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JUN 04 2010

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

**REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION**

Nevada State Legislative
Building
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV

Great Basin College
Chilton Circle Modular
Conference Room
Elko, NV

Grant Sawyer Building
555 E. Washington St.
Las Vegas, NV

February 19, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jimmy Begay
Deborah Braun
Inez de Ocio
Mary Evilsizer
Robin Hall-Walker
Kevin Hull
Jennifer S. Kane
Brenton King
Brian Patchett
Chris Syverson
Kathy Treants
Scott Youngs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jane Gruner
Ellen Koivisto
Edina Jambor
Jack Mayes
Veronica Wilson

GUESTS:

Ernie Hall, Easter Seals Southern Nevada
Corrie Herrera, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Denise Groves
Scott Carter

STAFF:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General
Howard Castle, Deputy Administrator, Program Services
Robin Generaux, Rehabilitation Chief
Pamela June, Chief, ODEP
Bill Boster, Rehabilitation Manager
Janice John, Rehabilitation Manager
Mechelle Merrill, Northern District Supervisor
Melissa Starr, Management Analyst I
Beth Talcott, Administrative Assistant

EXHIBITS:

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) November 13, 2009 meeting minutes.
- State Plan Committee Recommendations
- Assistive definition
- State Plan Goals and Indicators charts
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators

- Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Statistics
- Redacted Rehabilitation Hearings and Decisions
- NSRC By-Laws
- NSRC member roster
- NSRC Budget

I. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Robin Hall-Walker called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Pamela June read the roll call and verified that a quorum was present.

II. VERIFICATION OF POSTING:

Pamela June verified that the posting was accomplished on time and per requirements.

III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Robin Hall-Walker thanked all present for coming prepared by reading their packets ahead of time. She reminded all present to make sure they state their names for the record prior to speaking, to assist those in attendance and for the transcriber.

**IV. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NSRC
NOVEMBER 13, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Brian Patchett moved to approve the minutes for November 13, 2009. Scott Youngs seconded. Motion passed.

**V. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION STATE PLAN COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chris Syverson read through the changes to the 2011 State Plan. Chris said the State Plan Committee was a very hard-working group in reviewing the State Plan this year.

Goal #1: *Emphasize the employment potential of students with disabilities, and improve transition from school to work and school to post-secondary education.*

- Bullet four, to be changed to "Identification of students that have fallen out of Vocational Rehabilitation programs".

Scott Youngs moved to approve goal number one strategies and indicators as amended. Mary Evilsizer seconded. Motion passed.

Goal #2: *Extend outreach efforts toward diverse populations, specifically, eligible individuals with autism, developmental, cognitive and mental health disabilities.*

Kathy Treants moved to approve goal number two with adding cognitive developmental disabilities to the indicators. Brent King seconded. Motion passed.

Goal #3: *Extend outreach efforts toward ethnically diverse populations, specifically minority populations with disabilities represented in Nevada's workforce.*

Brian Patchett moved to approve goal number three as amended. Scott Youngs seconded. Motion passed.

Goal #4: Assist individuals to transition into work by the provision of quality employment outcomes, retention of competitive employment, and self-sufficiency through accessible and equitable services

Chris pointed out the separation of Supported Employment from the original goal number 4 creating a new goal number 5. She noted the first strategy was moved to goal number one.

Brent King moved to accept goal number four with revisions stated. Jennifer Kane seconded. Motion passed.

Goal #5: Emphasize the employment potential of applicants and eligible persons receiving services and Supported Employment.

Chris stated that goal number five was previously included in goal number four, making goal number four rather task heavy. The State Plan Committee's goal is to emphasize the employment potential of applicants and eligible persons receiving services and supported employment.

Brian Patchett moved to accept goal number five as presented. Brent King seconded. Motion passed.

VI. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES BY THE REHABILITATION DIVISION

Brian Patchett introduced Ernie Hall as not only an Easter Seals Southern Nevada senior Director in Information, Assistive Technology, but also the Chair of the Assistive Technology Commission. Brian began with a little self back-ground. Brian said he is the CEO of Easter Seals of Southern Nevada. He has worked with the Technology for the Assistance of Persons with Disabilities Act. He has taught graduate courses at Syracuse University on Assistive Technology and directed an Assistive Technology Program. He stated one of his concerns is related to low instances of Assistive Technology. He believes some of this may be due to improper coding in the Rehabilitation Division.

Ernie Hall said he grew up with a brother who was labeled as MR or DH with autistic tendencies. He said he also hired employees for the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas where he hired individuals with disabilities, which sparked his interest in seeking assistance for individuals with disabilities to have healthy lives with the assistance of Assistive Technologies. He said he is self taught in the Assistive Technology arena as there is no formal training available.

