

NH State Rehabilitation Council

NH STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MINTUES

JANUARY 24, 2019

21 SOUTH FRUIT STREET, ROOM 100, CONCORD, NH

Attendees: Charles Saia, Chair, Holly Cadwallader, 1st Vice Chair, Dawn Breault, Kimm Phillips, Lorrie Ripley, Mike Rudis, Chris Purington, Cortney Lockwood, Isadora Rodriguez-Legendre, Sandy Hunt, Nancy Rollins, Santina Thibedeau, Jo Moncher, John Richard

Staff: Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Ella McAllister, Jim Piet, Michelle Lapointe, Dee Clanton, Sue Roma, Ella Mcallister, Brandy Pappas, Laura Lieberman, Louise Belanger

Interpreters: Laurie Meyer and Maura Fay

PCA: Debra Orman

Member of the Public: Matthew Richards

During a working lunch, reports of the committees that met during the morning were made. The public meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Policy Committee: The Policy Committee met this morning and discussed the upcoming RSA audit, to be held in late June of this year. The review will include several parts including performance, financial management, implementation of pre-employment transition services, and progress in implementing joint requirements under WIOA. In order to be organized and prepared, we are going to look at two current policies: Transition and Supported Employment. The goal would be to expand on the draft of the transition policy that currently exists and get to the SRC in April, public forums held and the policy finalized before RSA arrives.

The MTAG version for 2019 will be available next month. It will be important to review this document as well as the findings of other states that were recently reviewed (aka: New York state) to give us an idea of what we should expect in NH. It may be that the review team from RSA will want to engage with the SRC, particularly the Executive Committee, in its policy discussions.

Internally, a meeting will be scheduled to begin the work of reviewing the transition draft within the next few weeks.

State Plan Committee: Ella McAllister reported on behalf of this committee. The State Plan was updated last year and needs no further revisions at the moment. The CSNA however, does need an update, and needs to be submitted before 9/30/19. Because of staffing changes and lack of resources at this time, we are planning to do an RFP to assist us in its development.

Some of the things we need to identify before moving forward are target population and methodology. The SRC, at its last meeting, identified mental health, substance abuse and dual diagnosis as 3 target areas for focus. If there are any additional target areas that should be included, e-mail Ella your suggestions.

The SRC will be updated as this process moves along.

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Membership/Governance: Kimm Philips reported that she and Jim Piet met earlier this morning. Since the last meeting they are struggling with the charge of this committee. In order to move forward, she would like to view a written description of all subcommittee of this Council. She also thinks it would be a good idea to have a seasoned SRC member or VR staff to join to help them navigate its mission.

Kimm and Jim also talked about reviewing the current membership log and asking those who are going to age out to recommend replacements. Sue Roma volunteered to query those who have not had strong attendance in the past year to ask if they are willing to re-engage or continue membership on the Council.

Development of an orientation packet for new members would be a task this committee would be willing to undertake. If budget money is available, this committee could also look at developing material for the public for outreach purposes.

It was suggested that in order to increase the number of members representing the business community, contact with past winners of the BIA awards be made to see if there is interest in joining this body.

This group plans to meet again in February.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the SRC meeting of October 30, 2018 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: Lisa Hinson-Hatz identified NHVR's priorities for 2019: The highest priority is OOS management and working out of the order. Fiscal management, complete policy updates, including MOU's and agreements, staff training and support, and RSA monitoring follow.

Staff Update: The agency is nearly all staffed, although four positions remain vacant. The Administrator of SBVI will be posted this week. We are holding on posting the Blind Services Coordinator until Bill Finn's old position has been filled. The vacant VR Counselor in Concord is waiting for a reclass to be finished. Interviews for the VRC III in PRO are scheduled for next week.

Funding is available to serve all customers we are working with in the OOS. Morel in all offices seems to be a lot more positive than that during the previous year.

There is no formal update on CSAVR today other than the RSA Commissioner still has not been appointed.

Lisa went over a power point which gave the numbers of the OOS cases released since September and where those cases are in the process. The current plan is to release 200 additional customers into the system each month.

CAP UPDATE: Lorrie Ripley reports that contacts to the CAP have slowed down considerably. Most now are alarm from misunderstanding.

SBVI: Lisa has been overseeing SBVI since Bill Finn retired. She has had some very good conversations with both Laura Lieberman and Patty Pelletier regarding the blind vending program. Laura has found

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expenses within the program outweigh income and is recommending changes we can make that are within the agreements we have with operators.

SBVI Counselors are still working their caseloads.

The Older IL Blind Program is a \$250,000 grant we receive each year. We are working with Future in Sight to look at ways to expand our partnership in serving the older blind program participants.

Deaf & Hard of Hearing: Holly Rioux could not be here today so Dee Clanton is reporting in her stead. This Committee last met on December 8th, where they looked at meeting bi-monthly in order to increase productivity. Other topics they discussed were needs assessment for the deaf and hard of hearing, as well as the licensure board.

SILC: No report today. Jeff Dickinson will be asked to update the SRC next meeting.

Again, it was mentioned that a joint meeting between the SILC and SRC may be in order.

Membership: In addition to what was mentioned at this morning's update, Lisa suggested looking at the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils' website regarding marketing materials. This site, as well as other VR websites, has a host of material that may be able to be adapted to NH. She also encouraged Kimm to connect with Sherry Taylor, Chair of the SRC in West Virginia as well as the SRCs in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Jo Moncher volunteered to join the Membership/Governance committee.

Santina Thibedeau volunteered to be part of the State Plan committee.

Goals and Priorities: Tabled to next meeting due to the late hour.

Chuck Saia would like to ask members to send any agenda items they would like to discuss at future meetings to either members of the Executive Committee or Sue Roma.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be:

April 25, 2019

21 South Fruit Street, Room 100

Concord, NH, 03301