

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

November 19, 2013

DETR/Vocational Rehabilitation
3016 W. Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89102

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Beers
Lisa Bonie
Mathew Dorangricchia
Kristen Hansen
Shelley Hendren
Jennifer Kane
Robin Kincaid
Jack Mayes
Max Miller-Hooks
Kate Osti
Scott Youngs

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jane Gruner
Ernest Hall
Virginia Howard
Kevin Hull

GUESTS:

Marcia Ferrell-Transcriber
Linda Bove-Certified Deaf Interpreter
Branton Stewart-Certified Deaf Interpreter
Dolores Parrish- Certified Hearing Interpreter
Stephanie Gardner-Certified Hearing Interpreter
George Taylor, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Anita Franz, Client Assistance Program
Brook Paulson
Pedro Gonzalez

STAFF:

Rose Marie Reynolds, Deputy Attorney General
Janice John, Deputy Administrator, Program Services
Kara Lang, Rehabilitation Quality Control Specialist II
Janice McFall, Rehabilitation Quality Control Specialist I
Melissa Starr, Management Analyst III
Kelli Quintero, Management Analyst II
Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Chief

EXHIBITS:

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) Sept. 17, 2013 meeting minutes
- 2013 NSRC Annual Report
- Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Statistics
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators
- Rehabilitation Successful Closures report
- Breakdown of Bureau Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired/Bureau of Vocational Services Performance Indicators
- NSRC SFY 2013
- Effective Communication & Section 504 Prohibition Against Retaliation
- Open Meeting Law

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

Kelli Quintero called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

II. **VERIFICATION OF POSTING**

Kelli Quintero verified that the posting was accomplished on time and per Open Meeting Law requirements.

III. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Youngs asked for all present to introduce themselves as there were new Council Members, four interpreters and members of the public in attendance.

Introductions were made, including Kristen Hansen who introduced herself as one of the Council's newest members and a representative of business.

IV. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

None.

V. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (NSRC) SEPTEMBER 17, 2013, MEETING MINUTES**

Jack Mayes moved to accept the meeting minutes.

Lisa Bonie seconded. Motion passed.

VI. **DISCUSSION/REPORT ON CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Jack Mayes said the Client Assistant Program (CAP) is doing well; providing services with some successes. He addressed the challenges of federal budget cuts noting that being a non-profit outside of state government leaves different budget concerns. CAP is in the process of completing the first annual program performance report and will share the report at the next full council meeting.

Robin Kincaid asked what the progress was with the client who had come to the May 22, 2013 council meeting to air his frustrations and concerns. Mr. Mayes replied the case was still being handled properly. He said the CAP has changed some from the way it was ran when attached to Vocational Rehabilitation; CAP now does more advocacy and less counseling.

VII. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NSRC**

Kelli Quintero stated there were typographical errors in the Annual Report copies received in the Council packets. Shelley Hendren, Kristen Hansen and Janice John provided input and corrections. Mr. Mayes asked for color copies to share, and Scott Youngs asked for electronic copies as an alternative format. Ms. Quintero replied to the affirmative. (Note: This Agenda Item was reopened after Agenda Item VIII and approved with revisions.)

VIII. **OTHER REPORTS**

Lisa Bonie, State Independent Living Council (SILC) Chair reported. She indicated the State Independent Living Council was green (*inexperienced*) and that they had asked for training and on November 20th the SILC would receive a day and a half of training. Luis Frick would be conducting the training. The SILC will have their November meeting as part and parcel of the following two days and at that time they are going to be establishing the dates for the 2014 meetings.

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) will be reviewed in those meetings and the following schedule is planned:

- February - Full review process for the 2014 to 2016 SPIL.
- March - Public workshops for the SPIL. The SILC will review the information and

- proposals obtained by the IL services and IL needs survey workgroups.
- May – Discuss, review and revise the SPIL.
- June – Review objectives and determine moving forward with Statewide Independent Living Services survey.

Lisa asked the Council to share an invitation to join the SILC. Scott emphasized the importance of the SILC and encouraged spreading the work. Jennifer Kane also noted the good work and collaborations occurring with the SILC.

