid
Jack Mayes
Kate Osti
Brian Patchett
Scott Youngs

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Chartrand
Virginia Howard

GUESTS:

Marcia Ferrell-Transcriber
Caroline Bass- Certified Hearing Interpreter
Stephanie Gardner-Certified Hearing Interpreter

STAFF:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General
Melaine Mason, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Janice John, Deputy Administrator, Program Services
Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Chief
Bill Boster, Rehabilitation District Manager
Melissa Starr, Management Analyst II
Beth Talcott, Administrative Assistant

EXHIBITS:

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) November 27, 2012 meeting minutes
- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) January 8, 2013 State Plan meeting minutes
- State Plan Committee State Plan recommendations
- Office of Civil Rights Complaint No. 10133001 (private discussion between legal counsel and NSRC)
- Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Statistics
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators
- Vocational Rehabilitation Hearing
- Rehabilitation Successful Closures report
- Current & Proposed Rehabilitation Accounting Practices report
- Provider Agreements
- Nevada Disabilities Conference 2013, flyer
- Breakdown of Bureau Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired/Bureau of Vocational Services Performance Indicators
- NSRC SFY 2012 Budget

I. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Scott Youngs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Melissa Starr called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

III. **VERIFICATION OF POSTING**

Melissa Starr verified that the posting was accomplished on time and per Open Meeting Law requirements.

IV. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Youngs asked for all present to introduce themselves as there were two new Council members and interpreters in attendance.

V. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (NSRC) NOVEMBER 27, 2012, MEETING MINUTES**

Jack Mayes noted on the last page of the meeting minutes, it stated Robin entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, when in fact she was not there. It was determined to research the transcription of that meeting to determine who really entertained the motion.

Jack Mayes moved to approve the November 27, 2012 meeting minutes as amended.
Jane Gruner seconded. Motion passed.

VI. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (NSRC) JANUARY 8, 2013 STATE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The Council seeing no issues with the meeting minutes as presented;
Jack Mayes moved to approve the January 8, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted.
Martin Florsheim seconded. Motion passed.

VII **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION STATE PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Scott Youngs read through the State Plan committee's proposed changes to the Nevada Rehabilitation State Plan.

Robin Kincaid asked for clarification on the words "expand community based assessment opportunities", she asked for additional information of what it meant.

Janice John responded Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is always looking for new opportunities and situations for our students and clients to have an experience with work that they might be used in. We are looking for new employers, new kinds of careers, anywhere we can expand. The opportunities are unlimited.

Goal 1:

Emphasize the employment potential of students with disabilities, and improve transition from school to work and school to post-secondary education.

Strategies:

- Explore the utilization of social and Web-based media as a communication tool.
- Improve special outreach efforts to Transition Students, i.e. camps, Transition Summit Leadership trainings.

- Encourage participation of successful transition students in the referral and outreach activities of other students (peer support mechanism).
- Serve more Transition Students by developing referral mechanisms with secondary schools and post-secondary institutions.
- Comparison to states with similar population and demographics, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Statewide Needs Assessment.
- Identification of students that have fallen out of Vocational Rehabilitation programs.
- Creative marketing to schools and students.
- Maintain Statewide "Transition Connect" Expansion Project.
- Increased communication between Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Special Education Teachers and 504 Coordinators.
- Educating teachers, parents and youth with disabilities regarding the Vocational Rehabilitation process, programs and referral services.
- Work with youth with disabilities, the Nevada Department of Education, local education authorities, parent organizations and families to encourage early discussions with students about the expectations of employment and their skills, abilities, and talents that will empower them to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Vocational rehabilitation representatives to participate with parent/teacher Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) conferences.
- Consider Assistive Technology in relation to this goal.
- Formalize third-party match.
- Expand Community Based Assessment opportunities for students to explore employment options.
- Explore a Job Shadowing and/or mentor program in collaboration with the National Disability Employment Awareness month.

