



Nebraska State Rehabilitation Council
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor PO Box 94987 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4987

"A consumer-controlled council committed to ensuring quality rehabilitation services.

SRC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jodi Bodnar, Crystal Booker, Jeremy Daffern, Gloria Eddins, Jana Egan, Sharon Elliott, Lindy Foley, Jason Gieschen, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Tobias Orr

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrew Barritt, Lonnie Berger, Catrina Gray, Theresa Hayes

NEBRASKA VR STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Chapin, Holly Enriquez, Angela Fujan, Mary Matusiak, Shawn Roberts, Lupe Stevens

VISITORS: Margie Propp, Ben Sparks, Paulette Monthei (SILC), Elizabeth Filipiak (Eaton), Cindy Walz (Nebraska VR)

I. Approval of Agenda:

Crystal Booker moved to approve the agenda. Paulette Monthei seconded. Verbal vote taken. Motion passed.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Jason Gieschen moved to approve the minutes. Matt Kaslon seconded. Verbal vote taken. Motion passed.

III. Council Membership:

New/potential members: Paulette Monthei (SILC), Elizabeth Filipiak (Eaton), Cindy Walz (Nebraska VR)

Terms ending:

Second term ending: April- Crystal Booker (employer), July- Theresa Hayes (NDE), September - Lonnie Berger (employer), Jeremy Daffern (NCDHH).

Recruitment reminder: The Council is in need employers and individuals with a disability.

IV. ACTION — Follow-up to action items from last meeting:

Vote on 2024 SRC Meeting Dates: 2/6/24 In-Person, 5/7/24, 8/6/24, 10/1/24 In-Person. Crystal Booker moved to approve the meeting dates as listed. Matt Kaslon seconded. Verbal vote taken. Motion passed.

V. Discussion:

- A. Senator's Outreach Update (Sarah) Sarah brought up that SRC members visiting the Capital to hand out information has worked well in the past. Angela suggested an action plan for the February group.

Crystal and Matt suggest the Council forms a subcommittee. A reminder was made that Crystal and Lonnie have committed to be in person at the Capital in February. Sarah suggested we represent a booth and produce videos with client stories.

A call for volunteers for the Subcommittee working on the Senator's Outreach February Event: Matt Kaslon, Lisa Kent-Scheer, Paulette Monthei, Crystal Booker, and Angela Fujan will help coordinate meetings for the Subcommittee.

- B. Disability Employment and Inclusion Awards overview (Mary) Mary updated everyone on the SRC DEI Awards schedule of events down in the boardroom.
- C. SRC Annual Report – photos and reports Gloria reminded the group that most of us will need to take pictures and group pictures for the Annual Report. Angela reminded the group that summaries of the SRC subcommittees reports will be due soon for the Annual Report.
- D. 2023 Annual Fall SRC Conference in Savannah (Gloria) Gloria reported that Jeremy will attend SRC Conference in Savannah, GA; Sarah asked Jeremy to write up a small paragraph for the Nebraska VR newsletter. Jeremy will plan to report out to the group at the February meeting.
- E. Member Feedback on Written Reports:

1. ATP (Tobias Orr) Tobias reported out on RFP's and is hoping to have a contract by the end of the year. ATP is sending out postcards to get new contractors. Paulette suggested using BBB to contact contractors and Tobias will follow up. ATP'S Enrichment Foundation Grant application is in. See attached ATP report.

2. CAP (Jodi Bodnar) Jodi reported out on an increase in contacts about questions and concerns. We still have a transition case open where the client is doing a trial work experience; CAP is trying to make the experience a little better. Jodi thinks the increase in contacts is more due to the outreach in offices and making it a positive partnership.

An increase in funds will allow CAP to keep 2 staff. CAP's goal is to advocate for clients and serve as a mediator, making sure client needs are met. See attached CAP report.

3. Deaf & Hard of Hearing (Jeremy Daffern) Jeremy reported that they have hired a health advocate that provides education and hearing aids to deaf. See attached NCDHH report.

4. NSILC (Paulette Monthei) Paulette provided an update on the advisory body to League of Human Dig and Independent Living, how they provide educational programming, and how the funds funnel through to agencies. SILC has new fiscal management to oversee funds. NSILC is continuing recruitment efforts, sending staff to conferences, and has a meeting coming up to approve their budget. Matt shared his thanks to Paulette.

F. Member Feedback on Nebraska VR (Chair) No feedback.

G. Director Report (Lindy Foley)

Lindy reported that the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) State Plan spans 4 years. In Nebraska, we have a combined state plan where each agency has a section of the plan. Our intent is an overall feeling of what is happening in Nebraska to move businesses and clients forward. The great news is that Nebraska VR will not be in an Order of Selection for the new State Plan. Looking forward, we will enter in the State Plan how Nebraska VR is a solution to businesses and advancements to people with disabilities. Another component is our involvement with the SRC. Stakeholder engagement, measurable goals, supported employment, annual estimates, OOS, and a comprehensive system of personnel development, including turnover, advancement, and retirements are in our State Plan. We want to model cooperation, collaboration, and coordination with all the partnerships that we have. SRC members will be invited to a public meeting in which VR highlights changes to the State Plan. Paulette Monthei expressed interest in being involved in that meeting. Lindy responded that the Executive Committee will work with anyone who wants to be a part of that conversation.

Each year during team tour, we focus on how leadership can help offices accomplish what they need to do. We have fewer vacancies, have ended the hiring freeze, and have an emphasis on retention and recruitment. Lindy, Cathy, Holly are conducting stay interviews with staff that are randomly selected across the state. One thing that has come out of the stay interviews is that staff appreciate a heads-up on policy changes.

A discussion followed regarding recruitment and business partnerships.

-Matt brought up that the group could discuss recruitment as part of the plan, and possibly attend a conference, and bring ideas back to Nebraska.

-Paulette mentioned that the BBB gives awards, and the lists of nominations or applicants could include people participating in SRC.

-Crystal asked how Nebraska VR gets those ideas for business partners. Lindy explained that they come from the CPAP 2.0 Career Pathways Advancement Project grant, our staff talking to businesses, partnering with researchers, and community involvement.

VI. Working Lunch-Committee meetings and reports:

A. Client Services Committee (Jodi)

Jodi reported that the committee would like to present an option to VR to complete client satisfaction surveys with applicants who did not make it to eligibility and clients who exited services before completion of the IPE goal; not only to those who were a successful outcome. New questions for these surveys would need to be developed. In addition, proposed that VR reach out after 6 months to clients with successful outcomes replacing the current timeline. The intent is that a 6-month timeline will correspond better with potentially expiring Trial Work Periods and the ability to check in for advancement opportunities for clients that have retained employment or those that may be underemployed.

B. Employer Services Committee (Mary)

Mary reported that there are conversations of businesses making opportunities for people with disabilities. Two businesses in the same industry are going to follow up with each other on their inclusive practices. We also discussed the upcoming Business Award Ceremony, and a few possible ideas for next year.

C. Transition Services Committee (Sharon)

- Lupe attended the National Project SEARCH Conference in Milwaukee, WI where Nebraska VR Project SEARCH sites did great.
- sites were awarded Employment Outcome Awards
- 5 sites awarded for at least 70% of interns achieving competitive integrated employment
- 1 site awarded for 100% of interns achieving competitive integrated employment

D. Executive Committee (Chair) Nothing to report.

VII. Public Comment/Announcements None

VIII. 1:00 p.m. Disability Employment and Inclusion Awards – State Board Room

IX. Next Meeting February 6, 2024 In-Person Senator Outreach, plan to follow