



State Rehabilitation Council

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

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Nebraska VR Lincoln Service Office and ZOOM Meeting August 10, 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: Crystal Booker, Michael Bursaw, Gloria Eddins, Lindy Foley, Christine Gaspari, Gayle Hahn, Susan Madsen, Cody McEvoy, Tobias Orr, Diane Owen-Downs

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lonnie Berger, Jerry Bryan, Theresa Hayes, Deanna Henke, Mike Tufte

VR STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Chapin, Angela Fujan, Ashley Hernandez, Kathy Lloyd, Mary Matusiak, Victoria Rasmussen

VISITORS: Anne Cassidy, Molly Cline, Jamy Elker, Mydge Heaney, Seth Kadlecior, Brad Meurrens, Mark Plog, Margie Propp, Ben Sparks

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Crystal Booker moved and Susan Madsen seconded the motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, Madsen, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Tufte.

The motion carried.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Chris Gaspari moved and Gloria Eddins seconded a motion to approve the May 11, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, Madsen, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Tufte.

The motion carried.

FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS

Council Membership Terms

Angela Fujan reviewed SRC members can serve two, three-year terms. Members whose first term would be coming to end included Cody McEvoy who stated he would continue and Susan Madsen who stated she would continue for one more year. Tobias Orr stated he would renew indefinitely as the ATP representative. Tobias shared the Deanna Henke will be terming off the SILC stating she would no longer be able to be that representative for the SRC. Tobias suggests Chris Gaspari already on the SRC could fill the SILC representative roll as well as she serves on both. Tobias stated he will take this to the next Statewide Independent Living Council meeting to determine a SILC representative for the SRC.

Election of Officers

Angela Fujan discussed voting procedure. Mike Bursaw reviewed the executive committee's five positions. Michael Bursaw was nominated to remain as chairperson, Crystal Booker was nominated as vice-chair, Lonnie Berger, Jerry Bryan and Theresa Hayes were nominated to the executive committee to represent their SRC committees. Chris Gaspari moved to accept these nominations and Gloria Eddins seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, Madsen, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Tufte.

The motion carried.

SRC MEETING DATES

Angela Fujan shared the proposed 2022 SRC dates of February 8th, May 10th, August 9th and October 11th. Angela reviewed current updates to Open Meeting Law discussing at least half of the meetings a year must be held in person. Michael Bursaw shared our next meeting in October will need to be in-person to meet our yearly requirements. Crystal Booker clarified the in-person meetings would be February due to senator outreach and October because of the awards. Members discussed with executive committee elections in August it would be beneficial to hold these virtually to have higher turnout. Council members proposed that the May and August meetings would be virtual. Michael Bursaw moved to approve the proposed dates, Susan Madsen seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, Madsen, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Tufte.

The motion carried.

NEBRASKA YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Kathy Lloyd introduced four youth members visiting today from the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council. Kathy explained the council is a group of youth wanting to assist other youth transitioning

from high school. Mark Plog introduced himself stating he is 20 and from Alliance. Seth Kadlecor introduced himself reporting he is 20 and from David City. Molly Cline shared she is 18 and from Omaha. Anne Cassidy stated she is 23 from Lincoln, NE. Kathy shared most members start on the NYLC range from junior in high school to about college level in age. Members shared how they learned about NYLC and why they wanted to join the council. Members shared opportunities they have had to speak with other groups and what they have shared. NYLC members reported they have spoken with groups regarding transitioning and self-advocacy. Kathy discussed that due to Covid the group has only been able to meet virtually and members discussed how they get together on Thursday threads, members like game nights and presentation planning. Questions were opened up to the group. Lindy Foley thanked the group for joining us and shared how big of a difference it makes having a peer to speak to individuals and shared what a great difference the NYLC is making for youth in Nebraska. Kathy shared all the leadership and ideas come from the youth on the council.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WRITTEN REPORTS

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

Tobias Orr shared regarding the written report on ATP. Tobias noted they are actively trying to recruit contractors for home mod projects. Tobias shared highlights from the written report and asked if there were any questions regarding ATP.

Kathy Lloyd recapped the NYLC met in person July 23rd for an all day event sharing Kristen Larsen spoke regarding becoming involved in your community. Kathy reviewed NYLC's games nights and speaking opportunities. Crystal Booker thanked Kathy for including pictures of events and the youth in her NYLC written report, stating it really helped share and give a picture of what they are doing.

