



State Rehabilitation Council

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

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting State Office Building February 11, 2014

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: Robert Danner, Jaime Galloway, Gayle Hahn, April Isaacs, Tim Kolb, Brad Meurrens, Leslie Novacek, Kipp Ransom, Mark Schultz, JD Simmons,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barb Benes, Sharon Bloechle, Sherri Kelley, Seamus Kelly, Vicki Newman, Vicki Rasmussen, Joni Thomas, Rita Hammitt

VR STAFF PRESENT: Angela Fujan,

VISITORS: John Wyvil; Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Kim Davis; Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 11:15 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.

A presentation on the UbiDuo was given by Kim Davis and John Wyvill prior to the meeting due to a lack of quorum.

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

Ashley Hernandez was introduced as the new SRC secretary, replacing Pam Kasl.

The council was reminded that after the meeting adjourned they would be attending a Senator's lunch at the state capital. Talking points for the luncheon were distributed and reviewed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2013 MINUTES

April Isaacs moved and Tim Kolb seconded a motion to approve the October 15, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

April Isaacs reported she met a new VR staff member who is a good fit for the team.

Council discussed submitting copies of the agenda, meeting minutes and other committee information to members electronically versus U.S. mail as it had been previously done. Council agreed that electronic communication is preferred using PDF attachments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time constraints committee reports were tabled. Committee representatives were asked to submit a written summary of their reports to be distributed to the council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mark Schultz provided a VR Director's Report

- Vermont VR will be providing technical assistance to the Lincoln office for a pilot of Vermont's progressive employment model which promotes that "everybody is ready for something".
- The state plan goals will be on the agenda of the next SRC meeting so Council members should prepare by thinking about what goals they would recommend as priorities for VR for next year.
- To date there has been no change on the status of federal WIA reauthorization legislation.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m., to allow Council members to attend the Legislative Luncheon.

SRC Committee Report Summaries

February 2014

ATP - Leslie Novacek

The Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) has been piloting a Lincoln Office project since October 2013 to increase the local employer and community partner knowledge base of the available ATP device demonstration and loan support and other AT information. The project is named RYSE (Retain Your Skilled Employee) and is based on three steps: 1. Learn about and borrow equipment to keep injured or struggling employees in the workforce, 2. Get referrals to onsite service providers, and 3. Obtain funding information for technology when requested for permanent solutions. We have held six sessions to date in our Lincoln Office Demonstration Center, which have resulted in a variety of outcomes. One outcome example following a session resulted in a fast track referral to Nebraska VR, which involved an ATP referral and a return to employment per report from Corinne Holtz, ATP Resource Coordinator. Future targets for planned sessions include occupational nurses, Lincoln HR associations, existing VR employer contacts, and others. If the SRC council members or others would like to experience the RYSE session (RYSE to the occasion with Nebraska ATP), please contact Angie Ransom at phone number (402) 471-2490 to schedule an appointment.

Employment Committee- April Isaacs and Barb Benes

The Business committee for SRC has created a group of employers willing to give input to the State Rehab Council as needed. This group will be surveyed via email several times a year as their expertise in hiring/employment is required.

CAP- Vicki Rasmussen

1. Lack of services: The client's Mom contacted CAP because she felt her daughter should be receiving more services. Outcome: It was determined the daughter did not have an open case and the Mom was surprised. She said the specialist gave her advice and maintained contact with her. I told her I did make the office director aware of this situation and provided the Mom with information for her daughter to reapply for services.

2. Lack of services: Reviewed file and determined there was a lack of contact from the client and the agency. The office director had recently spoken to the client and he was going to let her know if he wanted to continue to work with VR. She had not heard from him. Outcome: Shared this information with the client and provided the contact information. Advised him no services will be provided unless contact is made.

3. Lack of services: Contact was made with CAP because of lack of follow-up. This individual said his specialist bought him a bus pass and he hasn't heard from him for 3 months. Outcome: Gave

him name and number for office director. Advised him to share what he told me and he could ask for a different specialist. I also said I would follow up.

