



# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
301 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH • PO BOX 94987 • LINCOLN, NE 68509

**State Rehabilitation Council Meeting  
State Office Building  
Lower Level Room B  
February 9, 2016**

## **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:** Brenda Chappell, Gina Geiger, Gayle Hahn, Rita Hammitt, John Hogue, April Isaacs, Jon Moeller, Tobias Orr, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, David Scott, JD Simmons

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John McNally, Brad Meurrens, Vicki Newman, Sandy Peterson, Mark Schultz, Joni Thomas

**VR STAFF PRESENT:** Lindy Foley, Angela Fujan, Brigid Griffin, Ashley Hernandez

**VISITORS:** Pat Bracken, Kelly Brakenhoff, Sharon Sinkler

*The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:08 a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No public comment or announcements were given.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

JD Simmons moved and David Scott seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2015 MINUTES**

David Scott moved and John Hogue seconded a motion to approve the October 13, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **EXITING MEMBERS**

Angela Fujan shared Nancy Drevo resigned from the council due to her college graduation and a great work opportunity in Washington D.C. Angela reported that Pam Baltzer also resigned from the council. Kipp Ransom stated *the council will be looking to add some new members.* Angela

stated the application can be found on the SRC website if any members would like to share it with others. Angela also offered to send the application with an introductory statement to interested individuals via e-mail. David Scott stated we need additional business employers represented on the council.

## **STATE PLAN**

Pat Bracken, Program Director with Nebraska VR, was introduced. Pat reviewed the past process of the state plan prior to WIOA. Pat reported that under WIOA they are now utilizing a combined state plan. Pat reported this is a four year plan that goes into effect July 2016. Pat stated they are waiting to see if VR will continue to submit a yearly state plan as was previously done, as they are awaiting further regulations. Pat summarized the state plan for council members. The plan begins with certifications and assurances called the preprint. There are 17 additional sections. Sections include, Waiver of Statewideness, how we collaborate with outside agencies, how we coordinate with education officials, cooperation with private non profit agencies, discussion of the “Meet You Where You Are” model with the dual focus of the Nebraska VR, worked based learning opportunities and Project Search, interagency cooperation and connection with the State Medicaid Plan, comprehensive system of personnel, statewide assessment (conducted every 3 years), annual estimates and state goals, supported employment services funding, state strategies, progress based upon 2014’s state plan, and description of the quality and extent of the services.

Pat shared the four state goals: 1. Improve communication between core partners 2. Increase the workforce participation of individuals with disabilities. 3. Strengthen the alignment of services 4. Provide coordinated services that lead to employment and self-sufficiency.

Pat shared in several categories they are waiting on final regulations. Pat shared the state plan is only a portion of the 400 page combined plan. April Isaacs questioned the four general goals and asking if their specifics were outlined more clearly within the plan. April shared that at this time it doesn’t seem that the goals and measures match up. Pat shared the state plan lays out the vision and they are currently working on establishing a common data collection and information system.

Employment retention rate will also be collected but there are some challenges in this collection in regards to self-employment and federal employees for example. Credential rates will also be tracked as well as employment skills tracking. An employer measure will be utilized to measure the employers’ satisfaction as a dual customer. David Scott questioned how the training is being established. Lindy Foley shared at this time they have assembled a committee that is working to establish trainings pulling from current materials to be collaborated and brought to the employment services committee for their feedback. David asked if they are utilizing HR managers as well as business account managers to partner for the training. Lindy reported they have an employer contact database they will utilize to track feedback from employers for the trainings. David Scott suggested following up with the Department of Education in regards to how they are tracking students employment and education status post graduation. Rita Hammitt shared there are surveys currently used for data collection to track students post graduation which are only conducted one year post graduation. Angela Fujan asked for opinions regarding the best way to follow up for feedback from employers. David Scott stated he feels the best way would be to sit down with individuals whether through HR or the chamber of commerce to fully understand the availability of services.

## **FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS**

### **National Association of State Rehab Councils**

Angela Fujan reviewed the National Association of State Rehab Councils. Angela stated the Nebraska SRC has been officially added as a member to the NCSRC (National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils). Angela shared with members copies of the NCSRC Mission, Vision, Core Values and Bylaws. David Scott asked who will be the owner of the relationship between our SRC and the NCSRC. Members discussed the Chair of the SRC will maintain that relationship as well as

the Nebraska VR director, Mark Schultz. Angela also discussed the possibility of council members attending the NCSRC annual conference to further the relationship with the national council and to bring back information and resources to the Nebraska SRC. Angela shared the deadline to register for the conference is April 1<sup>st</sup> and asked the council if any members were interested in attending. Members discussed the possibility of attending the conference twice a year or once a year as conferences are held in April and November. ***Kipp Ransom asked all members to check their calendars for April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> to attend the conference near Washington D.C. at the Hyatt Regency and to contact Angela or himself with interest.***