Cody McEvoy shared a recap of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing report. Cody shared they have been doing a lot of outreach and education. Cody discussed the annual Salt Dogs event had a good turnout. Cody reported they have had training with CPS emphasizing the need of having interpreters present for children. Also had a training with the police department where a call with made where police were told they needed an interpreter and advocacy and training was offered as a response. Work is being done with the Omaha Airport to increase visual aids; Cody shared the airport is receptive and looking at AVA. Cody reported they are working on updating the agencies mission and vision statement and have been holding town halls collecting input.

No additional feedback was provided.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

Michael Bursaw asked if any feedback was brought to council members. Mike shared he had the opportunity to participate in a panel regarding VR services, stating it was a very neat discussion hearing the feedback from the business entities and what was working and to hear their excitement regarding VR services and the support they've received from their VR partners. Lindy Foley stated Mike and Susan Madsen did an excellent job sharing with us what goes well and also how we can improve.

No additional feedback was shared.

SRC OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AMENDMENTS

Mike discussed the executive committee has seen some operational procedures may need updated. Crystal shared the executive committee will bring proposed amendments to the council for review and then there will be time for council member discussion, input and vote. Crystal shared they are not looking at any large or radical changes just clarifying language and small updates as they have not been updated since 2010.

Agenda Amendment

Michael Bursaw moved to delay Lindy's agenda item regarding WIOA State Plan Goals until she returns. Crystal Booker amended the motion, moving the council move over any of Lindy's agendas items until she returns at the end of the meeting, Susan Madsen seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, Madsen, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Tufte.

The motion carried.

OCTOBER EMPLOYMENT EVENT

Mary Matusiak shared the employment subcommittee met in July and selected the winners. Mary reviewed the nominations and winners were shared with the council via email. Mary discussed multiple strong nominations were received in the large business category and they ended up with two winners as there were so many great nominees they could not choose. Mary discussed the entrepreneur winner did pass away last year due to complications with Covid sharing his business was very successful and they chose to honor his great work. Mary noted an individual champion has not been chosen this year. Mary shared she is looking for discussion regarding options and location of the awards event in October. Sarah Chapin joined the discussion about logistical options. Mary shared in the past the awards have always been held at the State Capitol sharing she feels this has been nice and stated makes it more likely for the Governor or Lieutenant Governor to attend. Mary discussed the SRC would have to leave for lunch if held at the Capitol and discussed others options at the VR office etc. Sarah noted if looking to hold a virtual hybrid event having that the Capitol may not be possible as they do not have the technology infrastructure. Tobias Orr stated he would like to have it all at the 84th Street new office but said they would need to check status of technology infrastructure. Sarah noted the Governor's office is invited every year to the awards and their attendance is only about 20%. Crystal Booker suggested reaching out to someone in the Statewide Economic Development Office or perhaps someone from Grow Nebraska. Crystal stated she thinks we do need to keep technology in mind and that virtual attendance would not be possible at the Capitol. Sarah shared her first choice would be the 84th street office but if unable to meet there her backup choice would be the 27th Street VR Office. Sarah asked if a plan C is needed or if having a hybrid event is the most important thing. Mary noted one of the award winners is from McCook and suggested reaching out to them if they would prefer to attend remotely and if so we should really look into including the virtual option.

Crystal Booker asked for a point of order, questioning if this decision needs to be determined by the SRC or if should be decided by committee. Mary shared logistically the decision would be for VR to decide on location but they are looking for SRC input. Sarah shared she disagreed stating the awards is the SRCs event and those decisions should be the council's responsibility. Michael Bursaw moved for the SRC executive committee to schedule a meeting with the VR partners to determine these logistics. Angela Fujan asked if this should be the executive or business committee. Tobias Orr amended the motion, moving the employment services committee schedule a meeting

with VR partners to determine the logistics of the awards event, Crystal Booker seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Madsen, Tufte

The motion carried.

Crystal Booker moved for a ten minutes recess. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

The meeting reconvened at 11:42am.