4. Questions about Community Action and ATP: This individual contacted CAP because of dissatisfaction with modifications done through Community Action. During our conversation she mentioned working with ATP. Outcome: Reviewed ATP file and spoke to the specialist. ATP was involved, did an assessment and developed plans. The client chose to work with Community Action and ATP's plans were not used. Informed the client ATP was not involved. Informed the client of the appeal process with Community Action and who she should contact to begin the process. Also provided her with advocate information to help her through this process.

NESILC- Brad Muerrens

1. New marketing materials

NESILC has acquired a new logo and efforts are under way to re-design NESILC's marketing materials (e.g., website, brochures) to incorporate that new logo and updates to the current NESILC marketing materials.

2. Developed grant process

NESILC has developed a new initiative for the Centers for Independent Living to apply for funds/grants to help them provide staff development to strengthen operational and programmatic processes. CIL's can apply to the NESILC for an award (total funds available for each CIL is approximately \$1300.00) to pay for staff training and development. NESILC has had a couple of CILs apply for these funds.

3. Behavioral health conference proposal

NESILC, in an effort to increase the diversity of the council, is committed to soliciting NESILC membership from the behavioral health community. The council appreciates the cross-disability component to independent living and wishes to increase representation on the council from behavioral health consumers. To this end, NESILC has presented at and attended the Nebraska behavioral health conference in previous years, and is preparing a proposal to present at the upcoming behavioral health conference in 2014.

VR Ombudsman Report

(10/13-12/31/13)

1. Client had complained the previous quarter regarding services by VR and an SE provider to the State Ombudsman. Investigated allegations. Closed the case with the State Ombudsman. The client is not ready to return for services due to health. She keeps contact with VR Ombudsman & has been referred for help with Social Security questions.

2. Client wants VR to purchase a vehicle. VR had discussed modifications but she has now decided that VR should cover everything including the vehicle purchase. Will not use public transportation even though VR has offered tickets. Explained Rule 72. She is being sent “a denial of service on the Van purchase”. Case still open.

Youth Leadership Council – Kristi Berst

NYLC has added an additional regional council to the youth network. In October 2013, the first meeting of the Western Nebraska Youth Leadership Council was held with four members. Already since that time we have added two additional council members. The group meets in Scottsbluff and is already preparing to present for the first time at the Youth 1st Conference in April.

NYLC currently maintains an Advisory Council and regional councils in the Eastern, Central, Northeastern, and Western portions of the state. We have been asked on several occasions to support chapters located in Nebraska high schools.

In addition to our regular council meetings, NYLC is in the midst of presenting multiple times throughout a 6-week long Transition Conference season. NYLC will be represented at youth conferences and workshops in Omaha, Hastings, Columbus, Neligh, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and Norfolk. Presentations most often provide information on how to advocate for oneself while transitioning from high school to post-secondary training or in the work place in a peer: peer format as well as an opportunity to market the NYLC to current high school students with disabilities. NYLC is currently working to support individual members to expand their leadership experience by participating in outside committees, work groups, or independent projects. Some of these partnerships currently or are anticipated to include: Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Special Education Advisory Council, the Parent Training and Information Center Board of Directors, Monroe-Meyer Institute Community Advisory Council, People 1st, along with a couple of additional projects we will be eager to share in the near future.

Council members are continuing to support the efforts of one of our youth leaders to ‘Spread the Word to End the (R) Word’ by partnering with a club at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to hold a rally on Wednesday, March 5th over the lunch hour.

Finally, we are in the planning stages for our 5th Annual NYLC Summer Leadership Conference. Council members have expressed interest in learning real life independent living skills to help aid in their transition into adult hood. Last year’s conference focused on finding and keeping a job.

No report was received from the Client Services Committee, Transition Services or VR Statistics.