



## Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council

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"A consumer-controlled council committed to ensuring quality rehabilitation services."

### SRC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lonnie Berger, Jodi Bodnar, Jeremy Daffern, Gloria Eddins, Jana Egan, Sharon Elliott, Lindy Foley, Christine Gaspari, Jason Gieschen, Todd Ludwig, Tobias Orr, Cindi Walz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Catrina Gray, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Paulette Monthei

**NEBRASKA VR STAFF PRESENT:** Holly Enriquez, Angela Fujan, Mary Matusiak, Shawn Roberts, Lupe Stevens

**VISITORS:** Margie Propp, Ben Sparks, Alvin Parker, Terri Ridder, Scott Parrill, Ashley Altman, Jordyn Brummund

#### I. **Approval of Agenda**

Lonnie Berger moved to approve the agenda as written. Christine Gaspari seconded. Verbal vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

#### II. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Jana Egan moved to approve the May 2024 minutes. Christine Gaspari seconded. Verbal vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

#### III. **Robert's Rules, meeting etiquette, and short break hourly**

Meeting procedures were discussed. There were no questions.

#### IV. **Introductions**

Introductions were made. Gloria noted how positive it was to have several potential members attending.

#### V. **Council Membership:**

A. New/potential members: Ashley Altman (NCDHH), Jordyn Brummund (NDE), Brittany Hanks (Eaton), Scott Parrill (Pizza Ranch), Alvin Parker (VR-Winnebago Tribe), Terri Ridder (State Workforce Board)

B. New Members (none)

C. Terms ending: Lonnie and Jeremy's terms will end in September. Gloria and Lindy expressed appreciation to Lonnie and Jeremy, this group has been instrumental with helping VR in moving forward with policies. The time and dedication, outreach and leadership is much appreciated.

Recruitment reminder: Individuals with a disability are needed. Gloria mentioned that Disability Pride was well attended and that would be a great opportunity to promote the SRC. It has been scheduled for July 26, 2025.

Angela explained the composition rules of the SRC and having to have 51% members who have a disability.

## VI. **Action:**

### A. Follow-up to action items from last meeting:

Pledge of Allegiance (Jason) Jason was not in attendance at this time, Gloria tabled this item

### B. Election of Officers (Gloria)

- Angela explained the process of selecting new chairs and how the Executive Committee works including discussing the agenda and membership
- Committees will designate chairs during breakout
- Asked existing committee members to step up and volunteer
- Jana Egan volunteered for Vice Chair
- Christine Gaspari was nominated by Angela Fujan for the SRC Chair position and accepted the nomination

## VII. **Discussion:**

### A. Member Feedback on Written Reports:

#### 1. ATP (Tobias) – see written report

- ATP celebrating 35-year anniversary celebration
- 179 projects authorized this last quarter, 51 VR staff referrals
- Lindy gave a shout out to ATP on their 35-year celebration
- During the Disability Pride event ATP partnered with the Recycling Council to take donations, clean or service items and rehome equipment: 84 people donated multiple items, rehomed 3 power chairs and numerous other items

#### 2. CAP (Jodi) – see written report

- Five cases were referred to CAP, all used mediation to resolve issues with Nebraska VR staff and client
- Attended National Disability Rights conference in June
- Learned that only 58% of states have a policy on customized employment and only 18% have a fee schedule to pay for it
- Attended a value-based communication session that was based on marketing, knowing your audience, and thinking about different populations that we present to
- Continues to work on finding commonalities on cases, connecting with other states to improve the Nebraska VR Client Satisfaction Surveys

#### 3. Deaf & Hard of Hearing (Jeremy) – see written report

- 11:26 Currently onboarding Behavioral Health Coordinator
- Working with a contractor to identify qualified applicants for the Executive Director position
- Regarding NCAF access funds, can include auxiliary aid or service

#### 4. NSILC (Christine) – see written report

- SILC continues to make improvements and undergo changes
- Working on getting member nominations approved with government
- Working on updating SILC website and updating promotional items