Indicators:

- Consider Assistive Technology in relation to this goal.
- Increase enrollment by Transition Students in the Program Services of the Division. The Division's performance regarding increased enrollment in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels.
- Increase competitive employment outcomes for Transition Students. The Division's performance regarding increased competitive employment outcomes in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels.
- Increase post-secondary educational services for Transition Students. The Division's performance regarding increased post-secondary educational services in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels

Mr. Youngs told the Council during the State Plan meeting this goal and strategies contained significant discussion with some ideas from Mr. Martin Florsheim. He said it was usually his opinion to keep the strategies a bit more general providing services to all individuals with disabilities regardless of their category.

Kevin Hull agreed, the strategies seemed too specific.

Jack Mayes spoke up saying he supported these items specifically the town hall meetings with the deaf community as more of the deaf community is attending more of the council meetings. Many of them expressing, during public comments, are dissatisfied in one way or another. He would like to sit down with those individuals and discuss what it is that they are dissatisfied with. Mr. Mayes said he prefers to be general but in this case specifics were appropriate. This is the only input he has seen over the last year,

the deaf community expressing its concerns. The town hall meetings are a way of showing respect to that community.

Mr. Hull said he agreed with the outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community because there is a language issue and having the public outreaches it would be more comfortable for individuals to come in and express themselves. His issue was in singling out autism, intellectual disabilities, cognitive disabilities, the mental health disabilities. He believed mental health was pretty well representative in the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) caseload massively. He then played devil's advocate in asking why are we not having a better outreach for older people who are blind and visually impaired, who he does not believe VR is reaching as well as they should. He asked where this end would and how far as being specific on all these different disabilities would the council go. There are also those who may feel offended for having been left off the list.

Mr. Mayes responded this was an attempt to clean up the goal language.

Jennifer Kane asked about individuals with other health impairment, multiple disabilities were not listed in the strategies. She said there is a vast majority of our students who fall within some of these other categories oftentimes have multiple impairments. She believes it is the danger of targeting so specifically certain populations. For example if a student has autism but has autism in conjunction with other impairments, then why are we not targeting them as well.

Mr. Youngs suggested changing the language to collapse the other categories that do not talk about the deaf and hard of hearing population, and call them underserved populations.

Mr. Florsheim said he understood everybody's point here, on collapsing some of the strategies. He suggested extending outreach for eligible individuals who are categorized under federal definitions of the three different disabled categories under the federal law. Maybe something that would help the council to look at all disabilities instead of just the deaf and hard of hearing community. It would give a broader understanding, instead of specifically categorizing each disability.

Sheena Kaufman said it was her understanding the goals were created as a result of the comprehensive needs assessment that is done every three years. That is where the populations would come from that would show underserving those individuals.

Maureen Cole stated Sheena is exactly right, it really does come from the needs assessment, that is what informs the entire state plan. Currently the data is old, and the division knows that things have changed, people have come to us with needs that they feel have not been met, that is why we have included some of these additional groups in the strategies. She did not know that all of them come from the hard data in the needs assessment from 2010.

Mr. Youngs suggested amending the strategies by saying; 'Identify under represented population based on the needs assessment, and extend outreach efforts appropriately. To those underserved population where appropriate.'

Mr. Mayes reiterated Identify underserved populations based on current needs assessment. And conduct targeted outreach as appropriate.'

Goal 2:

Extend outreach efforts towards diverse populations, ~~specifically, eligible individuals with autism, developmental, cognitive and mental health disabilities~~ of Nevada's with disabilities.

Strategies:

- Continue marketing efforts with Mental Health hospitals, Mental Health service providers, ~~SSI~~ Social Security Administration (SSA) and State Welfare.
- Partner with Mental Health service providers and Community Rehabilitation Training Centers (CTC's).
- Partner with Department of Health and Human Services, State commissions related to populations concerned with autism, developmental disabilities, cognitive and mental health disabilities.
- Partner with advocacy groups.
- Consider Assistive Technology in relation to this goal.
- Participate in Disability Awareness Month activities.
- Identify underserved populations based on current needs assessment and conduct targeted outreach as appropriate.
- ~~Extend outreach for eligible individuals who fall on the Autism Spectrum.~~
- ~~Extend outreach for eligible individuals with intellectual disabilities.~~
- ~~Extend outreach for eligible individuals with cognitive disabilities.~~
- Increase outreach for eligible individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- ~~Increase outreach for eligible individuals with mental health disabilities.~~
- Hold town hall outreach meetings, specifically for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Continue participation on the Employment First Initiative Work Group, the Nevada Autism Adult Services Work Group, and the Mental Health Planning Advisory Committee.

