

# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## JULY 25, 2023

### **ATTENDEES:**

Morgan Johnson  
Daryn Richardson (arrived at 10:50a)  
Margee Woywood  
Lisa Schneider (virtual)  
Mari Brown

### **Public/Guest:**

Lucas Grundmeier-Media (virtual)  
Rich Phelan (virtual)  
Sara Bath

### **IVRS Support Staff:**

Lori Kolbeck (virtual)  
Jeff Haight  
Mary Jackson  
Brandy McOmber  
Vienna Hoang  
April Stotz  
Michelle Krefft  
Victoria Carrington  
Kelley Rice  
Eric Evans  
Sandy Ostendorf  
Brian Dennis (Interim Administrator)

### **ABSENT:**

Amy Robasse  
Susan Koch-Seehase  
Linda Rouse

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Mari Reynolds called the July 25th, 2023 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 10:30a.

### **QUORUM**

A quorum was not established at the beginning of the meeting. A quorum was established at 10:50a.

### **JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 AND JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

Motion by Daryn, Second Lisa – approved agenda

Motion by Lisa, Second Daryn – approved minutes

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Outreach – Mari Brown –**

- Consumer Satisfaction Survey
  - Discussed areas of improvement, growth.
  - Decrease in response rate was discussed
  - Decline in satisfaction with unsuccessful closures
- Certified ADA Coordinators

- Michelle Krefft shared that IVRS is working with Great Plains ADA Center. We have identified 13 staff who have completed 40 hours of training and are in the process of completing an exam. We currently have 6 certified staff and are in the process of adding more staff to the ADA Certification process.

### **VR Service Delivery – Lisa Schneider –**

- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
  - Lisa Schneider provided an overview of CAP
- Changes to RSA-911
- Contract between Iowa Department for the Blind and IVRS

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Brian Dennis, Interim Administrator
  - Introduction and Background
  - Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> IVRS merged with IWD – we will continue to serve Iowans with Disabilities

### **RSB UPDATE**

- Mary Jackson provided an update on Summer Programming.
  - Each area office has designed a Summer Program to provide Pre-ETS activities.
  - Transition contracted programs have also created summer programming, some of these were done collaboratively with IVRS area offices and others did stand alone programs.
  - Summer Career Academy - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
    - This was held for the first time last week at the University of Iowa
  - Mary will provide final numbers for Summer Programming at the next meeting.
- Access to ACHIEVE
  - Consent form that has been developed – working in collaboration with IWD, DE and Governor's Office
  - Any student who is PE or IVRS Eligible we are working to get these consent forms signed.
  - Sandy Ostendorf did 44 mass mailings and is currently handling Iowa City Area Office – she has received 1/3 of these back after one week. Adobe is set up to continue to send reminders.
- Eric Evans provided RSB Update
  - Social Media has seen an increase in activity.
    - Michelle shared statistics on this increase on our accounts including; Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn
  - Disability, Equity, Inclusion Group
    - Michelle Krefft shared information on our DEI group started by an intern
  - Outreach Efforts by intern
    - ADA Fair at IVRS 7/26
  - Partnership with IWD has been successful
    - Cross Training taking place on Wednesday mornings
    - IWD/IVRS will be at the Iowa State Fair this year inside the Varied Industries building.
  - Drivers Training

- Group going to KC for NMEDA in September
  - National Conference on vehicle modifications as well as driver's training and evaluation
- Hiring a AT Counselor Specialist to backfill Bob Hendrickson's previous role.
- We would like to get more consistency from our vendors and bring our ADA coordinators into this process.
- IVRS Conference August 8-9 in Iowa City
- Lisa Schneider asked that we share any of our Outreach events with CAP for additional outreach

### **SRC AREAS OF FOCUS**

- Brandy shared new and updated guidance referencing an Information Collection Review (ICR) from RSA and the Department of Education as it relates to what the state plan will look like.
  - Plan to review with SRC at upcoming meetings what has been done with the VR portion of the State Plan
  - First part of the State plan is about the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
    - What would the SRC like to Focus on going forward?
    - Reviewed 2019 Focus Areas
    - New Recommendations:
      - Increase efforts to move individuals from subminimum wage to CIE, including involvement of the support network (families, guardians, case managers, CRPs, etc.) and addressing barriers that arise. Include education, training, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
      - Increase visibility of services for job candidates and the public regarding available IVRS services, including appropriate times to reach out. Increase collaboration with partners (e.g., IowaWORKS, CRPs, etc.) to cross train and ensure seamless services for individuals with disabilities and co enrollment opportunities. Create a resource guide for staff that identifies and strengthens Integrated Resource Teams.
      - IVRS should encourage partners to utilize the online referral system to ensure there is a common process for receiving referrals in a timely manner. Ensure all applicants receive information and referral to other resources.
      - Focus on staff turnover and create an employee retention program to address issues. Review data available to help support decision making. Consider stay interviews and other innovative practices to address retention.
      - Focus on increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts for job candidates of IVRS and employees working for IVRS.

### **DIF GRANT PRESENTATION – BRANDY MCOMBER**

- Brandy McOmer provided an update on the DIF Grant and shared a Newsletter

## **COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATES**

- **IL/Partner Contracts – Vienna Hoang**
  - Bob Hendrickson has been promoted to Independent Living Resource Manager
  - Updates were provided on financial assistance that has been provided
- **Financial Overview – Jeff Haight**
  - Jeff reviewed the Financial Notes that were provided
- **CAP Update – Lisa Schneider**
  - Effective July 28<sup>th</sup> – CAP will move under Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), this will have no change on service delivery and will provide more resources and a streamlined process.
  - Lisa asked if SRC Members would be interested in an NDEAM event for October

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Lisa Schneider would like the SRC to discuss the change IVRS has made to post-secondary education from 40% to 60% as policy changes should receive input from SRC and CAP
  - Mary shared that the post-secondary education grant policy doesn't identify the actual percentage meaning the policy was not changed.
  - SRC will discuss this at the next meeting for SRC and CAP input.
- Parent Advisory Focus Group
  - Mari and Mary would like to get more input from families by creating a group for family members.
    - Quarterly Meetings, 1 hour in length
  - A motion was made by Mari to create this subcommittee and Lisa provided a second – motion carries.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25p.

The next SRC meeting is Tuesday October 24, 2023.

Meeting minutes approved by the Council on this date: October 24, 2023

*Daryn D Richardson*

Daryn D Richardson (Nov 17, 2023 10:04 CST)

SRC Chair – Daryn Richardson