

NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
September 22, 2015

Amended & Approved on 11.17.15

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

DETR
500 East Third St.
Carson City, NV 89713

Elko JobConnect
172 6th Street
Elko, NV

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Bonie
Mathew Dorangricchia
Jane Gruner
Ernest Hall
Shelley Hendren
Mark Hinson
Robin Kincaid
Jack Mayes
Jean Peyton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kevin Hull
Maxie Miller-Hooks
Kate Osti
Sherry Ramsey

GUESTS:

Becky Van Auken, Transcriptionist
Veronica (Roni) Dahir; University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)
Center for Research Design
Michael Doane; UNR Center for Research Design
Stephanie Gardner, Certified Hearing Interpreter
Delores Parrish, Certified Hearing Interpreter
Connie Loper, Certified Deaf Interpreter
Priscilla Moyers, Certified Deaf Interpreter
Ed Guthrie, Opportunity Village
Kristine Miller
Pedro Gonzalez

STAFF:

Rose Marie Reynolds, Deputy Attorney General
Melaine Mason, Deputy Administrator Operations
Janice John, Deputy Administrator Program Services
Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Chief
Kim Cantiero, Rehabilitation District Manager
Bill Boster, Rehabilitation District Manager
Kelli Quintero, Management Analyst
Veronica Sheldon, Administrative Assistant
Beth Talcott, Administrative Assistant

EXHIBITS:

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) May 19, 2015 meeting minutes
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): What it means to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), power point presentation
- VR Funds Re-allotment by state

- VR re-allotment Calculation
- Re-allotment History, Section 110
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators
- Breakdown of Bureau Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired/Bureau of Vocational Services Performance Indicators
- Annual Report Table of Contents
- University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Satisfaction Surveys presentation
- UNR Satisfaction Survey Executive Summaries
- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) membership list with terms
- State Performance Indicators for Vocational Services
- FFY15, Third Quarter NSRC Goals and Indicators
- NSRC SFY 2015 Budgets

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

Ernest Hall called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Veronica Sheldon called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

2. **VERIFICATION OF POSTING**

Ms. Sheldon verified that the posting was accomplished on time and per Open Meeting Law requirements.

3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Hall welcomed everyone to the full Council meeting.

4. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Robin Kincaid mentioned Nevada PEP was having their annual run, walk and roll, a statewide event on Saturday the 26th here in Las Vegas and in Reno on Sunday, September 27th. She encouraged the public to come out. A webinar will be held on September 23rd, at 12:00 p.m., the topic is planning for transition from School to adult. Nevada PEP is holding another webinar on getting and keeping a first job on October 28, 3:00 p.m.

Mark Hinson announced that the Nevada Transition Conference will be held October 16 and 17, at Texas Station in North Las Vegas. For more information and registration go to www.nevadateach.weebly.com.

Lisa Bonie added the disability awareness coalition has a large event in northern Nevada on October 3rd in downtown Reno from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There's going to be wheelchair rugby demo, all kinds of vendors set up, provide information and all kinds of entertainment too. So they put a lot of effort around this. It would be really cool if we could turn out and support it. And also of course Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living pumpkin palooza is coming up October 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in downtown Sparks.

Jack Mayes announced his agency was awarded the grant for the Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WIPA) program. It primarily helps with benefits planning. Our staff is going through training this week in Denver and we have to get suitability determinations from the federal government in order to handle confidential information. Once that is in place, it will provide Statewide services.

5. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (NSRC) May 19, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mayes noted the addition of the word "of" on page seven, last paragraph, the first line. On page eight in the second period of public commented asked if opening quote markings could be added at the beginning of each of those paragraphs.

Janice John asked to have her name added under "Staff" as she was in attendance. She also noted on page six, midway down the page, she made a comment she is always encouraging people, it should read 'hand' instead of 'have'

Jean Peyton moved to approve the minutes as amended.
Jack Mayes seconded. Motion passed.

