



# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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## State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Vocational Rehabilitation Office October 14, 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:** Pam Baltzer, Nancy Drevo, Jaime Galloway, Gayle Hahn, Seamus Kelly, Brad Meurrens, Jonathan Moeller, Leslie Novacek, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, JD Simmons

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sharon Bloechle, Robert Danner, Rita Hammitt, April Isaacs, Vicki Newman, Mark Schultz, David Scott, Joni Thomas, Susan Williams

**VR STAFF PRESENT:** Angela Fujan, Ashley Hernandez

*The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 11:23 a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council members attended the Entrepreneur of Distinction Award Ceremony prior to the council meeting, and members were given a tour and explanation of services provide from ATP and VR offices. Brad Meurrens stated he really appreciated and enjoyed the awards for its recognition of the work of the recipients and their support workers. Council members stated they enjoyed combining the awards ceremony and the council meeting on the same day. Clients of the program can be found at <http://www.abilitiesfund.org>

Kipp Ransom received a token of appreciation, "A Tech Star for Partnership and Support" on behalf of the SRC given by Assistive Technology Partnership. ATP is in their 25<sup>th</sup> year.

Kipp introduced new members: Jon Moeller, Nancy Drevo and Pam Baltzer. David Scott has also joined the council but was unable to attend today due to a commitment in Washington D.C. Council members made introductions.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2014 MINUTES**

JD Simmons moved and Vicki Rasmussen seconded a motion to approve the August 12, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **FED EX DAYS**

Angela Fujan shared that Fed Ex days was enacted several years ago to share and create unique ideas to improve Nebraska VR. Fed Ex Days provide time for VR employees to work creatively and problem solve for the agency. Tobias Orr and Justin Antons of the Lincoln team shared their project, the VR Talent Bank. Tobias reported the team goal was to develop an employment tool for staff to use when contacting employers about specific job. Justin shared the idea behind the Talent Bank is for VR staff to have the ability to share with employers specific job applicants from the VR case loads by job category. The talent bank can be sorted and utilized by listing specific job goals or by categories. The Talent Bank can be looked up by each VR office. Angela shared this project stands out because of its statewide implication and use as well as the improvement to time efficiency.

The State Rehabilitation Council unanimously supports the Fed Ex Days Talent Bank Project as it was presented and strongly supports its implementation.

### **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR**

Kipp Ransom reported the motion made during the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting did not need to be an official motion as the SRC supports the Nebraska VR's procedure of 30 day contact.

### **CAP REPORT**

Vicki Rasmussen shared with the council some cases she has been working on since the council last met. Vicki reported that a client had concerns about the time it was taking to approve support for attending school. The client had lower test scores, but after meetings it was established this school would be the best choice for this student with its support systems. The VR agreed to provide her an assessment year at school. Another client working with an on the job training program had not received his paycheck. The client time sheet was missing and the problem was corrected. Vicki shared that the Voc Eval reports were long and have been reviewed to determine what is most useful and could be condensed for streamlining these reports for maximum effectiveness. Angela noted this should also expedite VR services.

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

Members were provided with written reports from ATP, NYLC and NSILC. No feedback on the reports was shared by members.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Employment Services Committee

No members from the employment service committee were present at today's council meeting, but a summary of this groups activities were provided to assist the new members in choosing a committee to join. This group chooses the Entrepreneur of Distinction Award winners each year,

discusses and provides feedback on VR job placement services, job seeking training, certificate programs and Project Search.

#### Client Services Committee

Vicki Rasmussen shared the committee reviews the survey that is completed by clients 90 days after employment. The committee will determine if policies need to be altered, and work to maintain a current measure of the VR services. Vicki stated the purpose of the committee is to review and discuss VR policies and procedures to help improve VR satisfaction with clients. Vicki shared that currently the committee is working on outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community as well as the Latino community. Jaime Galloway shared that the committee for the deaf and hard of hearing is working well and has great representation in its members. Angela shared that while meeting with the Latino group there was a realization how the needs of the community vary greatly in each VR office, for example: currently the Grand Island office is being inundated with a large number of clients that are Spanish speaking only while the Scottsbluff does is currently serving 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Spanish speaking clientele and language is really no longer a barrier.

#### Transition Services Committee

JD shared that about two years ago Transition Services were revamped and went through reauthorization. JD stated new regulations will be released in January 2015 for the entire VR Program. JD reported these changes will likely cause changes to the Transition Program too. Seamus shared with transition services there are many layers including schools, families and clients. Seamus shared the committee is really hoping for a new member to the council that would represent schools. Kipp shared there was a new member appointed to the council from LPS that has not been able to attend a meeting yet. JD shared one of the biggest changes in VR over the last few years is the addition of certificate programs (for example: paraprofessional, electrician's assistant, welder) Clients participating in these programs have classroom instruction in their area of interest and then are given on the job training. After the training period, if the employers of the training are pleased the clients are hired. JD said employers are most interested in finding employees with strong soft skills (i.e. good attendance, punctuality, and good work ethic). The committee works to see how the VR can better serve those clients transitioning from high school or post secondary education into the workforce.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Angela Fujan shared on behalf of Mark Schultz. Angela stated at the next meeting Mark plans to show the council the Data Dashboard. Angela reported the Nebraska VR had a great year with many successful outcomes. Angela stated 1,887 successful outcomes were reported last year and over 2,000 successful outcomes have been reported this year. Angela shared that Workforce Development invited the VR to provide training on what services the Nebraska VR offers and how people can qualify for VR services. Angela stated reference cards were developed and provided for Workforce Development staff and brochures were provided for their clients.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.