Indicators:

- Increase enrollment by eligible individuals with autism, developmental, cognitive and mental health disabilities. The Division's performance to increase enrollment by eligible individuals with autism, developmental, cognitive and mental health disabilities in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels.
- Report indicators by region.

Brian Patchett moved to accept the changes and addition to Goal 2's strategies.
Jennifer Kane seconded. Motion passed

Mr. Youngs then opened discussion for the next three goals.

Goal 3:

Extend outreach efforts toward ethnically diverse populations, specifically minority populations with disabilities represented in Nevada's workforce.

Strategies:

- Recruit bilingual and/or bicultural staff.
- Increase marketing and participation efforts with ethnically diverse populations and media, and specifically to Latino and Asian populations.
- Consider Assistive Technology in relation to this goal.
- Collaborate with minority groups with program development and program referrals.
- Participate in appropriate cultural activities or events.

- Ensure documents are available in other languages as needed.

Indicators:

- Increase enrollment by minority populations representative of Nevada's minority workforce. The Division's performance regarding increased enrollment by minority populations in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels. Report data by race and ethnicity statewide.

Goal 4:

Work together and share resources with state, private, non-profit agencies to leverage resources and coordinate benefit opportunities in order to maximize the overall employment outcomes.

Strategies:

- Document dollars utilized as comparable benefits.
- Identify sources of benefits on the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).
- Identify federally matched dollars.
- Formalize third-party match.
- Strengthen relations to maximize matching fund opportunities.
- Provide In-service training regarding how to identify matching funds opportunities.

Indicators:

- Document dollars captured in collaborative efforts and document that the training is held.

Goal 5:

Emphasize the employment potential of applicants and eligible persons receiving Supported Employment Services.

Strategies:

- Partner with other public and private State entities that provide Supported Employment.
- Expand communication and training to staff, State Rehabilitation Council members and consumers on Supported Employment.
- Consider Assistive Technology in relation to this goal.
- Identify and support best practices that encourage high-wage/career track employment
- Utilized the VR Business Development Manager to improve Supported Employment services outcomes.
- Continue participation on the Employment First Initiative work group, the Nevada Autism Adult Services work group, the Mental Health Planning Advisory Committee, and the Supportive Employment Leadership Network.

Indicators:

- Increase the number of supported employment consumers that close successfully, earning at least the federal minimum wage. The Division's performance regarding an increase in the number of supported employment consumers that close successfully in FFY 2014 will equal or exceed FFY 2013 performance levels.

Being there were no discussion or suggestions regarding goals three, four or five.

Mr. Youngs entertained a motion to accept the State Plan as amended.

Martin Florsheim so moved.

Jack Mayes seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT NO. 10133001: RESPONDING TO COMPLAINT**

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General (D.A.G.) at this time the council can determine if they would like his legal-counsel to be either public or in a non-meeting excluding public and staff from the discussion.

Brian Patchett moved to have the non-meeting.
Jack Mayes seconded. Motion passed

The council agreed to receive legal advice from its counsel without members of the public or Rehabilitation staff present in connection with this agenda item. Meeting was suspended for 25 minutes before reconvening.

Mr. Youngs called the meeting to order.

D.A.G. Whitney said for the record, as counsel to the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) They allow for the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights investigation of complaint number 10133001 to continue until the Office of Civil Rights reaches a determination in that matter.

Martin Florsheim moved to accept.
Jack Mayes seconded. Motion passed.

IX. **OTHER REPORTS**

Kate Osti stated she was no longer the chairperson of the Independent Living Council, she has agreed to do a small report, because Lisa Bonet who is the new chairperson could not be here today. The council is proud to announce that they have two new members from the community that have been appointed by the governor. There are two additional outstanding applications that are still being processed. So hopefully by the end of March they will have a full council with the majority being consumer-based. The Independent Living Council has completed and turned in the 704 report. Hopefully Lisa will be able to call the meeting to order in March, and get the new council membership off and running.

