



State Rehabilitation Council

Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South • PO Box 94987 • Lincoln, NE 68509

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Vocational Rehabilitation Office October 15, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "Master Calendar" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Bloechle, Robert Danner, Jaime Galloway, Gayle Hahn, April Isaacs, Sherri Kelley, Tim Kolb, Brad Meurrens, Corrine Holtz (for Leslie Novacek), Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, Mark Schultz, JD Simmons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barb Benes, Seamus Kelly, Vicki Newman, Joni Thomas

VR STAFF PRESENT: Angela Fujan

PRESENTERS:

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:00 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No public comment was given.

The meeting was an open meeting and the Open Meetings Law was posted on the back table.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were introduced to the Council. Brad Meurrens joins the Council to represent SILC. JD Simmons is the new representative of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim Kolb moved and Gayle Hahn seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 13, 2013 MINUTES

Jaime Galloway moved and April Isaacs seconded a motion to approve the August 13, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent**

SRC MISSION STATEMENT

Angela talked about the options that were presented for the SRC Mission Statement. The Council discussed the different options and many preferred #5 and #6. After much discussion, Tim Kolb made a motion that the Mission Statement be, "The State Rehabilitation Council recommends and advises Nebraska VR for the purpose of ensuring quality employment services for Nebraskans with disabilities." Jaime Galloway seconded the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

REVIEW SRC WEBSITE FOR CHANGES

Discussion was held around the content of the Nebraska SRC website. In reviewing other states, the Nebraska site seems to be comprehensive. Membership is listed without any contact information. All contacts go through Pam Kasl as Council recorder. Members did not feel that any changes were needed on the site.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

No feedback was given.

CAP REPORT

Vicki Rasmussen provided a verbal CAP report as well as a written copy. She is working with the Omaha South team on a directory that is being put together to assist in helping clients connect to the correct agencies. Two policies are being reviewed for clarity and a safety plan is being developed.

SILC REPORT

Tim Kolb and Brad Meurrens provided a SILC update. The State Plan has been completed. They are supporting youth with disabilities around advocacy and working with the Nebraska unicameral. They are trying to broaden the Council membership to include youth and persons with mental health issues. SILC has concerns about VRs potential move to the Department of Labor as the focus of that Department is not on individuals with disabilities returning to work. SILC will research this further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Client Services Committee

Vicki Rasmussen reported.

- The client satisfaction survey results were sent out to members. A revised set of questions will be used for the survey beginning with the new year. Some teams are doing a better job of encouraging people to participate in the follow-up survey. Mark Schultz does follow up with offices that receive negative comments to see what changes may be needed.
- The deaf and hard of hearing focus group recommendation included a committee being formed for discussion. The committee did meet. Many of the ideas centered on marketing but they decide to begin their work around training. They will teach staff how services can be altered to better serve someone with a hearing impairment. The group will meet again in January.
- The committee from the Latino focus group has not yet been established.

Employer Services Committee

April Isaacs reported.

- Members were asked to contact Jim Coyle if they have any personal contacts in the Unicameral. Some of VRs best advocates are leaving due to term limits.

- The certification program is expanding well. Falls City has a new welding program running. Negotiations are going on in Norfolk for a program.
- Jim is working with the VA and Appleseed program.
- They would like to form an “employer group” who could meet to give feedback to VR.
- A new web program called, TAP, will be available for persons with disabilities to create a resume and then send out to employers.
- Mark Schultz will be a key note speaker at the Project SEARCH National Convention, July 21-25, 2014 in LaVista, NE.

Transition Services Committee

Gayle Hahn reported.

- Mark Mason is visiting schools to make sure they are using the current VR forms.
- The transition case reviews went well.
- They are developing a school counselor contact listing for the website.
- New staff training is being done every quarter.
- The newsletter name is being changed to appeal more to students, Transition Works.
- The process of working with students is now just like to process and forms used when working with adults.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mark Schultz provided a VR Director’s Report

- The federal government is currently shut down. The state can continue to operate with carry-over funds that will take Nebraska through January.
- The Rehab Act and the Workforce Investment Act are held up due to the shutdown. Recommendations are being made that RSA stay within the Department of Education. At this time, CSAVR has not taken a stance on whether Independent Living should be moved to HHS. Nebraska VR has a good relationship with the Department of Education and has a strong transition program. What takes place at the federal level does not necessarily affect the state.
- April shared that employers are looking for a more diverse workforce. Disabilities are minimized as applications are taken on-line. The unemployment rate in Nebraska is not very high so the number of applicants for a position is not usually high.
- RSA is still reviewing the federal Corrective Action Plan around the monitoring for Supported Employment Programs. All the necessary reports have been submitted to them so as soon as the government re-opens the CAP should be settled.
- Mark does a team tour twice a year. A team evaluation is done once a year. Issues and questions are discussed during the visit.
- My VR App will allow clients to communicate with staff in a more informal way using a social media-type application. Their plan for employment could be accessed and allow email contact with Counselors. Two teams are piloting the Application. There is national interest in this project.
- 600-700 people are expected at the National Project SEARCH conference that is being held in LaVista on July 21-25, 2014.

- Some federal guidance has been distributed regarding meal reimbursements. VR will try to minimize the instances when a lunch will be provided. Since the SRC meets with committees while eating their lunch and have no break, a reasonable lunch will continue to be provided when the scheduled meeting time makes it necessary.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.