

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

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

Great Basin College
Greenhaw Technical Arts Bldg
Room 124
Elko, NV

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

May 19, 2010
(Amended- September 14, 2010)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jimmy Begay
Deborah Braun
Inez de Ocio
Mary Evilsizer
Robin Hall-Walker
Kevin Hull
Edina Jambor
Jack Mayes
Brian Patchett
Chris Syverson
Kathy Treants
Scott Youngs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jane Gruner
Jennifer S. Kane
Brent King
Ellen Koivisto

GUESTS:

Dorothy Tate, Social Security Administration, Regional Coordinator
Lisa Erquiaga, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Erin Fox, Easter Seals Southern Nevada
Delores Parrish, PBIS

STAFF:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General
Maureen Cole, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Howard Castle, Deputy Administrator, Program Services
Pamela June, Chief, ODEP
Bill Boster, Rehabilitation Manager
Janice John, Rehabilitation Manager
Mechelle Merrill, Northern District Supervisor
Claire Soleil, Rehabilitation Supervisor
Kathy Etchegoyhen, Rehabilitation Supervisor
Alan Christensen, Rehabilitation Manager
Heather Johnson, Business Process Analyst
Joan Rachmel, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, III
Kim Cantiero, Vocational Rehabilitation
John Hefner, Management Analyst II
Melissa Starr, Management Analyst I
Beth Talcott, Administrative Assistant

EXHIBITS:

- Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) February 19, 2010 meeting minutes.
- NSRC Satisfaction Support Survey
- Alternative Meeting Date(s) Schedule for 2010 and 2011
- FFY 2011 State Plan
- Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit Report
- Ticket To Work and Sufficiency Program/Employment Networks (EN's)
- Annual Report pictures of Council Members
- Division Policies and Procedures regarding Order of Selection
- Rehabilitation Performance Indicators
- Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Statistics
- Division Position Vacancies
- NSRC Budget

I. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Robin Hall-Walker called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 their patience and dedication to the Council. Robin mentioned this would be Mary Evilsizer's last meeting. She expressed her deep appreciation for everything Mary has assisted with over the past six or more years.

Robin also mentioned a thank you letter Jean Peyton had sent in regards to a special gift she had received from the Council.

Deborah Braun mentioned that this meeting would also be Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Inez deOcio's last meeting as well, and thanked her for all her help.

Both Mary and Inez said it has been a pleasure to serve.

**IV. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF THE NSRC
FEBRUARY 19, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Chris Syverson moved to approve the minutes for February 19, 2010.

Brian Patchett & Scott Youngs seconded.

Mary Evilsizer asked to add information to page six, item VI, second paragraph, line four after the word "reported" 'Title VII, Part B, ARRA' funding.

Chris Syverson motioned to accept the amendment to the meeting minutes.
Scott Youngs seconded. Motion passed.

V. **DISCUSSION/REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE NSRC SATISFACTION SURVEY REGARDING THE REHABILITATION DIVISION SUPPORT TO COUNCIL**

Pamela June gave a brief history of the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) Satisfaction Survey. She said it is a part of the Rehabilitation Divisions Performance Indicators. She said historically the responses have been sent to the NSRC Chair, then he/she sends the anonymous responses to the Rehabilitation Division for calculating the percentages. This year six out of the 17 Council members responded giving the Rehabilitation Division a 100% rating.

Robin Hall-Walker said she hopes more Council members will respond in the future.

VI. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULES FOR THE REMAINDER OF SFY 2010 AND SFY 2011**

Pamela June said traditionally the Council votes on their Annual meeting schedule the last meeting of the calendar year. However with some Council members work schedules changing to a four day work week the meeting dates may have to change as well. In the packets an alternative schedule of meeting on Wednesdays was provided.

Jack Mayes as well as several Council members have stated that Wednesdays really will not work with their other schedules. Edina Jambor agreed that she preferred Tuesdays. Through many discussions it was decided to vote on a Tuesday meeting schedule of:

For the remaining 2010 meetings:

- September 14, Full Council
- November 16, Full Council

Scott Youngs moved to approve the Tuesday meeting 2010 meeting schedule. Brian Patchett seconded. Motion passed.

(Kathy Treants arrived at the meeting.)

For 2011:

- January 11th, State Plan Committee
- February 8th, Full Council
- May 10th, Full Council
- September 13th, Full Council
- November 8th, Full Council

Jack Mayes moved to approve the Tuesday 2011 meeting schedule. Mary Evilsizer seconded. Motion passed.