X **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Maureen Cole reported the budget hearing for the rehab division budgets will be March 22nd. That happily coincides with the Nevada Disability conference, and on the 22nd is the day of the legislature day for that conference, and so we are hoping that many of the conferees will be in attendance at the budget, and certainly if anyone wishes to make positive public comment. When members of the public attend those hearings, it is very impactful on the legislators and the committee members. For some reason, bureaucrats' statements do not carry much sway, and members of the public get their full attention. It is an interesting process.

With regard to part of what will be heard on the March 22nd is our budget request to consolidate the budgets for Bureau Services to the Blind and Visual Impaired (BSBVI) and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). Melaine Mason has put together some information that demonstrates that if the two budget accounts were to be combined that none of the identifiers that separate the revenue or the expenditures from general Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and blind service VR are going to be lost.

For example by combining, what we get is efficiencies in the accounting and book-keeping it has nothing to do with service delivery. Instead of splitting the rent into one budget account and another budget

account, and then balancing and reconciling two budget accounts, we have a single category for rent. And all the rent is paid out of that one category. However, within each category are job numbers, those job numbers having a B for Blind services, and a V for VR, or a T for Training. So none of those, when they are combined, under proposed accounting for job numbers, none of those identifiers are lost. So we will still be able to determine how much was spent for blind services, general VR, and for any other kind of activity that the federal 110 funds go for.

In addition to the State accounting system, we also have the case management system, the Rehabilitation Automated Information system Of Nevada (RAISON) system, and the RAISON system can slice and dice thousands and thousands and thousands of pieces of data about every client in terms of the type of disability, the types of expenditures, the types of services, the amounts of services. So all of that information is going to be retained and we will continue to collect and maintain that database. So if there is a question from anybody, from the council or from the public, as to how much money is spent for a certain type of disability, or for certain types of training, we can always pull that information out, and share without any confidentiality breach.

Brian Patchett interjected saying he serves as chairman of the Commission on Services to People with Disabilities (CSPD) both Maureen and Mechelle have attended our meeting last week, as Mechelle previously. We discussed this, and really appreciate the assurances the biggest concerns we had as a commission had been to make sure that we were not seeing change in services to persons who were blind and otherwise. So that commission voted unanimously to support this change with those assurances. Mr. Patchett wanted to report what had occurred last week, and said he appreciate all the work that Maureen has done to help allay those concerns.

Robin Kincaid asked if the title was going to be in a person first language.

Ms. Cole replied yes, the name would be in Person First Language. She asked if anyone present had an idea of what the Division could change the name to. Ms. Cole reminded the council the Division would continue to maintain the accounting system that differentiates between expenditures for individuals who are blind or visually impaired and other general VR clients, and that they would maintain the staffing ratio and the expertise that we have now to the extent that they are able to do so. She said we have a number of staff who are very skilled, have taken special training, and have great expertise in serving individuals who are blind and visually impaired, and we intend to maintain that level of expertise within the agency. We will continue to report the performance indicators based on services and outcomes of individuals who are blind or visually impaired and general VR, so that the council and public will have access to those outcomes.

Mr. Hull added a little bit of history, back in the late '70s the agency was called Bureau of Services to the Blind. What they found out was that people with visual impairments were not seeking services because they felt they were not blind so why seek services not meant for them.

So the Division lobbied for a legislative change the name of these services to the blind and visually impaired. Since 95 percent of the people that BSBVI works with are people with visual impairments and not blindness.

Ms. Cole said that is certainly not our intent, a point well taken, and we will continue to leave the full language in there. The intent is not to dissuade anyone from coming to VR to seek services. She thanked Kevin for his input.

Our spring conference for Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) in Washington, D.C. is April 22nd through 24th. If any council members are interested in attending that meeting, please let me know as quickly as you can so we can get you registered and get a good air fare, and the cut-off for the hotel reservations will be fairly soon, please let me or Beth or Melissa know, we can get you signed up. It is always a good time, and they very interesting speakers and sessions.

