



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

**State Rehabilitation Council Meeting  
Nebraska State Office Building  
February 5, 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:** Lisa Alexa, Barb Benes, Robert Danner, Jaime Galloway, Sue Gieschen, Gayle Hahn, April Isaacs, Seamus Kelly, Tim Kolb, Vicki Newman, Leslie Novacek, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, Mark Schultz, Joni Thomas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mitch Arnold, Sharon Bloechle, Sherri Kelley

**VR STAFF PRESENT:** Don Crouch, Angela Fujan, Sandy Ham, Sara Chapin

*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.

Sue Gieschen announced that Vicki Obrecht has resigned from the Council to be available for her family.

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

Sandy Ham and Sara Chapin shared the plans for the Senator’s luncheon. A video will be shared that highlights services and Kipp Ransom will be the spokesperson for the SRC.

Angela Fujan was welcomed as the new facilitator for the Council as Don Crouch is retiring.

Sue Gieschen asked if the Council was interested in participating in the University of Massachusetts survey that was emailed out. She received a limited response. The University is interested in surveying 7 or 8 consumers from VR that meet several criteria.

Kipp Ransom moved and Lisa Alexa seconded a motion to participate in the University of Massachusetts survey. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.** The Executive Committee can discuss how to find eligible participants. Vicki Newman is willing to be interviewed.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Kipp Ransom moved and Barb Benes seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

## **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 9, 2012 MINUTES**

Jaime Galloway moved and Barb Benes seconded a motion to approve the October 9, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mark Schultz provided a VR Director's Report

- The Community College certificate program is being discussed with the University of Massachusetts. They are interested in the program and are looking at expanding to the medical community. A grant will be given to Nebraska to assist in this research project.
- The University of Massachusetts is also interested in how VR comes up with an idea and works through it to implementation. The My VR plan to use social media to better communicate with clients was an idea that was submitted. Stipends will be available to individuals that would participate in a pilot. The grant begins March 1.
- The University of Syracuse is interested in rehabilitation technology service delivery. The program is being evaluated to see if it can be a model for the country. The national trend is a decline in VR. Nebraska is of interest because Nebraska has not experienced a decline. It may be the work that Nebraska does with community partners and meeting the changing needs of the consumer that are the key to success.
- The Governor has been supportive of VR and has proposed budget increases for the next two years to assist in capturing federal dollars. If federal sequestration should occur, VR would be looking at a 5-6% federal cut.
- A compressed work week schedule for staff was piloted and was very successful. It was used for consumers to have greater ability to come in before or after their work hours. Mark has implemented this as a permanent policy.
- VR staff is participating in sign language classes to try to better serve the deaf and hard of hearing population.
- A certificate of appreciation was given to Seamus Kelly for three years of service on the Council.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Don Fritz was introduced to the Council. He was asked to facilitate the Council's development of a mission statement.

In review of SRC/VR documents (Committee mission statements, Federal Regulations, Federal Guidance on the role of SRC, Definition of SRC from the website) key terms and themes were selected:

- Consumer Control
- Review, Analyze, Advise and Coordinate in partnership with VR
- Measure
- Review, analyze and advise through surveys and agency info
- Develop state plan
- Coordinate services with other agencies

- Diverse group, consumer controlled
- Review, evaluate and advise the agency based on consumer needs
- Always remember who we serve
- Compliant to Rehab Act
- Relationships, model and develop
- Communication, input
- Quality Services, evaluate and recommend

Common Themes: Consumer controlled, review & analyze, input, measure & evaluate, partnerships

Four groups wrote Mission Statements to share:

- We are a consumer controlled council along with VR who reviews, advises and analyzes services, partnerships and consumer satisfaction in order for individuals with disabilities to achieve employment.
- Diverse group of individuals representing consumers of Nebraska VR for the purpose of reviewing, analyzing and advising VR on services provided and the appropriation of necessary and sufficient services for person with disabilities.
- The SRC is an independent diverse group of individuals committed to insure quality services to Nebraskans using VR services through education, communication and advocacy.
- To advise VR on policies and processes to insure quality services.

*For whom are we in business?* Nebraska VR

*What business are we in?* Advise and recommend; insuring quality services; helping VR to meet their mission

*How do we?* Through a consumer controlled, independent council; review, analyze and advise; advocate

## **FINAL MISSION STATEMENT**

The SRC is an independent advisory council representing Nebraskans with disabilities that recommends and advises Nebraska VR for the purpose of insuring quality employment services.

## **INDICATORS OF SUCCESS**

Small groups discussed indicators of success.

- When we have participation from all the members, when members are engaged and attend
- Represent diverse perspectives from all the stakeholders
- Improved results from satisfaction surveys, outcomes
- Assisting VR reach the under-served population
- Follow up received on recommendations made

## **NEXT STEPS**

April Isaac moved and Kipp Ransom seconded a motion for VR staff to refine and wordsmith the mission statement. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Share the mission with people to see what it means to them. Test it to see if the intent is being represented.

Refine as necessary and then formally approve it.

**CLOSING**

Don Crouch was thanked and recognized for his years of service to VR as he is retiring at the end of the month.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.