



State Rehabilitation Council

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

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting

ZOOM Meeting

February 8, 2022

Draft 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: Lonnie Berger, Crystal Booker, Jerry Bryan, Michael Bursaw, Jeremy Daffern, Gloria Eddins, Lindy Foley, Gayle Hahn, Tobias Orr, Diane Owen-Downs

MEMBERS ABSENT: Theresa Hayes, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Susan Madsen, Michael Tufte

VR STAFF PRESENT: Lindsay Brown, Sarah Chapin, Angela Fujan, Ashley Hernandez, Carla Lasley, Mary Matusiak, Victoria Rasmussen, Paige Rose, Lupe Stevens

VISITORS: Ken Cuevas, Jason Gieschen, Matthew Kaslon, Margie Propp, Ben Sparks

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:05a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education website.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Michael Bursaw moved, and Gloria Eddins seconded the motion to approve the agenda for February 8, 2022 with the modification of moving the Director’s Report to beginning of the meeting and to approve the October 2021 agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

DIRECTORS REPORT

Lindy Foley reported on the current progress of the 4-year State Plan and VR’s role as a stakeholder partner in that State Plan. Lindy shared a progress report on the five goals of VR’s portion of the State Plan. Lindy discussed competitive integrated employment and presented the data with strengths and weaknesses discussed by Carla Lasley and Paige Rose. Carla Lasley shared a strength of goal one was getting to match clients to their goals and a challenge has been with such a low unemployment rate there has been difficulty maintaining staff for supported employment services. Paige Rose shared from a DD perspective they updated a DD/VR flow chart and shared communication expectations were updated on that document to highlight improvement in support for the client. A challenge presented was DD has a goal of removing 500 individuals from their waitlists which will likely increase referrals to VR which staff needs to be prepared to meet.

Lindy Foley summarized and reviewed goal two of the plan. Lupe Stevens shared even with the start of the pandemic they worked very hard and still had over 100 participants, challenges include changes in staff at businesses and teachers to maintain consistency and they have done additional training to assist with this. Regarding goal three Carla Lasley shared a challenge includes they do not have a great deal of standard expectations for training supported employment providers, so they are conducting a study of the costs of supported employment and what standards they will provide for consistent expectations. Paige Rose shared a strength & and challenge can be the use of assistive technology and changes in the DD waiver that now offers some virtual supports and training is in the process to of improvement. Discussing Goal Four, Mary Matusiak shared the biggest strength is the focus with the business account managers and creating the relationships with businesses, and the expansion of the business services team. The team has been focused on increasing employer engagement. Lindy discussed re-engagement strategies for individuals on the wait list reporting there is no longer a wait list for priority groups one and two and that there are less than 400 in priority group three. Victoria Rasmussen discussed the website being transparent to the public and clients and shared having all the policies, procedures and order of selection information was great to have available but also a challenge they did not want to provide too much information that it discourages individuals from applying for services. Discussing Goal Five, Ken Cuevas shared the strength has been through training during the first six months of employment and applying those skills and reflecting on client experiences. Ken shared training is also available to tenured staff and VR continues to promote opportunities for professional development in this area. Paige Rose shared the example of cultural values incorporated into training and they are seeing staff starting to take on that person first language when interacting with a disability or when collaborating with partners.

Lindy shared on March 2nd at 10am there will be a public meeting with all the core partners about the entire state plan via Zoom.

Lindy shared her appreciation for those who assisted completing the SRC Annual report.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Gayle Hahn moved, and Gloria Eddins seconded a motion to approve the August and October 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS

Council Membership

Jeremy Daffern was introduced as the deaf and hard of hearing representative replacing Cody McEvoy. Mike Bursaw introduced Jason Gieschen and Matt Kaslon who will be officially joining the council in May.

RECRUITMENT REMINDER

Members discussed the council needs additional members, particularly members with a member from the mental health field. Angela Fujan discussed she has reached out to a few contacts without success and is open to referrals and suggestions from council members. Mike Bursaw noted at the next executive committee meeting they could make personal contacts regionally per Lonnie's idea.

SRC OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Mike Bursaw reviewed the documents and opened the floor for discussion for any comments and no discussion was shared. Lonnie Berger moved to approve the operational procedures, Gayle Hahn seconded the motion for the adoption of the submitted SRC Operational Procedures.

Vote:

Aye – Berger, Booker, Bryan, Bursaw, Daffern, Eddins, Hahn

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Hayes, Kent-Scheer, Madsen, Tufte

The motion carried.

WRITTEN REPORTS

Members were asked for feedback on the written reports provided from ATP, NSILC, NYLC and the Client Assistance Program.

A SILC representative was not in attendance, Mike Bursaw reviewed their submitted written report. Tobias Orr shared the SILC will be meeting at the end of the week and will officially choose a representative from their council for the SRC. Tobias Orr reviewed the ATP report and was available for questions, none were shared. Jerry Bryan reviewed the one case he had this quarter from the CAP report. Jeremy Daffern submitted Deaf & Hard of Hearing written report.

No additional feedback was provided.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

Mike Bursaw asked if any feedback was brought to council members.

No feedback was shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members broke into committees for discussion. Matt Client Services, Jason & Jeremy Transition

Client Services Committee

Jerry Bryan reported Carla Lasley presented about the supported employment VR cost study. They discussed providing more training with best practices in collaboration with other states. Carla will visit the next council meeting and continue to share the study's progress. Jerry reviewed the Client Satisfaction Survey results which were provided to council members.

Employer Services Committee

Lonnie Berger reported the committee discussed the yearlong project of the Employment Awards with the project starting up again in May with nominations. Lonnie shared the committee discussed Lindy's report on the state plan. Lonnie shared they also discussed Project Search and encouraged reaching out to your local Project Search sites.

Transition Services Committee

Lupe Stevens shared the committee discussed updates from member agencies. Lupe shared they reviewed the Job Expo that will be held this spring as well as the summer programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Bursaw asked for public comment from members or visitors.

No public comment was shared.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:45pm. Gayle Hahn moved to adjourn and Gloria Eddins seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

ACTION ITEMS:

- Council Membership Recruitment