The Nevada Disability Conference, is March 19th through March 22nd, Ms. Cole noted the flyer in the Council's packets. Vocational Rehabilitation will be at that conference participating in the resource room, so we hope you all will stop by and say hello. As Mr. Martin Florsheim mentioned, the town hall meetings are beginning next week, March 6th, in Las Vegas, two sessions, an afternoon and an evening session; two session on April 11th in Reno at our Corporate Boulevard office, and then May 22nd in Elko, one afternoon session. The agendas and the flyers for those meetings will be distributed shortly, we hope we have good attendance and certainly council members are very welcome to come and participate in those meetings and hear what the public has to say.

Ms. Cole reported the new provider agreement system that the Division has gone to. She said in the past, the State Purchasing division has allowed various agencies throughout the state to operate on what was called a direct purchase agreement, allowing agencies to make some purchases for goods and services without a contract, and the interpretation of how exactly that worked varied greatly from one agency to another. Just recently the State Purchasing division has elected not to renew any of the direct purchase agreements with any state agency. So now according to state purchasing rules and regulation, we must have a contract in place or something that is like a contract, such as a provider agreement for goods and services. The Rehabilitation division opted for the provider agreement, because it is a little less cumbersome. It allows us to have a scope of work for the various kinds of services that we provide for each service there is a different scope of work, and a fee schedule that has been approved by the board of examiners on that concept level. Then each provider signs a provider agreement agreeing to abide by that scope of work and that fee schedule. This is something that we can have them sign up for quickly as they can provide us with their insurance, the background checks, and the business license confirmation, then we can do business with them right away. For many businesses it may be a day or two turn-around. It is a much more efficient way of getting providers and VR clients together so that we can move along with the services that they need to reach their employment goals.

Mr. Hull stated I think it is making it really difficult. In my business, it has been a nightmare for me, in trying to get liability insurance beyond my professional liability insurance. If it was not for Michelle Killian keeping my sanity, I would have already not been a vendor.

Mr. Hull has spoken with dentists in the area, including Ely, as well as the rehabilitation counselor in Ely, Fallon, Winnemucca, and in Elko, a lot of the vendors are confused. I have talked with three optometrists, four optometrists in the Elko area that are getting quotes of \$10,000 a year to put this clause in the sexual harassment area. The only job developer in Winnemucca said he is done and he is not doing it anymore, so that creates a problem there. He is concerned that in Reno and Las Vegas you have so many vendors that you probably will find people that can do it, but in the rural areas there is going to be serious issues with this new provider agreement system, for a variety of reasons, including costs. He is not sure how all of this is going to work out. Mr. Hull expressed some serious concerns, and would like the administration to talk to the rural offices, the techs and the counselors as they all have some serious concerns.

Ms. Cole said she believes those concerns are shared throughout the state, because this is a very different way of doing business. However the decision was made that the direct purchase agreements were not

going to be renewed. We simply do not have the legal authority deal directly with many vendors as we have in the past.

Ms. Cole said it comes down to a question of risk, and liability. The State is simply not willing to assume the risk of uninsured vendors who may intentionally or inadvertently do something that creates liability. And certainly we do not want to put our clients in a situation where they may be at risk. She acknowledged and understood the concerns that vendors are raising. There are two options at this point. We can do provider agreements, or we can do full-blown contracts with each individual service provider.

Melaine Mason offered the council a broader view of the efforts the Division has made, and to address what has going on to succeed at this task.

One, we had at least two days of meetings, town hall type meetings at every geographical location to participate through video or phone to have informative meetings when we first announced that we would have to use provider agreements. All the information was posted on the website.

The Division can certainly have more of those meetings if you find vendors that were not able to attend the numerous opportunities that were given at that time. We can do it again and go through some of those items. Ms. Mason recognized Michelle Killian has made a huge concerted effort, in the procedures that we can negotiate rates. We would like to follow a fee structure, but we are aware that in the rural areas rates may be an issue. Like Medicaid rates. She said we are working on an individual basis in Ely, to work through a vendor's issues so we can retain him as a provider.