5. Ombudsman (no report)

6. Nebraska Youth Leadership Council NYLC (report only)

B. Member Feedback on VR (Gloria) – none

C. Director Report (Lindy Foley)

- Would like to have Kathy Lloyd of the NYLC to come and update the SRC group.
- Mary Matusiak presented on a new VR Policy – Foundational Concepts, policies that we believe in as an agency that didn't fit under any other policy.
  - Chapter written to cover 9 topics: Mission and Values, Customer Service, Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act, Informed Choice, Code of Conduct, Progressive Employment, Motivational Interviewing, Bridges out of Poverty, CliftonStrengths
  - Jodi is glad the information is now in the policy manual
- Lindy continues to watch discussions in Washington DC related to VR grant awards. With a decline of clients there is a decline of spending. We are in a good place with funding but we also need to be aware of what is happening nationally. We may need to ask the SRC for written reports to support VR in the future as it relates to advocating for the program to congressional delegation. This type of outreach would also be coordinated with the Nebraska Department of Education.
- Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) sent out priorities with success stories including a story about CPAP, a powerful testimony regarding supports.
  - Here is the link to look at the story, <http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/pathways/>
- We have approximately 40 staff that provide PreETS services and we are gearing up for a great school year. School surveys show positive results. Schools are happy with the work that Pre-Employment Transition Service Coordinators are doing with their students.
- Cool new videos on Nebraska VR external site, <http://vr.nebraska.gov/> including new orientation videos to send to VR clients
  - There is a new Orientation Video in Spanish for the first time.
- We are supporting the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) plan July 1 and moved out of Order of Selection (OOS) and no longer have a wait list.
- Olmstead work: reminds us that we are very engaged and hugely invested in the impact employment can make. Tobias will lead the Olmstead Housing Group and Lindy will lead the Employment Group.
- We are updating the language on the policy in the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) chapter regarding a client actively using drugs or alcohol.
- Climate Survey – We received 112 responses out of approximately 190 staff, Leadership is reviewing the information.
  - Based on feedback we would like to provide more training for supervisors
  - Will have Reflective Supervision training soon
- Department of Justice is investigating living arrangements for people with serious mental health needs. Findings have been released to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). VR plays a role with ensuring this targeted population is informed about the benefits of employment and the services Nebraska VR can

provide should the individual decide to seek competitive integrated employment.

## VIII. **Committee meetings and reports:**

### A. Client Services Committee (Jodi)

- Holly reports that majority of clients with a job have a job that is meeting their needs
- VR is providing support, placement, and trying to do survey 90 days after employment
- Would like to explore and gather contract survey services information and how to get them done
- The value of completing surveys at other points during services is more timely feedback
- Will connect with Arkansas VR on how and when they complete surveys, still in trial phase, so may reach out to Tennessee VR.
- Thinking about drilling down information to make it more specific
- Cindi is new Client Services Chair, Jodi and Matt will help backup

### B. Employer Services Committee (Jana)

- Introductions were made and discussed the SRC DEI awards, with 40 entries and the subcommittee appreciated the opportunity to review all of the submissions
- Winners: Entrepreneur Nick Natale, Small Business Community Christian Elementary School, Large Business Embassy Suites, New Business Pinkelman Truck and Trailer, Champion Mike Bursaw
- Question was asked if we could expand the self-employment category to include an expanding business or support an existing business-this was agreed upon.
- Chair was decided to be Todd Ludwig

### C. Transition Services Committee (Sharon)

- 12 summer programs, received 390 school surveys back and received satisfaction scores in the 90th percentile
- Continue to discuss how to get students back into VR services after graduation
- There is a trend that outside agencies are not invited to Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings and NDE will work on that
- PTI is focusing on direct services and more collaboration and working on reaching out across the state to more clients
- Gloria is the new chair

### D. Executive Committee (Gloria)

- New members met for a short orientate on and had the opportunity to ask questions

## IX. **Public**

### **Comment/Announcements:**

- Christine working on updating SILC site, adding calendar, email her with items to add to the calendar
- Gloria got a new chair with help from ATP and VR
- NCSRC Fall Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, 2024
- Next meeting in person at NDE in Lincoln, October 1, 2024