6. **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)**

Shelley Hendren presented information about Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

- July of 2014 the president signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Most of the sections within WIOA have some time built in for implementation
- Title IV (4) of WIOA contains amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and almost all of these changes were effective immediately.
 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is reauthorized every five years
- WIOA governs over:
 - Title I (1) is workforce development activities and in Nevada this includes:
 - One-stop centers
 - The Governor's Workforce Development Board
 - Two local boards (one in the North & one in the South)
 - Title II (2) is education and literacy act
 - Title III (3) amends the Wagner Peyser program
 - Title IV (4) amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which affects vocational rehabilitation here in Nevada

There is a lot more engagement with education required by WIOA. The State is working on a unified state plan as a requirement under WIOA that says the four core programs are required to work together and discuss how to collaborate and not duplicate efforts, and as a result need to create a unified state plan.

We are trying to create a seamless type of service delivery for workforce programs. Ms. Hendren pointed out that here in Nevada we have the benefit of the Rehabilitation Division being a part of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). The Rehabilitation Division is already ahead of a lot of states as far as trying to figure out how to collaborate and have that seamless delivery in the Job Connects.

There are common performance measures across all four programs, and that is currently being worked on as far as we will still have to negotiate that with Department of Labor and Department of Education as to are we recording this as separate entities or combined for the State of Nevada? We do not know how that will work out as of yet.

Measure No. 1 is measuring what percent of the population are in unsubsidized employment in the second quarter after exit. If someone is in employment, then the Rehabilitation Division would wait 90 days before we close the case in order to ensure someone is stable in employment. Case closure is considered an exit.

Measure No. 2 is the percent of unsubsidized employment during fourth quarter. We are reviewing a year out to see if a person is still at that the same job or still employed. And for youth we have the ability to additionally measure and include how many in the fourth quarter are still in an education or training program.

Measure No. 3 is Median earnings. This is completed at the second quarter mark.

Measure No. 4 is the percentage who obtains a recognized post-secondary credential or diploma or equivalent within one year of exit of the program. This is going to take a lot of coordination with higher education to be able to track individuals a year after exit because obviously they're not in our system.

Measure No. 5 is the percent of clients that are in education or training program that leads to post-secondary credential or who achieve measurable skills gains toward a credential or employment. So part of the comments that a lot of states made, including us, is what are measurable skills gains. We are pleased that we can at track this to show that within this performance measure, someone is working toward a certificate or a degree of some kind and that they're making progress. We can report on the progress. Not just a final outcome.

Measure No. 6 is the effectiveness we have in serving employers. There is a matrix that came out with the proposed rules regarding data collection of performance measures, and there are several elements that are being proposed to measure to show the effectiveness in serving employers right now we are going to have to wait and see how that shakes out.

These last three performance measures are the same for youth as they are for the adult population. That is why you do not see any difference. It was just those first three for youth that includes training or post-secondary education. There is a big distinction now between youth and student in WIOA.

One of the biggest changes under WIOA in Title IV has to do with transition students and is called Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS). What we used to call transition is now very clearly defined as students up to age 22. We are required to reserve 15 percent of our total federal grant for programs and services for students with disabilities, and 15 percent of our full grant if we relinquish or reallocate funds, then that 15 percent is also relinquished or re-allocated. So basically the amount of funding that we receive that we intend to spend, 15 percent of that has to be reserved for transition student programs. The guidelines are very specific. In April we were able to meet with some of the staffers that actually worked on writing Title IV in WIOA. They expressed that the intent was not for this to be very narrow. We hope that the regulations expand what we can spend those funds on. Right now there are only five required activities and nine authorized activities. The funds for "authorized activities" can only be spent once we have provided a *provision of services* for the five required activities. We have to have a plan on how we are going to meet the first five before we can dip into the funds for authorized activities.

The first required activity under PETS is Job Exploration Counseling.

The second required activity is counseling regarding post-secondary education, whether it is a certificate or training program or college degree. We would introduce the program and explain what it would look like and what vocational rehabilitation can do to support the client reach the goal.

The third required activity is to deliver self-advocacy training. We are currently working with several potential providers to do this. We are looking at about six modules, about an hour each or 50 minutes depending on the school day to talk about self-advocacy.

Mark Hinson interjected; the first three parts are almost talking about vocational rehabilitation and the services for information of what can be provided and meeting with the student to decide whether vocational rehabilitation is a good fit or not.

Ms. Hendren replied the self-advocacy, we feel like we can do kind of a short version, but really what we would like to do is something more in depth which would have several classes.