VII. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ON FFY 2011 STATE PLAN**

Howard Castle thanked the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council (NSRC) and the State Plan Committee for the diligence in assisting in the creation of the finished 2011 State

Plan that is to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on or before July 1, 2010. And obtain approval of the Commissioner for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). He said the background for a state to receive a grant under the rehabilitation act of 1973, as amended, in the final regulations the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Rehabilitation Division. Howard read through the information on the cover sheet. Howard pointed out the separation and creation of a separate Goal Six to accommodate confusing language between the current State Plan and the proposed State Plan 2011. Supported Employment now has its own Goal.

Brian Patchett thanked everyone involved for their involvement in the creation of the 2011 State Plan.

Chris Syverson commented on page 63 of 73 the minimum wage is mentioned and will probably need to be re-addressed next year as Nevada's minimum wage is one dollar above the national minimum wage.

Scott Youngs mentioned that he attended the Western Summit /Collaborative Summit for the administration on Developmental Disabilities Partners he was able to sit in on the Supported Employment session from Washington State. He said they have a technical assistance agency, it is called WISE center.

Deborah Braun asked Scott to email her the web-site information as it may have some good information to look into for the next State Plan planning session.

Deborah asked Heather Johnson to come forward to address Chris Syverson's concern over the minimum wage on page 63.

Heather Johnson responded that the minimum wage is set by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. Chris replied she was glad the Rehabilitation Division's State Plan would also meet at least one goal.

Mary Evilsizer moved to accept the State Plan as submitted. Brian Patchett seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. DISCUSSION/REPORT ON NEVADA STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRANSITION SUMMIT

Kathy Treants thanked everyone on the NSRC and ITAB Council for their support, without it the event would not have been a success. She explained the 2010 event was a third year event. The theme this year was "inspiration to action." Teams of students, teachers and Counselors were involved with the purpose to look for the positives in promoting children into post secondary areas. The summit ended with twenty-one teams working on action plans which are to be submitted on May 21, 2010.

Kathy continued, there were three national young adult speakers and a Nevada team of adults who had been through the Transition process, along with financial aid, which is a big concern for the students. The adults were given the task of meeting the students' needs, and answering questions about removing barriers to post secondary options.

The adults have six different perspectives; youth, young adult, parent, teacher, district and the Counselors. The Summit committee is looking into having a web-site for students and adult participants to access information. Kathy said it was interesting to hear the smaller communities actually wanted classes on Transition.

Kathy said during the summit Scott Harrington and the financial aid presenter assisted a student to complete his FASFA and by the end of the day the student knew he had an award amount.

Scott Youngs asked if there could be a Community Living and independent living piece focused on in the future as not all students go into employment. Kathy reminded him that the focus was for the learning disabled population, and on Post-secondary outcomes, including education and employment.

Deborah Braun asked Mary Evilsizer if a presentation for the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council could be presented regarding Scott's issue of Independent living.

Mary Evilsizer replied in the affirmative. She also mentioned it was in line with what the Independent Living council is doing. Deborah said it is something that is also in the State Plan.

Deborah asked Kathy if something could be discussed at one of the Employment Summit related groups in June. Kathy didn't see any difficulty with this request.

IX. DISCUSSION//REPORT ON SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TICKET TO WORK AND SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM AND EMPLOYMENT NETWORKS (EN'S)

Dorothy Tate introduced herself as the Area Work Incentive Coordinator for the entire State of Nevada. She said her specialty is work incentives for disabled beneficiaries.

Dorothy said the Ticket to Work program legislation was passed in 1999. The Ticket to Work is a voluntary program that offers our beneficiaries age 18 through 64, who are receiving Social Security (SSA) disability benefits and supplemental security income SSI, based on disability, expanded opportunities to obtain services and support that they needs to work and achieve their employment goals. She continued, SSA does this by paying providers of services referred to as employment networks for assisting beneficiaries in attaining their employment goals. The ultimate goal of the program was to reduce reliance on Social Security disability and to promote increased self-sufficiency for beneficiaries through work. Congress instructed

Social Security to use its regulatory authority to refine and improve the program. In August of 2007, Social Security issued notices of proposed rules which proposed changes to the ticket regulations. The beneficiary and the employment network agree to work together and develop an individual work plan that outlines the mutual commitments. To understand the effects of their benefits many meet with the representatives of the Work Incentives Plan and Assistance (WIPA).

Mary Evilsizer said the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living has the only agreement with SSA and services the whole state through video-conferencing thanks to the Rehabilitation Division who helped to secure the funds for the equipment.

Dorothy stated under Social Security's Ticket to Work program a person with a ticket may choose between being served by a provider approved by Social Security, to function as an Employment Network (EN), or being served by the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency. She continued, Vocational Rehabilitation agencies can choose whether or not to serve that particular beneficiary. However the work incentive improvement act permits Vocational Rehabilitation, on a case by case basis, to choose between seeking compensation under the traditional cost reimbursement or one of two employment network payment options.