Kelli Quintero reminded the Chair it was necessary to vote on the NSRC Annual Report so that it may go to print. Scott Youngs reopened Agenda Item XII and called for a vote. Jack Mayes moved to approve the revised Annual Report as discussed. Jennifer Kane seconded. Motion passed.

IX. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Shelley Hendren introduced herself as the current Rehabilitation Administrator.

She said she attended the September Vocational Rehabilitation Annual In-Service Training.

First day In-Service highlights:

- Cathy Snow an author and public speaker spoke about disability being a natural trait, one that makes individuals human.
- Sally St. John spoke on speaking positively.
- Ann Lindsey, Associate Professor at University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) spoke about exercise and health.
- Chaz Compton from Technical Assistance Continuing Education (TACE) spoke about excellent customer service in the rehabilitation arena.

Second day In-Service highlights:

- Ken Pierson, Vocational Rehabilitation's (VR) Business Development Manager spoke on reaching out to businesses, networking with presentations and explaining how hiring individuals with disabilities will be beneficial to the individual with disabilities, the employer and VR.
 - Another component to the Business Development Manager is Gina Martin who is the Business Service representative in the north. Ms. Martin takes VR clients that are job ready and matching them to jobs in the system. Shelley said so there will be a similar position in southern Nevada.
- Lynnae Ruttledge former Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner spoke about the anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act and promoting VR successes.

Ms. Hendren spoke of returning from the Fall Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) in Denver, CO along with Janice John, Deputy Administrator of Program Services, and Melaine Mason, Deputy Administrator, Operations. They met with other state directors and had very good discussions on the National Employment Team (NET) which is creating a website, Talents Acquisition Portal (TAP) to post jobs from companies nationwide for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients. Ms. Hendren and Janice John said Microsoft had 60,000 jobs ready to put into the system.

Jennifer Kane said she had attended a CSAVR conference five to six years ago and thought it would be a great opportunity to attend this amazing training opportunity. She thought it would be good for the VR counselors to hear from transition age youth who have gone through the VR system for both their personal success and struggles.

Ms. Kane interjected her department had recently finished their seventh annual Student Leadership Transition Summit. Students from the Careers, Recreation, and Vocational Education (CRAVE) summer camp could be highlighted in the VR reports, press releases, etc., as the Department of Education has begun tracking the students as they leave and have actually exited post-secondary education and entered their careers.

Ms. Hendren mentioned the RSA has suggested to the VR to concentrate on Transition so this action to include the Transition success stories is a good beginning. She then reported on the current recruitment status for VR:

- Rehabilitation Counselor III
- Rehabilitation Counselor II
- Rehabilitation Technician
- Administrative Assistant IV
- District Manager for the South
- Business Enterprise Network, Chief

Jack Mayes said there was an executive order about opening up positions for people with disabilities. He asked if there was any possible opportunity for individuals with disabilities to apply for these positions and would the division be including any individuals with disabilities on the selection committees.

Ms. Hendren replied the inclusion of individuals with disabilities on the selection committees would be a good idea. The Human Resource department for the state has been working on the 700 hour list and promoting it as part of the Governor's Executive Order. She would be interested in filling that position with someone with a disability as with all positions. We want someone representative of the community that has the right kind of knowledge base with leadership and decision making skills and some assertiveness and we want a strong manager as well.

Ms. Hendren then moved onto reading through the Performance Indicators for the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). Discussions regarding numbers and percentages ensued:

- Wages.
- Health insurance coverage.
- Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI).
- Competitive employment for Transition youth.
- Why particular Performance Indicators are targeted, due to State Plan strategies.
- Post- secondary education.
- Co-operatively working with the Aging & Disability services, Independent Living entities to improve services to the blind that are younger than the age of 54 (which is where VR begins their service age).
- Advocacy to legislature to re-instate BSBVI funds

X. **REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET**

Kelli Quintero presented the last budget report for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 to the Council. Scott Youngs asked about the captions, captioning and interpreters under contracts. Melissa Starr responded in the past support staff was able to contact directly with the interpreters from the Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) list for interpreter services. Now the Division and Council are only allowed to use contracted interpreter services.