These required activities are to get students and their parents to start thinking about other options out there and supports to help those students.

The other required activities include work readiness programs and actual work experiences. Vocational Rehabilitation has a few programs already in place that are doing this, and so we have some pilots that we can build upon. It is understood that actual hands-on experience, whether you are a student or an adult, is the key to successful employment. And that is what WIOA is emphasizing, especially with students, the need to acquire some work experience.

Qualifications for rehabilitation counselors were changed in WIOA, there were a lot of states that weighed in as WIOA was being drafted that stated that we need counselors with master's degrees. This work requires counselors to have a very specialized knowledge base and training to work with the different populations and specialized needs. However, in WIOA the new requirement is a *minimum*, so we can keep our current requirement of a master's degree. WIOA allows us to bring this requirement down to hire someone with a bachelor's degree in a field reasonably related to vocational rehabilitation. And it is not defined any more than that. They must have a 21st century understanding of the evolving labor force and individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Mayes asked if the Council would have an opportunity to be a part of the staffing qualification discussion. Ms. Hendren said it would be appropriate for the council to be included.

Some additional changes, the entire independent living program was moved over to the federal Health and Human Services. Another change under WIOA is that consumers can potentially be eligible for services if their disability presents barriers to *advancement* in employment.

WIOA is pushing us to explore employment with individuals that perhaps previously would not have been explored. It is asking vocational rehabilitation programs to open their eyes and see what the possibilities are for employment for individuals with significant disabilities. This would be on a case-by-case basis. It is really going to depend on the client and what their abilities are. Under the new Section 511, people with disabilities choosing sub-minimum wage employment must first come to VR. They have to receive career counseling information and referrals. And if they do not or are not able to become employed or to benefit from our services, we close the case. We have to document those things, the client receives a copy of the closure documentation, and then they can take that and enter sub-minimum wage employment at that

point. We have to provide follow-up and referral information at intervals of six months just for the first year and then annually thereafter. And that also applies to folks that are already in sub-minimum wage jobs. They do not have to go through whole vocational rehabilitation program, but we have to provide the information and referrals and talk to them about the ability to come to vocational rehabilitation and explore employment.

WIOA is about collaboration and the Division has reached out to the Regional Centers. Working with the Regional Centers, the Rehabilitation Division would be able to provide a script of sorts, to demonstrate all the pieces that need to be expressed, as well as information and referral sources. The requirement in Section 511 of WIOA is that this would happen on an individual basis, one-on-one.

Ms. Hendren stated that the Division has talked about peer mentoring, and there are a couple of programs that the Division is aware of. The Division currently has two providers with whom they are negotiating an agreement.

The Rehabilitation Division is open to anything that the council can suggest that will help us transition into all of these new changes under WIOA.

7. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION ELECT NSRC MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE REHABILITATION COUNCILS (NCSRC)**

Mr. Mayes brought up this issue as he monitors and attends the conference calls related to the national council meetings. An email requesting votes on some issues had been received. There was no clear indication of who represented this council in the NCSRC. We are a member of the national council, and the council should clarify who has authorization to act on behalf of the council. He asked that the council consider appointing somebody.

Mr. Hall inquired of Deputy Attorney General Rose Marie Reynolds if it was necessary to have an election or could the chair make an appointment. D.A.G. Reynolds checked the by-laws to find an appropriate avenue to take.

Mr. Hall remembered D.A.G. Reynolds had given him authority to appoint someone in the interim until it could be an agenda action item. He then asked for nominations and/or volunteers. Mr. Mayes volunteered and hearing no other responses asked for a motion.

Jane Gruner moved to appoint Mr. Mayes as their council representative to the NCSRC. Lisa Bonie seconded. Motion passed.

8. **DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY SUB-COMMITTEE'S UPDATE REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE 2017 PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY**

Mr. Mayes reported we had a meeting on August the 14th to discuss the Satisfaction Survey. We had some miscommunication or misunderstanding of the purpose of the meeting. So we concluded that what we were looking at for now is to see if we can make the current questions a little more user friendly. The same questions would be kept, but cleaned up so they are a little easier for clients to understand. There is a follow-up meeting on October 19th to review and come up with recommendations.

