



State Rehabilitation Council

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

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting

Nebraska VR Office

May 10, 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, Jason Gieschen, Gayle Hahn, Theresa Hayes, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Tobias Orr

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY: Matt Kaslon, Diane Owen-Downs

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Madsen, Michael Tufte

VR STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Chapin, Angela Fujan, Ashley Hernandez, Mary Matusiak, Victoria Rasmussen, Lupe Stevens

VISITORS: Susan Gieschen, Ben Sparks

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:00a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education website.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lonnie Berger moved, and Gayle Hahn seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

MINUTES APPROVAL

Gayle Hahn moved, and Crystal Booker seconded a motion to approve the February 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

New member, Jason Gieschen, was introduced and welcomed. Michael Bursaw noted that member Susan Madsen is retiring and resigning from the council. Lindy Foley stated she will reach out personally to Susan as she was not able to attend today to thank her for her time on the council. Members discussed the need one more business representative member. If anyone has an interested employer, please reach out to Angela Fujan.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH EVENT

Michael Bursaw reviewed the presentation held on February 8th. Michael reviewed and discussed attendance as low for senator office turn out. Michael shared from his perspective it did not reach as many as the SRC would help for senator outreach. Sarah Chapin shared at vr.nebraska.gov/src the presentation is available to view and share. Michael summarized the Career Pathways program. Crystal Booker discussed the digital format possibly causing the loss of numbers and discussed if focusing back on in-person outreach and suggested the council intentionally plan for direct in-person outreach visiting offices next year. Lisa Kent stated she feels in-person is much more effective. Michael stated he agreed with Crystal and Lisa sharing an in-person format would provide a greater impact to reach out to each senators' office directly. Sarah Chapin discussed the efficiency of the last in-person outreach with the guided message of a thank you and prepared VR information. Jerry Bryan noted strategic planning will need to be done as state employees are not able to lobby or share a message that may be seen as lobbying. Lonnie Berger discussed the idea of having served individuals join to share the message would greatly increase the impact of the message.

OCTOBER EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

Mary Matusiak discussed that at the end of May she will be sending out the request for nominations to all VR staff which will give them a little over a month to submit nominations. Mary reported following nominations the employer services committee will meet and review the nominations. Mary reviewed the award categories and reported there is no anticipated change. Mary noted the award ceremony in October is TBD. Sarah Chapin discussed how the event would want to be executed this coming year discussing last year's hybrid event held at The Cornhusker. Sarah mentioned the Department of Education now has resources to hold a hybrid event which could be a great opportunity. Sarah asked where this event would be held as the current office space does not have enough room and the new VR office space may not be ready in time. Sarah discussed the new hybrid equipment is mobile so could be taken to a location but discussed the Capitol is a challenge with their construction and internet challenges. Gloria Eddins suggested another state office space. Lonnie Berger asked if there would be another Project Search site that may want to offer a space. Lindy Foley shared the Embassy Suites Downtown is a current site or perhaps The Cornhusker would like to host again. The Lincoln Foundation was also presented, and it was noted the space is free of charge but parking is a struggle. The Lincoln Foundation's space and technology equipment availability was discussed. The date was established to be at 1pm following the SRC meeting. Mary discussed the importance of a hybrid component when recognizing businesses from across the state. Sarah discussed moving up the timelines for award selections and printing to get awards created and delivered to recipients if they are participating virtually. It was determined the Lincoln Foundation is already booked. The SRC recommends the Employer Committee can determine the meeting space. FireSpring's meeting space was suggested.

Mike Bursaw moved the SRC appoint the Employer Services Committee to determine and arrange the event location, Crystal Booker seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Berger, Booker, Bryan, Bursaw, Daffern, Eddins, Gieschen, Hahn, Hayes, Kent-Scheer

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent –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.

Matt Kaslon reported regarding the SILC. Matt discussed they are looking for a new DSE. Tobias Orr discussed the new SILC Executive Director is Dawn. Matt reported SILC decided to push off sponsoring a youth at the national convention until next year.