XI. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DETERMINATION OF ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Scott Youngs lead a discussion on following items listed below for future agendas:

- Supported Employment (Jack Mayes)
- Job Developer Service Process (Jack Mayes)
- AT devices and Training (Jack Mayes)
- Role of BVR in transportation (Jack Mayes)
- Independent Living Council Mission (Lisa Bonie)
- Provider Agreements (Kevin Hull)
- Nevada Transition Conference (Jennifer Kane)
- Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit (Jennifer Kane)

XII. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Opened up during agenda item XI;

Ms. Kane provided information regarding the Department of Education's recruiting for the CRAVE summer camp in the north and rural areas had changed hoping the council would be able to understand the impact this will have for transition age youth in accessing VR services and attending camp.

Anita Frantz asked how someone from the public could make a referral for a student to attend the camp. Ms. Kane responded we have two different processes set up one for the north and the rural areas, and one for the south. They recruit from November through January this year and all you have to do is email Ms. Kane and request information. Recruiting also takes place through the Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in each area, as well as teachers who work with secondary students.

Break 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

XIII. **NSRC MEMBER ANNUAL TRAINING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION & SECTION 504 PROHIBITIONS AGAINST RETALIATION**

Kara Lang said the technical assistance manual give us a definition of primary consideration. This gives us direction in honoring the choice of the individual unless there is another equally effective means of communication available or it has been determined it requires a fundamental alteration or undue burden. Ms. Lang read through the Power Point presentation until Ms. Janice McFall began presenting the different technology and auxiliary aids available. (See Attached Power Point presentation).

Lunch Break from 11:30a-12:18p

XIV. **NSRC MEMBER TRAINING OPEN MEETING LAW**

George Taylor, Senior Deputy Attorney General thanked the Council for inviting him to present the Open Meeting Law and its current legislation changes. There were eight amendments in the last legislative session. An important issue that is rising affects every public body in the state. It has to do with your private emails, your smart phones, your tablets. Those individuals who conduct public business on your private phone or your private computer in many states, is illegal, and subject to disclosure. It is subject to a Freedom of Information Act. In Nevada it could, be in the future, subject to a public records request. He then began to read through his Power Point training presentation (see attached).

XV. **THIRD PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Mr. Pedro Gonzalez thanked the Council for providing the Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI's). He expressed his excitement over the Effective Communication training and how the Council actually

follows his preferences when he wishes to attend the meetings. He said it has vastly improved.

Jennifer Kane said during trainings with 60 middle and high school teachers and administrators across the state the question regarding available resources for helping students and their families complete the applications for Vocational Rehabilitation paperwork. She asked if those resources were still available and how would one contact them.

Janice John responded they should contact the Rehabilitation Counselor first. In both the North and South the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has transition coordinators on contract. These individuals should be utilized to sit with the person or the parents or clients themselves to help fill out the application.

Lisa Bonie interjected the Independent Living Centers in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko have an advocate that can also help. Jack Mayes added the Client Assistant Program (CAP) is always available if the VR is being unresponsive in helping clients with the applications.

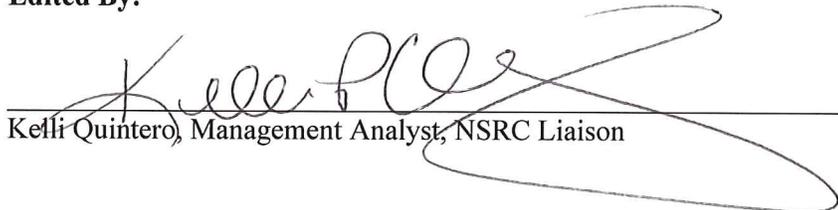
XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Kristen Hansen moved to adjourn.

Robin Kincaid seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Edited By:


Kelli Quintero, Management Analyst, NSRC Liaison

Approved By:


Scott Youngs, Chair