9. **DISCUSSION/REVIEW FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2015 STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FUNDS RE-ALLOTMENT STATUS**

Ms. Hendren said she would defer the presentation to Melaine Mason, Deputy Administrator of Operations, saying she is going to get into the numbers to help illustrate why there was such a

large re-allotment. Ms. Hendren said that on the surface it looks awful and it looks like perhaps we are not doing what we should, but that each year the Division has done better, at least in the last four years. We keep getting better at spending as much as we are able to almost down to zero by the end of the year, which we are required to do. We cannot carry over like other states can. This year we actually spent down to within five percent of our total funds in the program. That is pretty tight budgeting, and that kind of leads into the \$8.9 million that was re-allotted. If you look at Exhibit A, that is public document that you can pull up online. It demonstrates which states gave up money and which states took that money in and spent it on their programs. Just keep in mind those are federal funds and in order for states to use this money, there is a requirement that the State has a matched portion to pull the federal funds down.

Melaine Mason continued "internally we use a worksheet to determine how much funding we are going to re-allot and what programs need to re-allot and this will also help you see how the match is constructed for the section 110 grant.

"Our section 110 grant, funds our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, both VR as well as blind services. Historically we do re-allot funds for a variety of reasons.

"We can have some matching issues as we did last year, where we lost \$800,000 of match from a business enterprise contract, Fallon Naval Air Station. That was significant. However, we continue to grow our match sources by collaborations with independent living, and with third party cooperatives. We construct those third party cooperatives so that we have some over match, which helps us offset the administrative expense of the program but also generates additional federal funds for us to use in the VR program. So that is the benefit of a third party directly to the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

"We also receive the Independent Living grant, and pass that through to Aging Services. They provide the 10 percent match. We do not believe we will be relinquishing any federal fiscal year 2015 funds as we are waiting on the final bill. We did not relinquish any of those funds. Older blind always spends out. Generally we are out of money by February. We use program income to supplement ongoing services through June. This is how we continue to keep that program going.

"Supported employment, is a hit and miss throughout the years for relinquishing funds, but definitely the last five years we have really focused on developing that program as a team so that we did not relinquish funds. In the past, they are not matched, so we do not want to give back free federal dollars. It now requires a 10 percent match, and as you learned today, it is very truncated. Half the grant goes one direction and the other half is for general services. Once that grant funding is out, we can use section 110 or program income to continue providing services.

"Where the challenge is, and where the re-allotment comes in to play, is a state law, that says when you receive general funds, if you do not use them because you get additional funding from another source (a third party cooperative, would be a good example, the Fund for Healthy Nevada Grant is another good example for another source of match that we continue to pursue), you give back the unused general funds.

"The Division cannot pre-match and save more federal funds for a later date. In essence, it is created us to have a one year grant even though the grant is two years because it must be matched in that first year.

"Last year in 2015, we lost match. So while we had a larger state budget that we could have expended more money, we did not have the cash to pay the bills.

"The year prior we gave back \$600,000 in general fund. So we are getting good at managing, but \$211,000 of general fund is awfully close to the sword's edge when you are trying to manage \$15 to \$18 million. This is a very strategic process that goes on, and basically ends in April. If you do not have your strategy in place, April is your last chance. You have to know by February what you are going to do to make it through June. February really is the last effort to align your plans to maximize the funding that you have in front of you because of work programs, Interim Finance Committee (IFC), etc.

"In 2016 our grant is \$28 million. We already have our budget for this year and next year. Unfortunately, it really did not grow significantly.

"When you base how we are doing just on that re-allotted number, you are really skewed and led astray. We did not have the cash to match it. We do not have a state budget built around that, and as we all know, we biannually build our budget. We need all of you to help support that budgeting process to get advocates at the budget hearings. We are constantly working on strategies. We will start putting the budget together in February for the Division for the next biennium.

"We are definitely at a point in this program that we are at rock bottom. We cannot take any more cuts or shave any more off the operation. We cannot function with reduced client services. Our funding to client services has significantly dropped since 2010/2011. It is part of what Nevada's economic crisis has been.

"It has not been that we have not put forth the requests, the strategies or the plans. It is that most people do not prevail in getting more money these days. Look at the benefits and salary of the state workers. You know, we have been on furloughs, for eight years or so. They were necessary.