Lastly, the other concern you have is the insurance. Michelle and a couple of our other staff members are going to be attending a risk management class in March to talk about liability insurance and get more versed on that. We have a direct connection with Maureen Martinez, who oversees the Risk Management area of the insurance questions so every situation that has been brought to her is addressed, and we are looking for the answer and the ways to best fit the insurance requirement to the service and the means by which that service is provided. For example, the State might say we want car liability then the vehicle insurance can be waived. The insurance area has become a little bit more personalized than first thought about in the beginning.

We are finding some insurance carriers that aren't charging \$10,000 for liability and some who are, this is being researched. This is a work in progress that is why we slated the go-live date for April 8th that gives providers three months. We are on the phone daily, we have e-mail, to work out these questions and fine-tune this situation, so that we can best serve our clients with the most viable vendors within the State parameters of doing business.

Ms. Cole reiterated Maureen Martinez, the Risk Manager for the State, is involved in this process the Division has the ability to work with those vendors who are having difficulty, perhaps refer them to some other insurance carriers that they could talk to, and she certainly is not adverse at all to adjusting the level of insurance to something that is reasonable, given the level of risk involved in that service provision. There is flexibility she encouraged those vendors who are having difficulties to contact Michelle, and let her assume the broker side of the conversation on how provide the services needed at a rate of return that is acceptable to them.

Ms. Cole announced two new Rehabilitation staff, Annette Gatlin who is the Administrative Assistant IV and Melissa Costa who has taken the Management Analyst I position and Sheila Rasor who has returned to

fill the Business Analyst I position.

Janice John said Mr. Mayes had asked a question during the last full Council meeting regarding performance indicators which was reported in the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) 2012 Annual Report in reference to successful employment ratios. The federal performance indicator is 55.8 that is the number the Vocational Rehabilitation Division is working towards. How we arrived at that number is you look at the number of successful closures for us, and you'll notice in the last year it was 852. We have cases that are call 26, 28's, 28's are people that have come to us, we have written a plan, but for some reason the case closed unsuccessfully. However, we did spend funds on this case, it was a person that perhaps made some real progress, but for some reason the person did not go to work. We have an equal number, a little more, 880 folks that again are in that category. So you add those two numbers together, which arrives at the 1732, and then you divide it by the successful closures, which was the 852 and that's the percentage you get.

So we are looking at a successful ratio by looking at all the people that we have touched, and how many actually went to work. And we did not make this indicator, you will notice that we were at 49.19 percent this was one of the areas that we failed at.

Historically that is a tough situation with the nature of our population being transient, and folks do come to us, we get involved with them, we start progress, and then they either leave town, may get ill, may have medical problems, etc. there is a lot of things that occur. But we still work with these folks, but not with a successful outcome.

Mechelle Merrill added It is of all the people that got to the point of having an actual plan and services received, an authorization was created for them to receive a good or service, and yet they did not close successfully with us. It is not just all people who opened a case, you had to have gotten at a certain point of receiving service, and yet you did not close successfully. Achieve 90 days of successful competitive employment at or above minimum wage.

Ms. John said the other thing that was asked was in regards to transition students going to college. So I actually did a survey statewide, and we have 85 students that are transition students that are in either a two year or four year college statewide. I thought that was a pretty significant number. Then when we look at our whole population, adults and transition together, we have 613 clients that are actually in a four year or a two year college or a vocational training program. We have a large population again that we are putting our efforts towards, you know, encouraging people to get into training programs.

XI. **REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET AND SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENTS**

Melissa Starr presented to the Council, the printed budget materials as of February 11, 2013. We have completed the printing of the annual report, and so those charges are included in the actual expenditures, as previously mentioned the comprehensive statewide needs assessment is currently being conducted, and so we're anticipating in June of this year we'll be invoiced for that. And other than those two large items it does appear that we do have the funds to cover us through June 30th of this year.

Mr. Youngs asked about money for sign language interpreters. Based on the increase of the town hall meetings, do we have sufficient funds in there to cover all those meetings.

Ms. Starr responded the cost for the interpreters are going to be paid through vocational rehabilitation services to groups, and from the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) budget we will just be paying for the travel costs, we do have sufficient funds to cover those.

Mr. Florsheim said Just out of curiosity here, the needs assessment that is being conducted currently, are you using that online assessment, or is there an assessment on DVD

Ms. Starr replied actually we contract with a third party vendor, the San Diego State University, and Mr. Chas Compton is leading that assessment. He is also a member of Technical Assistance & Continuing Education Center (TACE), which is our technical assistance for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). So he is very well versed in what he does.