He said when evaluating individuals with disabilities it doesn't mean prescribing technology for someone, it is guiding those individuals through the process of choosing technology and helping them understand how to use it. Ernie said from a Vocational

Rehabilitation perspective, when an individual is going through their intake process Assistive Technology should be included. Also, he would like to see the Assistive Technology transition with the individual rather than stay with a school or program.

Ernie said he worked with Easter Seals in an attempt to publish an Assistive Directory, they have eight names.

Here there was a suggestion/request by Ernie Hall for the NSRC to accept or initiate a standard concerning vendors/providers of Assistive Technology at a state level. The Chair intimated that is something the Assistive Technology Committee should address first within their industry.

Brian asked Ernie if the Assistive Technology Committee share their annual report to the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council from time to time, to keep everyone up to date on what Assistive Technologies are available, etc.

Deborah Braun asked the Council to hear from Vocational Rehabilitation staff before making a decision concerning Ernie Hall's request.

Janice John introduced herself as the district manager for the Southern Region of Nevada; she has the same passion about Assistive Technology as Mr. Hall. Janice said the Division is very fortunate for the past few years to have Victoria Essner who has been the Assistive Technologist for the past five years. Vicky has worked providing evaluations, assessments, training, and work site assessment services to Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, and Older Blind Individuals Program. Vicky has a Bachelor of Science Degree and has completed Comprehensive Assistive Technology Training and has a certificate in Advanced Professional Development for Assistive Technology Applications, this was through the University of California State Northridge, which is one of the top locations for Assistive Technology training in the country.

Janice said Vicky is certified in JAWS scripting and certified in Windows basic and intermediate training. Also in the main office known as Westbay, there is a computer resource center with nine computer work stations. The Assistive Technology present includes Screen Reading Software, JAWS, Window, Magnification Software, Speech, Zoom Text and Magic. Other software includes Eclipse, Probe Software, Open Book, Scanning, Berry, Translation, Typing Tutor, One Handed Keyboard, and Braille Embosser.

Janice stated that she does recognize that there are some problems with numbers of individuals receiving Assistive Technology; the accounting is low however the actual numbers are higher. During the calendar year January 1, 09 to December '09 Vocational Rehabilitation had seventy-three clients referred to the computer resource center. Of these seventy-three, thirty-nine went on to participate in training sessions

utilizing five or more modules while twenty-two participants completed their program utilizing less than five modules. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has in-house services. First assessment determines if the client needs to be referred out or stay with the VR programs, for example keyboarding skills, typing tests, general computer knowledge assessments. Work-site assessments, training, and utilizing Assistive Technology, is often ongoing.

Janice reported the Division spent an average cost of fourteen hundred dollars per client in 2009. And thus far for 2010 the average cost has been thirteen hundred forty-three per client. From July 1, 09 to present there have been 274 clients in the south receiving services.

Mechelle Merrill introduced herself as a supervisor with the Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation Corporate Boulevard office in Reno. She said she has a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling and a certificate from the University of Northridge in Assistive Technology.

Michelle gave the definition of Assistive Technology; Assistive or Adaptive Technology commonly refers to products, devices or equipment whether modified commercially, modified or customized, that are used to maintain, increase or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities, this is according to the Technology Act.

Included in this working definition is the assumption that Assistive Technology devices are those that assist individuals in assessing computers or other information technologies that are ready-made, they are not one of a kind specifically designed for each client. These are generally one of a kind solutions which are customized to the individual and their circumstances. In the Northern District, which includes the Rural Areas the Assistive Technologies are provided by the Tobacco Fund, funds for helping Nevada. The Division is working in collaboration with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability. Since this partnership began in 2008 the Vocational Rehabilitation program had over 103 clients referred and over 60 have received an evaluation and/or equipment, the average cost per client is \$757.

The computer lab located at the Corporate Boulevard office has JAWS, Text Reading, modified keyboards, augmentive communication equipment, the different platforms include IBM and Apple compatibles, there are different chairs individuals can try for different environments. Evaluations are done on a one-on-one basis.

Scott Youngs said he is on the Assistive Technology Council as are both Janice John and Mechelle Merrill. He works on the project that contracts with Vocational Rehabilitation to provide services. He commended the Vocational Rehabilitation for getting the process started as it was a very innovative and cost-effective way to deliver services. There are areas that need improvement and gaps that need to be filled, which will be continually reached for.

Brian said he was pleased with the knowledge of who is a part of the Assistive Technology Council and to see the Vocational Rehabilitation numbers are better than what he initially thought.

Deborah Braun stated the grant the Division received is a four to one match with State monies. This grant is for two years, the Division and UNR will be applying for this grant again.

10 minute break
10:15 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

Mary Evilsizer, Chair to the Nevada Independent Living Council was happy to report the Independent Living Centers had received the American Recovery Act Funds they had requested, she thanked Deborah Braun for assisting through the process. They received \$218,000 over a two year period which is a part of the Title seven Part B funding. Mary said the Independent Living Centers have been funded to expand their services to conduct outreach to individuals with disabilities who are Hispanic and also families with children with disabilities, both of who were being underserved.