"There is no more money, so we are looking at third parties. During the next legislative session we will go do a 'big ask' again. Definitely be involved in that ask. Talk to advocates. Come to our budget hearings. Work with us, our administrative staff, in talking to legislators who make those decisions, because it really comes down to match. We definitely have a great program that we can continue to develop more programs for people with disabilities, but we are at the bottom of the barrel with our funding."

Mr. Mayes said basically when he saw the relinquish amount come across my desk in an email, as a consumer and as an advocate, it felt like a kick to the stomach and then that was replaced with betrayal. I felt betrayed by the administration in Nevada.

Regarding the Governor's Taskforce on Integrated Employment, Mr. Mayes said, "For the last six, eight months, we have been doing this intensive work on competitive integrated employment resulting in a strategic plan, and then I find out there is no new money, we chased our tail for eight months. And then it got dumped onto a committee that does not even have enough money to run its own business. I am just really disappointed.

"I will say the words do not match the actions. It is real disappointing to me that \$8.9 million is not on the table, and our neighbor, Utah, which is similar to us, picked up \$9 million. And they went to order of selection. So I just can't figure out what is the real problem."

Ms. Mason replied it is the match.

Mr. Mayes responded then there is a problem with the budgeting and how that is addressed. He said he had a meeting with the governor's chief of staff about two weeks ago on a different issue, but he made sure to bring up this concern from the disability community. Mr. Mayes did not know that it would go anywhere, but explained how disappointing it was.

In addition, the Governor has released two executive orders indicating that he wants to improve employment outcomes. But there is not any additional dollars to be put towards that.

Mr. Mayes often hears concerns from clients that they have been told by their counselors that there is no money for services, especially close to the end of the fiscal year. So there is a lot of disconnect in what is being said versus what reality is.

Mr. Mayes asked is there a maintenance of effort requirement, and how can the NSRC help in requesting more money?

Ms. Mason answered there is a maintenance of effort requirement that the Rehabilitation Division tends to meet every year. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to have a budget presentation in April-May about what we are putting forth. February, we will know what we are going to do as a Division. The department doesn't require this, but we know the process and how to prepare and where we need to strategically be to succeed in the budget process.

In June DETR starts putting budgets together and massaging cost allocation, and the Director also is involved in saying what we can put forward and what we cannot.

10. **DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF THE 2015 NSRC ANNUAL REPORT**

Kelli Quintero said the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council must prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), no later than 90 days after the end of the federal fiscal year, an annual report on the status of the VR programs operating within the state and make the report available to the public through appropriate mode of communication.

The 2015 annual report is due on December 31st. A final draft report will be presented to the council during the November 17th meeting and final revisions must be made prior to printing. Mailing is scheduled for the second week in December to ensure timely arrival to the U.S. Department of Education, RSA.

What is attached is the table of contents. Information wasn't coming in quickly enough and anything that would be provided to you today would have been very rough. So what you have is what we have standard in the report for you to review, and this would be your opportunity to have any input, additions or deletions as such.

Mr. Hall asked the council members to be proactive in emailing Ms. Quintero with any corrections or comments prior to the November council meeting.

11. **DISCUSSION/REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO (UNR), CENTER FOR RESEARCH DESIGN AND ANALYSIS (CRDA) CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS**

Dr. Veronica Dahir read through her power point presentation related to the Vocational Rehabilitation client participant surveys with the General participant, the student Transition and Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) populations.

She reviewed the number of participants per section, how many were contacted and by what methods. She also shared how many participated in the surveys. These ratings help to create a guideline on how scorings were calculated.

Requests came from the members:

Ms. Kincaid noted between 2013 and 2015 some "dis-satisfied" percentages increased. She wondered if that was a trend or if more training was necessary for counselors.

Dr. Dahir responded she could research the numbers and reasons in a longitudinal report by looking at the specifics.

12. **DISCUSSION ON NSRC MEMBERSHIP-VACANCIES, UPCOMING VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS**

Shelley Hendren announced at the next meeting the council will be looking at some policy and by-laws changes to discuss and possibly approve issues with vacancies on the council and how to interest people in applying for the open positions.