### **Senators' Outreach**

David Scott shared he was contacted by Senator Kate Bolz to speak at the Capitol to State Senators on March 8<sup>th</sup> during the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Breakfast. David shared he will be presenting for approximately 30 minutes and will add information regarding the SRC as well as mentioning support for funding for Nebraska VR. David stated he feels this is a great starting point for outreach, but is unsure how many senators will attend. Angela reported that in the past February was when the council reached out to senators, but stated this is a unique and good opportunity for outreach. Angela shared handouts with council members previously used for outreach, which could also be shared at the breakfast. David shared the breakfast is a great starting point to see how this type of outreach can work. David stated the Project SEARCH video they will be sharing can be found on YouTube by searching the title *Work Their Best*. Angela stated that at the breakfast they want to be clear that VR works with all disabilities. Kipp invited all council members to attend the breakfast and support David, Project SEARCH and Nebraska VR. ***The Disabilities Awareness Month Breakfast is being held March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-9am in Nebraska State Capitol Room 1023.***

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR**

Kipp Ransom asked council members if any feedback was brought to council members.

John Houge shared copies of Legislative Resolutions 412 and documentation sharing information on Pediatric Health Benefits in regards to hearing assistance. John asked council members to keep these issues in mind and to share support with members' state representatives.

David Scott shared there is a Project SEARCH Transition Job Fair being held April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm at the LaVista Conference Center, stating all members are welcome.

### **CAP REPORT**

A written CAP report was provided to members. Vicki Rasmussen summarized some of the more recent complaints and how they were resolved. Vicki shared she will be meeting with the DIG committee to resolve a complaint. Vicki shared a situation where the consumer who had been employed and was being promoted, VR did find they could provide the consumer with the additional tools he needed for further promotion.

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WRITTEN REPORTS**

Members were provided with written reports from ATP, NYLC and NSILC. Members did not share any feedback.

### **SRC ANNUAL REPORT**

Angela Fujan shared with members copies of the new 2014-2015 SRC Annual Report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Transition Services**

Gayle Hahn reported they discussed a transition service planner that will be provided to schools and students with information regarding the transition process. Brigid Griffin reported they are completing the final edits on the planner this week and then it will have a final review by the Transition Committee. Rita Hammitt shared a copy of the *Nebraska Transition Guide* created with WIOA guidelines, which shows transition guidelines and resources based upon a consumer's age. Rita shared they will be providing training with educators and counselors on how to use the guides in the next few weeks. Rita stated an additional goal of the training is to increase collaboration and information sharing and reduce duplication of services. Rita shared that the idea is that school districts, agencies, parents and students will all have a transition guides. Brigid Griffin stated the committee discussed provisions of WIOA and increasing outreach to schools in regards to transition services. JD Simmons reported team members at his office asked him to share an issue they are having with transition services in regards to client contact requirements. JD stated team members are requesting to only meet with clients once a semester versus once a month. Angela Fujan stated clients need to be contacted at least every 30 days to maintain the standard. Angela stated those contacts may not necessarily be face to face contact, they could be emails, text messages or phone calls as well. The Transition Committee stated they are going to stick with the standard of 30 days to maintain consistency with the client and maintain a working relationship. Brigid Griffin reminded members the instant contact possibilities and usefulness of My VR, stating this could also be a solution to increase contact with all clients.

### **Employer Services**

April Isaacs reported the committee discussed the VR information flyer and its use as an opening talking point resource when contacting employers. April stated the committee would like information in regards to current business partners listed, which would encourage new businesses to also join. The committee discussed ideas to increase and build feedback with employers. The committee suggested adding success stories to the outreach materials to create an emotional connection with potential employers. The Employment Committee also discussed VR marketing pamphlets. The committee suggested listing participating employers when feasible, as this may encourage other employers to become involved with VR as well.

### **Client Services**

Vicki Rasmussen reported the committee reviewed the first quarter client satisfaction survey. Vicki stated scores were very positive for the first quarter. Vicki noted that within the survey many participants reported not enough hours as their reason for quitting employment. Vicki stated the committee will monitor if the option of not enough pay as well as not enough hours needs to be separated to improve clarity of feedback. April Isaacs question if there is any follow up on the survey to the answer for leaving employment due to the response "not a good fit". Kipp Ransom stated they are looking into the categorization of those responses, as there are many factors that could feed into those responses. Gayle Hahn suggested adding an area to write please explain your response. Council members discussed the tax incentives that can be utilized by employers are not being filed by smaller businesses.

### **NEXT MEETING**

May 10, 2016 at 10:00am

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- New SRC members needed
- Attendees needed for the NCSRC Conference April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>
- March 8<sup>th</sup> Disability Awareness Month Breakfast