



State Rehabilitation Council

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

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Cornhusker Marriott and ZOOM Meeting October 12, 2021

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, Mike Bursaw, Lindy Foley, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Susan Madsen, Tobias Orr
Via ZOOM: Gloria Eddins, Gayle Hahn, Theresa Hayes, Diane Owen-Downs

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Gaspari, Cody McEvoy, Michael Tufte

VR STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Chapin, Victoria Rassmussen, Lupe Stevens
Via ZOOM: Ashley Hernandez, Mary Matusiak, Jackie Miller

VISITORS: via ZOOM – Brad Muerrens

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:04a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education website.

WELCOME

Mike Bursaw shared the public meeting law was posted and on the side table. Mike stated currently there is not a quorum but the meeting will continue for information sharing only and no official business will be conducted.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Bursaw asked for public comment from members.

No public comment was shared.

FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS

Council Membership

New member Lisa Kent-Scheer introduced herself to the council. New programs director, Lupe Stevens, from Nebraska VR was in attendance and introduce herself.

RECRUITMENT REMINDER

Members discussed the council needs additional members, particularly members with disabilities. Mike Bursaw reminded members the importance of attendance to meet quorum and to diligently RSVP.

SENATOR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mike reviewed those who volunteered for the committee: Chris Gaspari, Tobias Orr, Michael Bursaw, Angela Fujan and Sarah Chapin. Lisa Kent-Scheer volunteered to join the committee.

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 summarized the ATP report.

Mike Bursaw highlighted notes from the NYLC written report.

Jerry Bryan reviewed the three cases he had this quarter from the CAP report.

Mike Bursaw reviewed Cody McEvoy's 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. Mike shared he is receiving CSAVR updates and stated there are not any particular applicable updates currently but in the future he would like to share their feedback when pertinent with the council. Lindy Foley summarized the CSAVR weekly updates and shared she also receives those and shares with the VR program team when it is related to them.

No additional feedback was shared.

NEBRASKA VR CULTURAL CLIMATE SURVEY

Jerry Bryan and Jackie Miller reported on the client culture survey. Jerry presented the culture client culture survey and highlighted key areas. Jerry reviewed the opportunities for growth. Jackie and Jerry asked the council for input on next steps. Jackie reported they are to present results and have an ongoing conversation getting input on increasing success. Jackie posed the question: How do we continue and achieve full participation? Jackie reported the survey was advertised several times but only had a completion rate of 75%. The council was asked for suggestions to achieve 100% participation. Council members suggested offering incentives and drawings for responses. Jackie also asked the council, what suggestions they had to inform focus areas for the agency? Crystal Booker discussed offering transparency and not making excuses but owning where they can improve. Crystal suggested finding those who are passionate about inclusion to join the committee to work on this. Crystal noted when changing culture, you need the help of those with boots on the ground in the agency. Mike discussed employment-based resource groups used at his company led by employees with passions in these areas. Michael stated those groups sponsor events and lead initiatives company wide. Susan Madsen asked how these passionate individuals were recruited. Michael discussed emails were sent, Crystal shared they sent a survey to all members and asked their interest areas. Jackie thanked the group for their ideas. Jerry reviewed the current members of the committee. Jackie shared there are associates, managers, and counselors on the committee.

Lindy Foley stated the committee is made up of volunteers and shared her appreciation for their great work.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SURVEY RESULTS

Lupe Stevens discussed the satisfaction survey results from the school contacts identified by VR working in collaboration. Lupe reported on a scale of 5 the result was a 4.4 in overall satisfaction and 4.6 in satisfaction in communication with VR. Lupe discussed work-based experiences were beneficial for students. Lupe noted some did reply it would have been beneficial for VR staff to meet with students face to face which was not possible due to Covid.

SRC OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS

Mike Bursaw reported council members received via email a copy of the operational procedures and reviewed for members the proposed amendments determined by the council executive committee. Mike shared the hope is to vote with a quorum to take on these amendments at the next SRC meeting scheduled for February 2022. Crystal Booker reviewed these amendments were sent via email to members on October 7th and encouraged all members to review these amendments on the hard copy while Mike listed the proposed changes. Crystal discussed the intention behind the wording of the amendment of membership taking away the word consumer and clearly identifying the intention of having individuals on the council with disabilities. Crystal noted the update regarding voting procedure was very similar but updated to be in line with the current open meeting act. Discussion on the proposed amendments and any concerns was opened to council members and none was shared at this time.

DISABILITY INCLUSION AWARDS

Mike Bursaw reminded the council of the awards following today's meeting. Mary Matusiak reviewed the five business/entrepreneurs being recognized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members broke into committees for discussion.

Employer Services Committee

Lonnie Berger reported the committee discussed a recap of what to expect at this afternoon's award ceremony. Lonnie shared the committee's appreciation to Cornhusker Marriott for hosting today's meeting and awards. Brad Muerrens shared with the committee legislation that will maintain those with disabilities their benefits while working and stated he will be forwarding that information to the committee.

Client Services Committee

Victoria Rasmussen reported the committee reviewed their discussing the suggestion of the SRC to survey those clients who have had their cases closed unsuccessful. Victoria shared they discussed five potential questions: 1. Staff were polite & helpful? 2. I knew from the start Ne VR 3. Staff replied promptly. 4. I was aware of my right to disagree and of the CAP 5. Suggestions for ways to improve the program. Victoria will be sending these to the committee for input and for feedback on how to conduct the survey.

Transition Services Committee

Theresa Hayes discussed the transition committee heard from Lupe Stevens regarding the Job Expo December through June as well as wrapping up the summer transition programs. Theresa reported the Office of Special Education is working on updating their transition guidance and hope to have it

ready by Thanksgiving or early December. Theresa noted they are also updating their transition website which will follow the guidance document. Theresa discussed the Transition Conference will be held February 22nd and 23rd in a hybrid format and reported there is an RFP available until early December. Link for RFP: <https://forms.gle/QEPdHGuWbbscebBy7>. Theresa reviewed that the passing of LB527 changed the Nebraska law for age of transition to 14 which took effect the end of August. Theresa shared their guidance is that schools have 90 days to hold IEPs for those students and have their plans updated. Lindy Foley shared VR appreciates the partnership with NDE and the Commission for the Blind working through this together.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Lindy Foley reported since the last SRC meeting staff was re-engaging with priority group two individuals on the wait list which at that time the list included 899 people, noting the order of selection began in December 2017. Lindy commended the work of staff going through this engagement. Lindy shared of the 899 approximately 650 were still interested in services. Lindy reported they have removed all of those 650 individuals from the wait list and priority group two is cleared and priority group one is open. Lindy reported since May they have consistently been at about 30 individuals entering priority group one. Priority group 2 have had about 10 people per month joining the group, noting both have been very manageable. Lindy shared they are looking at these numbers weekly and once a week they clear new additions. Lindy shared she is halfway through meeting with all the teams during team tour and there is a lot of energy in looking at the numbers and potentially opening priority group two. Lindy shared there is not yet a timeline for accomplishing this but wanted to take any questions or comments during this process. Lindy shared there are less than 400 people on the priority group three waitlist and they are hoping these individuals have been receiving services from other resources such as American Job Centers.

Lindy shared Nebraska VR applied for a federal grant referred to as the Disability Innovation Fund-Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project. The grant began on October 1 and Nebraska VR is one of eight states/agencies receiving this grant. Lindy discussed this career pathway is a great opportunity to serve VR clients and business partners. Lindy stated a team will work to support this grant and is a statewide five-year grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No public comment was shared.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Council Membership Recruitment
- Senator's Outreach