FEBRUARY SENATORS’ OUTREACH

Michael Bursaw discussed previously held Senator Outreach events held in coordination with the February SRC meeting. Michael asked if any of these plans have been initiated. Angela Fujan stated nothing has yet been determined. Chris Gaspari discussed the thank you cards and videos which were done last year had a very positive response and then the difficulties if outreach could be in-person due to Covid. Michael stated the meeting is scheduled to be in person and Chris shared she liked meeting the senators in person but the virtual presentation which was done last year was fabulous. Michael asked if any members would be interested in joining a subcommittee to work on a proposed plan for outreach in February. Chris Gaspari, Tobias Orr, Michael Bursaw, Angela Fujan and Sarah Chapin reported they will work on the committee. Michael Bursaw moved the subcommittee forms to generate a Senators’ Outreach proposal to present to the council at the next SRC meeting, Chris Gaspari seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Madsen, Tufte

The motion carried.

MONTHLY CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Mike Bursaw discussed he put out this idea several meetings ago and said he likes the idea of being able to share something with business account managers and asked if there are any other ideas on how this should work. Mary Matusiak shared a VR quarterly newsletter will be going out and something like this could be included in that newsletter. Michael Bursaw moved the SRC recommend to Mary the inclusion of a client spotlight in the quarterly newsletter, Chris Gaspari seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Madsen, Tufte

The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members broke into committees for discussion. Angela Fujan reviewed committee membership.

Client Services Committee

Victoria Rasmussen reported the committee reviewed the Client Satisfaction Survey. Victoria noted there were no concerns that caught the committee's eye from the results. Victoria shared comparisons from the current results to last year at this time. Victoria reported the committee would like Nebraska VR to follow up with participant cases who are closed unsuccessfully. Lindy Foley shared staff have been asking for this data as well. Chris Gaspari stated she thinks to get a well-rounded view successful and unsuccessful cases need to be reviewed. Chris Gaspari moved VR survey clients that are closed unsuccessful, Crystal Booker seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye – Booker, Bursaw, Eddins, Gaspari, Hahn, McEvoy

Nay – None

Abstain – None

Absent – Berger, Bryan, Hayes, Henke, Madsen, Tufte

The motion carried.

Employer Services Committee

Mary Matusiak reported the committee discussed business account managers and their services through the state. Interviews are occurring this week for a new business account manager in Scottsbluff and they are looking to hire in other areas where they are needed. Mary reported the committee discussed the Disability and Employment Inclusion Event and the committee determined the 84th street location would be the most appropriate and work best for October. Mary shared they feel confident they will be able to make this a hybrid meeting and have technology ready to run this meeting. Mary stated the committee will be holding a follow up meeting to prepare for the awards event.

Transition Services Committee

Lindy Foley discussed the committee reviewed the efforts to incorporate LB 527 which changes the transition age from 16 to 14. Lindy shared they have received some additional funding to allow for additional staff to assist this group when additional referrals for 14 and 15 year olds are anticipated. Lindy shared with the group the summer transition projects that occurred this summer and can be seen here: <http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/students/tsp.html>
A presentation for PreEts will be added to the next council meeting's agenda for council review.

WIOA STATE PLAN GOALS

Lindy Foley reviewed the state plan goals will be intentionally brought to each meeting to update the council on progress. Lindy shared there are no additional updates at this time.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Lindy Foley reported they received official approval from RSA to open priority group one out of the order of selection. Lindy shared they are following up with individuals in group two by sending letters to those on that list. Lindy shared she hopes this will help update them to know where these individuals are as some have been on the waitlist since 2017.

Lindy updated the council regarding the continuity of operations plan which was put in place in response to Covid and has been in progress since staff went remote in March 2020. Lindy reported all field offices are in phase two, meaning they can serve people in person but are also encouraging remote options for clients and staff. Lindy shared VR is implementing a hybrid work schedule for

staff, where staff may work up to 3 days remotely and 2 days in-person at the office or in the community in meetings. Lindy shared working virtually has a lot of efficiencies they want to continue to keep available.

Lindy reviewed the State Staff Conference was held a couple weeks ago in a 100% virtual capacity, sharing it went well. Lindy discussed it was four half days of information from national, state and local leaders focusing on priorities in the WIOA state plan.

Lindy shared a lot of good things are happening with Nebraska VR and they appreciate SRC's continued support.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crystal Booker asked for public comment from meeting participants.

Gloria Eddins shared Niagra University is bringing training to Nebraska for emergency disability preparedness and shared there are openings, if anyone is interested to reach out to her for more information. Chris Gaspari shared she is participating and this is a great opportunity.

No additional public comment was shared.

ADJOURN

Gloria Eddins moved, and Chris Gaspari seconded the motion to adjourn. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.** The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Senator's Outreach
- Operational Procedures Updates
- PreEmployment Transition Survey Results Review