Ms. Cole continued they utilize a number of different methodologies to reach individuals in the community and to solicit information from them, and then they compile all of that information and give that to us in a needs survey, and tell us what they found where the needs for services have been identified.

Ms. Starr added once the results of that survey are completed, it will be presented during the September council meeting, and it will be posted on the website, and copies will be made available upon request to any members of the public or other agencies.

Ms. Cole continued first of all, the Division solicits proposals from qualified vendors to conduct the survey. We do set up the parameters, and clearly providing an accessible means for respondents to provide information is a key piece to it. So there will be sign language interpreters available at the focus groups, the materials are available in Braille, if need be, large print.

They make a number of different modes for accessibility available and then they utilize different methodologies for contacting people, so it is not just one take it or leave it sort of contact that is made.

They have a scientific approach to this, and they are pretty successful. The TACE or Technical Assistance and Continuing Education office is also a contracted service through the rehabilitation services administration (RSA). San Diego State bid for the region 9 TACE contract, they were successful, and have been very responsive to our needs, questions and concerns. They have done a lot of training and provided a lot of information for us, they are also working with several school districts on third party cooperative agreements. I'm personally very confident that the needs assessment will be done in a very professional way, and that we will be pleased with the results when we see them.

XII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Patchett commented he had the opportunity to testify in front of a panel in the Health and Human Services committee of the State Senate. Thanking Ms. Cole for providing some information and began to make the case for drawing down federal funds. In the last year it was over \$9 million that Rehabilitation did not access from the federal government. He said he has spoken with other members in leadership and outside of leadership, in regards to see at some point how we could draw down all those federal dollars at a 1 to 5 match the impact of course is on number of counselors that the Division is not able to hire, salaries that we are not able to pay to attract folks. There is hope for a positive outcome.

Ms. Cole asked to speak of Senate Bill 54 (SB54). This is a bill that the division has put forth to clarify current state law to prohibit state and local agencies from charging rent to the Business Enterprises of

Nevada (B.E.N.) licensed operators. There was some litigation last year as to whether that was a permissible expense that could be charged for the use of the space in a city building. The judge said no, it isn't, the Division thought it best to change the state law to make this issue very clear.

The Division has received a favorable result from the Senate health and human services committee, and we believe they will pass that bill, then on to the Assembly side, and we are hoping to get a similarly positive reception there.

Ms. Kincaid requested a report on the general accounting office report of the May 2012 regarding disability employment and the entitled further action needed to oversee the efforts to meet federal government hiring goals regarding Vocational Rehabilitation efforts to implement as far as the opportunity within Nevada to obtain employment for individuals with disabilities using federal jobs or federal opportunities. This was part of an executive order signed by President Obama. She was hoping this could be an agenda item at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Mayes announced he has challenged the governor's recommended budget as to whether there is possibly discrimination in it, involving Vocational Rehabilitation's (VR) budget because VR is level-funded. In looking at the governor's budget there are areas where the governor is recommending funding that goes to more segregated programming. Mr. Mayes believes that there is a legal argument that there may be some discrimination through policy or actions in the budget. So he has brought that forward to the Commission on Services to People with Disabilities (SPAC) as the SPAC committee has over seen the Olmstead law in the State of Nevada.

He said he would be working on some other angles to bring this real issue up as VR needs more money, and they are just not getting it.

With no other public comments, Chair Scott Youngs entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

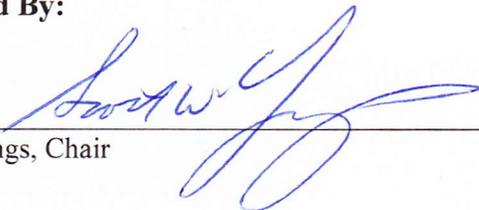
Brian Patchett so moved to adjourn.
Jack Mayes seconded. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 11: 18 a.m.

Edited By:



Beth Talcott, AAIL, NSRC Support Staff

Approved By:



Scott Youngs, Chair