Dorothy said, there are three types of expenses for which SSA reimburses Vocational Rehabilitation agencies; direct costs, administrative costs, and tracking costs. Under the new Ticket regulation, Vocational Rehabilitation is no longer required to have ticket assignment to submit a case for cost reimbursement. This new regulation is for those situations where Vocational Rehabilitation is serving a beneficiary under the traditional cost reimbursement program. All this information can be found at www.ssa.gov.

Dorothy reported some Nevada statistics;

Number of tickets mailed to residents of Nevada—72,554
Number of tickets used with the Vocational Rehabilitation --2,157
Number of tickets used with Employment Networks --417

Scott Youngs wondered why so few Tickets were used. Dorothy responded beneficiaries may be afraid of the possibility of losing their benefits and health insurance. She said Social Security has very stiff criteria for qualifying for the Disability benefits

Dorothy said last year we had 1300 offices in the nation, with 46 million visitors, the average being between 800,000 and 1 million per week in their offices.

Mary Evilsizer stated the Social Security Administration (SSA) with Dorothy Tate has brought a phenomenal working relationship of beneficiaries with the SSA. They are attentive, quick and efficient. She said they have weekly workshops with Southern Nevada Independent Living Center offered by WIPA. Mary offered to have a WIPA staff member make a presentation at the next Nevada State Rehabilitation Council meeting.

Jack Mayes informed those present that the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center received some funding through the Ticket to Work program to provide advocacy in the process of utilizing the ticket. They have a staff member in Las Vegas that works with WIPA.

Break 10:20a to 10:33a

X. DISCUSSION/POSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NSRC

Pamela June said the Nevada State Rehabilitation Council is required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to prepare and submit to the Governor and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration an annual report of their activities. The Rehabilitation Administrator Deborah Braun suggested to memorialize all of the council members by having individual pictures taken of each member. Pamela said Melissa Starr has graciously agreed to take the photos when she is in town.

Melissa asked the Council members to look at the calendars included in their meeting packets to see when she would be in their area, so she could make their photo opportunities appointments. Melissa said many of the other states are taking individual pictures of their Council members as well.

Chris Syverson moved to approve the schedule as outlined in the calendars. Brian Patchett seconded. Motion passed.

XI. DISCUSSION/REPORT ON DIVISION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE LEVELS OF SERVICE FOR ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Howard Castle said he has researched the Policy and Procedures Manual to identify the policy and procedures that address ensuring adequate levels of service for all eligible applicants. In general terms it is addressed throughout the Division's policy and procedures, the section with the Individual Plan for Employment (IPE), specifically all services will be provided on an individualized basis for a person to become employed or maintain employment. It is the responsibility of the state unit to provide an organized and equitable method to serve individual with disabilities that are eligible and apply for services, will be served.

Howard stated Nevada is fortunate that we have not ever had to go into an Order of Selection. The last data has anywhere from 40 to 45 percent of the 80 programs of Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services are in Order of Selection, some of those states have as many as 3-6,000 people on waiting lists. Interagency cooperation between Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation is central to ensuring the continuity of services to young adults with disabilities who are in transition from school to adult living.

Howard said students with learning disabilities are typically perceived as having mild rather than severe disabilities, these youths are most at risk of falling through the cracks in the service landscape, a good reason for avoiding the Order of Selection.

Vocational Rehabilitation is mandated to look at comparable benefits. Vocation Rehabilitation has used a lot of the WIA program moneys for programs out in the communities, stimulus dollars have been a godsend for the last couple of years. The State of Nevada has failed to be able to draw down the full federal match of federal dollars for years. He said the current Administrator has been actively seeking other revenue to use to draw down that money.

Howard reported the Rehabilitation Division has been able to provide **all** eligible clients services needed to enter into competitive employment throughout the last 30 years.

Chris Syverson thanked Howard for his report and handout, as it was she who had requested the information on Order of Selection.

Jack Mayes asked if Vocational Rehabilitation clients are categorized as severe, or non-severe. Howard asked if he wanted the percentages of each category. Jack replied yes.

Mary Evilsizer commented her Independent Living Center works closely with Arizona who has just recently gone into the Order of Selection. The Arizona Vocational Rehabilitation is at almost a standstill, as they are only working with the most severely disabled individuals therefore there is no room to do intake for other types of disabilities or other individuals in need. She cautioned to keep this in mind. All eligible individuals need to be assisted not a specific few.

XII. OTHER REPORTS

Mary Evilsizer reported their State Plan has been completed and submitted to the Rehabilitation Administrator. She said in the Plan they incorporated a goal to increase the number of interpreters in Nevada. She said they have a goal included to address transitional living for students.

Mary reported the State Council for Independent Living voted to utilize the Title VII Part B funding for adaptive equipment for individuals who are eligible for that type of equipment. She said they have had a waiting list with up to 215 individuals; there are approximately 52 new intakes every month and 46 cases being closed every month. The funding is expected to help decrease the number of individuals on the waiting list and the amount of time their names are on that waiting list.

XIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Deborah Braun read through the Division's Performance Indicator's provided in the meeting packets. (The BVR spreadsheet was missing from the packet and was sent via email later that day to all Council members.) From these report all goals were met or above the projected goals.

Deborah moved onto the Ticket to Work report. She said a staff member is working with Maximus and getting the Tickets filed, so far for the year a total of \$783,809 has been received, a \$200,000 increase from last year due to the very hard work the staff member has done.

Jack Mayes asked if the money received from the Ticket to Work program can go towards the Section 110 federal match. Deborah responded federal money cannot be used to match federal money.

Recruitment, retention and Succession planning, Deborah reported the employee committees have not met during this report period. She said the following BVR/BSBVI positions are open;

- Administrative Assistant IReno, NV
- Administrative Assistant I.....Reno, NV
- Public Service Intern II.....Carson City, NV
- Rehabilitation Chief II.....Las Vegas, NV
- Rehabilitation Counselor.....Reno, NV
- Vocational Evaluator II.....Las Vegas, NV
- Vocational Evaluator II.....Las Vegas, NV

Deborah introduced Maureen Cole who has accepted the Deputy Administrator, Operations. Maureen said she was looking forward to working with the Council. She invited Council members to contact her should they have any questions about operations, budgets, or funding.

- The Director has put together a grant team to find some other matching funds opportunities. Some dialog has taken place with Opportunity Village and some kind of in-kind match opportunity to get more funding into our program. The Division is putting together a marketing packet for presentation purposes.
- Division venture called Maintenance of Effort to bypass a federal government penalty for failing to return unmatched federal funds to the federal government. Last year the Division had to return \$8 million, the Division cannot afford to do that again. So a waiver will be filed with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to waive the penalty from the State of Nevada.
- The Divisions Customer Satisfaction Survey and Needs Assessment Surveys are ongoing. The Customer Satisfaction Survey is being completed by University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), they are communicating with a variety of individuals; clients, former clients, etc. to help guide the Division in what we could be doing to be more efficient, same with San Diego State University (SDSU) who is conducting the Needs Assessment. These surveys will be completed at the end of June.

- Council on the Assistive Technology Council happenings. Since AT was presented at the last NSRC meeting an expansion of the AT Council to include both Clark and Washoe County School Districts. The Council has some good plans on how all entities can collaborate in order to help students with Assistive Technology devices.
- Council member Edina Jambor and staff Bill Boster will be attending a training in Baltimore, Maryland the National Training Forum for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in August.
- The Rehabilitation Division's yearly In-Service Training tentative dates are September 27th and 28th. The Council members are always invited and will be receiving a "save the date" for their calendars.
- The Division is in the process of completing a grant application. This is the last year of the five year in-service training grant that the Division receives from the RSA. It is approximately \$19,000.
- Upcoming Employment Summits the first is taking place Monday May 24th through Wednesday, May 26th. The other Summits will take place in Las Vegas, June 7th thru June 9th and in Elko, June 14th thru 16th.
- A strategic plan from supervisors and managers on how the Division can better organize staff and improve their ability to serve clients. An action plan has been created assistance is coming from San Diego State University.

Brian Patchett commented the organization he heads up would be willing to speak with Deborah on assisting with the Federal 110 draw-down funding. Deborah thanked him and said she would be giving him a call.

Jack Mayes said he attended a meeting with Health and Human Services Director discussing budgets and the Governor's new system called POGS, which creates a multi-level budget. i.e. Top Level; being zero state dollars, Second level; program with matching funds, Third or lowest level; 100 percent out of state general funds. Jack asked Deborah if this new system would help the Division.

Deborah responded she had heard about the plan second hand, in her estimation it would help the Division as Division funds are not 100 percent state funds but come from Federal Match programs. Baby steps are being developed at this time.

XIV. REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATE FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET AND SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENTS

Melissa Starr reported the Budget chart hand out was correct and current.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

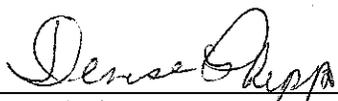
Jack Mayes requested a report on how many Vocational Rehabilitation clients have presented Ticket to Work vouchers. A running total for finance.

Scott Youngs requested more information on Order of Selection. To hear the Division's perspective on how it might impact clients and consumers and the services they provide. Pamela June interjected that the next meeting has a full docket, these agenda items/ reports will be fit into future meetings.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Brian Patchett moved to adjourn the meeting.
Mary Evilsizer seconded. Motion passed.
Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Recorded By:



Captions Unlimited

Edited By:



Pamela June, Chief, ODEP

Approved By:



Robin Hall-Walker, Chair