She has been communicating with Deborah Braun about partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation to bring all agencies together to see individuals are educated about what services are available and where and to teach them how to stay in the system. Mary reported Title VII, Part B ARRA funding went to purchase video conference equipment for two locations, RAGE in the south, and Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living in the north.

VIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Deborah Braun stated the Division had received authorization format from the Board of Examiners and the Interim Finance Committee to fund the next Vocational Rehabilitation's Needs Assessment Survey. The Division has begun working with San Diego State University (SDSU) in conjunction with the Independent Living Council, as SDSU will be canvassing various clients.

Deborah began with the printed State Plan Goals and Performance Indicators.

- Goal number One; deals with students with disabilities.

2009:

- Participant applications was 4,229
- Processed 660 applications
- 16% represented students

2010:

- Processed 831 applications
- 153 were Transition Students
- Have increased percentages by a couple of points

Post Secondary Education; Occupational, Vocational, College and/or Universities:

- Authorization for this year 287
- Students with Post Secondary 65

- Goal number Two; Extending outreach efforts towards diverse populations, and specifically individuals with autism, developmental, cognitive and mental health disabilities.
 - 2009:
 - Out of all cases, closed 3,451
 - Number with Mental Health disabilities 1,921
 - 56% of the caseload
 - 43 cases involving Autism as the main cause of disability

 - 2010:
 - Closed cases to date, 1,043
 - 606 with Mental Health disabilities
 - 58% of the caseload
 - 15 cases involving Autism as the main cause of disability, to date.

- Goal number Three; Extend outreach efforts toward diverse populations.
 - 2009:
 - Closed cases, 3,451
 - Non-white 1,268
 - 37% of the minorities

 - 2010:
 - Closed cases, 1,043
 - Non-white 406
 - 39% of the minorities

- Goal number Four; Assist individuals to Transition into work by the provision of quality employment outcomes, increased retention of competitive employment, self-sufficiency through accessible and equitable services.
 - 2009:
 - 130 Supported Employment clients
 - 4% Supported Employment
 - Supported Employment Services, 65

 - 2010:
 - Closed cases, 1,043
 - 41 Supported Employment clients
 - 4% Supported Employment
 - Supported Employment Services 22, to date.

Deborah turned to the printed Performance Indicators reporting all percentages are up so far for 2010 excepting the 46.6 percentage of client successfully employed competitively is down, however there are still several months left in the year.

Deborah reported the Ticket To Work cumulative total of claims paid is sixty-three with nine claims disallowed and twenty-one claims pending.

Scott Youngs said he would like more information on the Ticket To Work Program. Deborah responded by saying another presentation would be requested for an upcoming Council meeting.

Deborah asked the Council if they had any questions on the Hearings/Outcomes of decisions. No comments were made.

Deborah discussed recruitment, retention and succession planning. She listed the positions that were still waiting to be filled.

- Southern District:
 - Out of five Rehabilitation Counselor positions, 2 have been filled
 - One Vocational Evaluator, vacant
 - One Rehabilitation Instructor, vacant
- Northern District:
 - Out of Four Rehabilitation Counselor positions, 1 has been filled.
 - One Vocational Evaluator, vacant
 - Public Service Intern, vacant
- Rural District
 - One Counselor position in Fallon has been filled

Currently the Deputy Administrator position is open; interviewing applicants should take place in the next week. Deborah reported Jill Godin, past Council member and current Rehabilitation Counselor, has received Counselor of the Year award from Goodwill.

Deborah publicly thanked Jean Peyton, who had termed out on February 3, 2010, for her commitment and dedication to the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council.

IX. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NSRC MEMBERSHIP

Robin Hall-Walker asked Pamela June to update the Council in regards to who has been missing from meetings. Who had extenuating circumstances and who did not?

Brian Patchett moved to excuse the Council member who has Legislative commitments and to remove the other member due to too many unreasonable absences. Brent King seconded. Motion passed. Robin requested Pamela craft letters to both members with the results of the Board's action. Pamela accepted the task.

X. DISCUSSION/POSIBLE ACTION ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET AND SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENTS

Melissa Starr reported the negative balance in the projected column will even out after funds are rearranged to pay all accounts at the end of the year.

Brent King asked about possible budget cuts affecting the NSRC budget. Deborah Braun responded that travel is the only aspect that may incur budget cuts.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None given.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian Patchett moved to adjourn the meeting.
Brent King seconded. Motion passed.
Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Recorded By:



Captions Unlimited

Edited By:

 7-15-10

Pamela June, Chief, ODEP

Approved By:



Robin Hall-Walker, Chair