Currently, we are really struggling with the business, industry and labor positions. We have four mandated positions on the council, one of which is filled by Max Miller-Hooks. There is one vacant and the other two are expired or will expire this year. Kevin Hull terms out in December, Jack already termed out in August, and then one is vacant. So we really need some business and industry representatives if you know anyone they can go online to get the application to for a gubernatorial appointment and can be submit directly to the governor's office as per the instructions that come with it or it can also be submitted to Kris Nelson who is DETR's liaison to the governor's office and she can forward it on as well. We will have some policy and some bylaw changes, just real minor, to address at our next meeting.

13. **OTHER REPORTS**

Lisa Bonie of the Independent Living Council reported the State Independent Living Council (SILC) has gone through some changes, and have some great direction coming from a new staff person Rique Robb. They have achieved more in the last four weeks than they had achieved in the last three years. They had training and an orientation for their members as well as some very active recruiting going on and have added some members. The SILC participated in training about the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and writing the next state plan for independent living.

Mr. Mayes said the federal fiscal year ends at the end of this month. He will be bringing that report to the next meeting.

As an agency, he was happy to report that they had an extensive push in the Hispanic community, and an overview of their casework shows that cases involving individuals from the Hispanic community have increased by 30 percent.

14. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Shelley Hendren proceeded with her administrator's report by reading through the state performance measures for the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Bureau Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI) and the Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) programs.

Jean Peyton shared in her office of employment they had done some research nationwide with other providers of services for the blind and found that the dropout rate seems unusual high in any program dealing with blind individuals. She did not know if there is a fear factor involved,

and asked if that has come up in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), that the client does not believe the system is getting to the client quickly enough.

Ms. Peyton continued, "So there for a while the blind connect was taking this personally. 'Wow, what are we doing wrong?' But it seems to happen in a lot of places. The timeliness is real critical and the other part that I believe is very important, both VR and blind folks, is the counselors really listen to what the client is saying. Sometimes we listen and go 'we know better' and so we just sort of move that around a little bit. The initial reaction from the counselor to what I am saying to you is really critical for that long term success."

Ms. Peyton then turned her attention to the Performance Indicator columns and asked if those columns could be printed on separate pages with larger print for better reading. Ms. Hendren agreed adding that we may not need them every month unless they change.

Janice John reported on the Workforce Service teams saying VR has waited a very long time to create them. Gina Martin has been in this position as a workforce service representative in the north and has really provided a great resource working with our clients, the VR teams and the Job Connect offices to make job matches. A significant increase in placements has been seen by utilizing her services, whether it is a direct placement or just touching in terms of coordinating, matching, or receiving referrals. Ms. Martin has been involved with a number of placements in the northern district.

Two business service representatives have been hired for the south and will start on October 12th, and will be going through the training process will be getting out in the community. We will have Ms. Martin train the staff in the south.

Ms. Hendren continued that these are basically internal job development teams; that Gina (Martin) has been highly successful. We used data from her success rate when we asked for this during the last budget cycle.

As you know we were not awarded any new positions. So we did a lot of strategic planning to look at our internal resources and move some staff around to create these teams. We will have two in the south with a technician assigned to them, two in the north with a technician assigned to them, overseen by Ken Pearson, Business Services Manager. One of the northern staff will travel and perform these functions in the rural areas.

This strategy might bring up that percentage as far as for successful employment outcomes by having these internal job developers. That allows us to focus on outside job development more in the area of supported employment.

15. **REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2015 BUDGET**

Ms. Quintero said the Division provides support staff and a budget for the Council as required by the Rehabilitation Act. The Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) support staff works closely with the deputy administrator of operations regarding planning for Council needs and encumbering funds and tracking expenditures. The attached budget is an estimate of where expenditures should be spent, but the Council is not bound by the line items. The focus should be on aligning council activities and responsibilities relative to the established budget and proactively planning for expenditures that require additional funding. Attached is the budget status report which is new for fiscal year 2016. Ms. Quintero asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Mr. Mayes stated that in the legislative session, AB200 passed related to deaf services, and a component of that was the state was going to be able to access PUC money to pay for interpreter services. Would the council be able to tap into any of that resource to help cover any of the special accommodations should the council have a significant expense, which is acceptable, allowing that budget funding to be used by another budget item? He asked Ms. Quintero if she could check into that as he was not sure if it would benefit this program or not.