Tobias Orr highlighted areas of the submitted ATP written report. Tobias shared the HHS program is very busy with a lot of referrals and still looking for additional contractors. Tobias also discussed the ICAN Connect program is going through its annual audit.

Jerry Bryan discussed highlights from the CAP report. Jerry summarized the two cases that came in this past quarter described in his written report.

Jeremy Daffern reviewed the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing report.

No additional feedback was provided.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

Mike Bursaw asked if any feedback was brought to council members. Michael discussed about half a dozen HR representatives shared with him they appreciated and enjoyed the February event.

No additional feedback was shared.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members broke into committees for discussion.

Client Services Committee

Jerry Bryan reported the committee discussed and analyzed the Client Satisfaction Survey. Jerry reviewed the Client Satisfaction Survey results which were provided to council members. Jerry summarized the committee's discussion regarding reports on the survey by individuals that are no longer employed.

Employer Services Committee

Lonnie Berger reported the committee discussed the location and facilities for the Tuesday, October 11th Employment Awards. Lonnie shared the committee put in a request for the FireSpring room and are waiting to hear back. Lonnie discussed the committee determined if FireSpring is unavailable they will look into the Embassy Suites and other locations. Lonnie shared the committee discussed if the SRC would potentially be willing to be a part of the nomination process for the awards in assistance with VR staff. Mary noted for SRC's involvement they are more looking at the individual champion category which is not as highly connected to VR as they are looking for a disability champion in the Nebraska community but do not necessarily need to be a VR client. Lonnie shared they also discussed executive committee involvement and leadership.

Transition Services Committee

Theresa Hayes shared the committee reviewed updates from the Department of Education. Theresa summarized they are updating their transition website. Theresa reported the transition advisory group NTACT participated in a three day conference and goal setting for the upcoming year. They have started on a five-year long-term plan for transition in Nebraska, connecting collaboration with

VR and education transition. Theresa also summarized Lupe Stevens discussed VRs summer programs and Job Expos.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Lindy Foley provided the VR director's report. Lindy thanked the council for their participation. Lindy reviewed the federal monitoring report which was conducted last May by RSA. Lindy noted she will provide the whole report via email. Lindy shared there are 2 performance corrective actions and 2 fiscal corrective actions. Lindy discussed the reviewed data by RSA was only 2017-2019 which allows VR to show the improvements they have made in this area in the past few years which they have been working on. The fiscal related corrective actions included the determination of rate of pay for providers, contracting procedures and monitoring of contracts. Lindy shared they already have an approved corrective action plan which they are implementing. Crystal Booker asked what the timeline was for corrective action. Lindy shared there is a year timeline with quarterly reports. Crystal asked what type of sanctions are possible. Lindy discussed there are different levels of goal reaching and proof of improvement and action to correction. Lindy discussed that herself and Victoria Rasmussen just completed their annual team tour visiting all the State's VR field offices. Lindy discussed there have been some updates to the state plan and reviewed the most recent public meeting. Lindy noted this revision to the state plan also includes setting targets in specific areas. Lindy summarized the reviewed data like employment over 6 months/12 months and median income in which Nebraska ranked very high. Lindy shared the agency has been working on recruitment and retention. Lindy noted some important innovative projects going on in the agency including a new IPE program and process and CPAP 2.0. Lindy reported that both priority group one and two are open and there are 134 people in priority group 3 on the waitlist, stating they have removed approximately 5,300 individuals from wait lists.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Bursaw asked for public comment from members or visitors. Gloria Eddins shared information regarding the upcoming Disability Pride event. DHH Commission is having free intro to ASL lessons via Zoom, reach out to Gloria for more details.

No public comment was shared.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm. Crystal Booker moved to adjourn and Gayle Hahn seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

ACTION ITEMS:

- Council Membership Recruitment