He also asked if council training could be supported by the budget.

Ms. Quintero replied we can move line items. And I could look for a category that it could fall under. I will not give you a definite answer. But I can certainly look into that for you or come back to the next meeting and answer it for you and what that would look like

Mr. Mayes stated that the independent living council has actually brought somebody in from out of state to do a training to help them understand their role. He was not sure if this council has ever had training from an outside resource before.

Ms. John added the Rehabilitation Division has had trainings by Mr. Chaz Compton from San Diego State University (SDSU).

Ms. Hendren confirmed with Mr. Hall and Mr. Mayes that training by outside resources was doable, money could be moved around to pay for the training(s) after some of the council vacancies were filled. They each agreed to bring it up at the next full council meeting in November.

16. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Ed Guthrie from Opportunity Village said: "I just wanted to echo Jack's concern about us having to give money back to the federal government. I think that it's especially when the Governor and others in the legislature dedicated themselves to throwing down new federal grant money, we already have a federal grant, and because of the inability to match we are giving money back.

"It's not really -- I mean, it's all of our fault and it's nobody's fault. Part of it is that the federal government has increased the amount of money that we have available, but the other part is that -- and we've been in a recession as a state. But I applaud Shelley and others being creative in trying to find third-party agreements because when we talk to folks in California and some of the other states, vast majority of where their money comes from is the third-party agreements. One of the things that I'd like to suggest, just internally for the state of Nevada since WIOA makes the youth defined as up to 24 years of age and since they can be on long-term supports for up to four years, it might be a good opportunity for the Aging and Disability Services division and DETR to look at a way to sponsor all of those youth up to 24 years of age for long term support services using Aging and Disability Services division funds to be the state match so that you're able to -- because then you're able to get a much higher return than you would using 100 percent general fund dollars even using Medicaid dollars.

"The other thing that I'd like to suggest -- the other thing I just wanted to mention is that we are -- I made a commitment to Shelley and others, one of the groups that I'm very concerned about, at least in Clark County, and I'm sure it's the same in Washoe County and in other areas, is that these youth that they are aging out of foster care are youth with significant disabilities who would be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. And those youth would become eligible long before the they age out of foster care.

"So if the -- if there's a way to get the social services departments of the counties who are responsible for foster care to direct some of those funds -- some of their funds as being the state match for vocational rehabilitation services, we would be able to draw down, again, additional funds to serve that very vulnerable population.

"And so we are working with Don Verdet, who's the county manager down here in Clark County, and Tim Berg from social services to try to set up a meeting for everybody to see where we can go with this and how we can move off the dime to at least have it happen down here in Clark County."

Pedro Gonzalez then shared, "Hi. This is Pedro Gonzalez. (Inaudible) has been sharing an issue with me related to cochlear implants. They need to be eliminated. There are a lot of concerns about this. Hearing aids are fine. So when it comes to cochlear implants, that needs to be removed from the list. That's our concern. Regarding playgrounds and parks, they tend to slide on different playground equipment, and they have these cochlear implants, their devices in while they're playing, sometimes there's contact or they get hit or damaged on the slides or the equipment and they have to go to the hospital. So that's the concern I wanted to share."

Mr. Mayes said, "I'm sorry, folks. Just for the people here in the north, we actually are having a merchant mixer tonight down at the Jungle. Jungle is an employer here in town who's participated in the customized employment program. And he was so excited about working with us and the results he got. He wanted to educate other merchants down in the river downtown area. So he's invited all the other merchants in the area and he's hosting an appetizer and mixer. So if you're around 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. it's tonight at the Jungle."

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jack Mayes moved to adjourn.

Lisa Bonie seconded

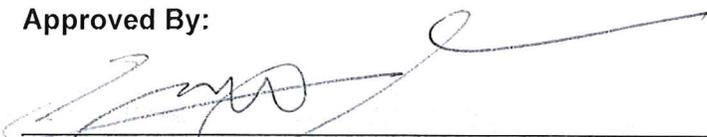
Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Edited By:



Veronica Sheldon, Administrative Assistant

Approved By:



Ernest Hall II, Chair