

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STATE PLAN REVISION
JUNE 1, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Mari Brown
Daryn Richardson
Linda Rouse
Susan Seehase
Margee Woywood
Morgan Schubert
Amy Robasse
Lisa Schneider

IVRS Support Staff:

Jeff Haight
Eric Evans
Dan Tallon
Lori Buske
Mary Jackson
Lori Kolbeck
Victoria Carrington
Kelley Rice
Brandy McOmber

Public/Guest:

Michelle McNertney
Beth Townsend
Jon Peppetti
Catherine Johnson

ABSENT:

James Luttrell
Demarcus Thomas
Kirsten Lane

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daryn Richardson called the June 1st, 2023 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 11:05a.

QUORUM

A quorum was not established with only 7 of 10 voting members present.

VOTE TO SELECT SFY24 SRC CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Daryn Richardson was nominated as Chair and Mari Brown was nominated as Vice-Chair. The Committee made the motion to approve, Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously for Richardson to serve as Chair and Brown as Vice-Chair for SFY24

STATE PLAN MODIFICATION

- Administrator Tallon provided an oversight of the goals of this meeting;
 - State Plan Approval
 - Transfer of the Agreement for the grant itself.
 - Oversight from the Federal Government
 - State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation
 - This section focuses on how the state will fulfill its obligations to carry out the grant.
 - Feedback is requested on the plan concerning the relocation of IVRS from the Department of Education (DE) to the Department of Workforce Development (IWD). Specific changes that need immediate attention for the smooth execution of function will be discussed.

- A Public Hearing will be scheduled for Monday, June 12th, following this discussion.
- The plan will then be submitted to Department of Education and RSA for approval.
- Administrator Tallon announced IVRS will no longer experience staff reductions.
- State Plan Review
 - Previous input from SRC will be retained as it is still relevant to various sections of the current modification.
 - Issue 1: reviewed
 - Recommendation:
 - Mari Brown emphasized that this issues still needs to be address and expects that the DIF grant will help resolve it.
 - Daryn acknowledged significant changes across the state in the past five years and agreed that the DIF Grant will further reduce the number of individuals in sub-minimum wage settings. He suggested monitoring whether these individuals find employment or participate in day habilitation programs.
 - Mari questioned the need to update career counseling videos and informational documents.
 - Issue 2: reviewed
 - Recommendation:
 - Mari proposed creating a clear Menu of Services to familiarize Job Candidates, as previous focus groups revealed that many families were unaware of the services provided by IVRS. The Menu of Services should be job candidate-friendly and help them understand what they can expect.
 - Lisa Schneider inquired about tracking individuals who become eligible for SSI/SSDI while working with IVRS, and how their need for benefits counseling is determined.
 - Eric Evans mentioned that IVRS would only be aware of the change if the Job Candidate informs them.
 - Morgan Schubert highlighted the work of the Benefits Cadre and emphasized the importance of discussing benefits during intake to keep VR updated on any changes.
 - Mary Jackson explained that during the annual comprehensive review, changes are assessed to determine if additional services need updating. She suggested sending reminders to staff to ensure they discuss benefits with Job Candidates.

- Daryn asked about the accuracy of the statement in the response claiming that "All IVRS staff will be knowledgeable of the basics of Social SSA disability benefits planning."
 - Dan clarified that everyone possesses basic knowledge, and training will continue to ensure this remains the case.
- Daryn also asked about cross-referrals with CILs (Center for Independent Living) for benefits planning.
 - Amy Robasse mentioned that this is not happening currently but is a possibility in the future. The recent hiring of a new IL Resource Manager at VR will facilitate such opportunities.
 - Dan provided additional information on the IL Resource Manager position, highlighting the goal of maximizing the program while respecting the mission of CILs.
- Issue 3: reviewed; updates provided
 - Recommendation:
 - None
- Issue 4: reviewed; updates provided
 - Recommendation:
 - None
- Issue 5: reviewed; updated provided
 - Recommendation:
 - Lisa Schneider inquired about plans to accommodate individuals who don't communicate using ASL. She suggested asking individuals about their preferred method of communication during intake, without assuming ASL as the only option.
 - Dan proposed adding this requirement to the 'Communication' section of the plan. It should ensure that individuals receive appropriate accommodations, including non-ASL communication methods. This addition

should be included in the next CSNA, and the University of Iowa should provide a data point indicating the number of individuals relying on non-ASL services.

- Lisa also commented that lip reading should not be assumed as a communication method for job candidates.
 - Lori Kolbeck shared information on statewide training provided to both IVRS and IWD partners regarding this topic.
- Waiver of Statewideness
 - There are no waivers, so all programs must be available statewide, regardless of location. A new section has been added to provide an update on the Area Agencies on Aging. One of the statewide programs has chosen not to participate, but IVRS will continue to provide the service.
 - Mary Jackson emphasized that as long as the service is available, IVRS will ensure statewide coverage, regardless of the vendor.
 - Updates were made to Federal, State, Local Agencies and Programs
 - Changes were made to "Making the Grade" section.
 - DD Council VR representation was updated.
 - Assistive Technology Act
 - This section remains largely the same, except for the administration of the grant. It is now administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), instead of RSA.
 - IVRS is exploring ways to supplement the ACL Grant through a contract with Easter Seals, aiming to provide more staff and opportunities
 - Programs carried out by the Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture.
 - No changes
 - Non-Educational Agencies serving out of school youth
 - Describes programs targeting this population.

- Mary Jackson provided information on the Juvenile ReEntry Services Program (JReS) and the upcoming changes due to realignment. The appropriate division or entity at the Department of Health and Human Services will be updated by Mary.
 - Coordination with Education Officials
 - WIOA requires that 15% of the IVRS budget be allocated towards the provision of Pre-ETS.
 - Dan mentioned that IVRS continues to meet and will exceed in the future. This is a requirement not just for IVRS but is a requirement for the State of Iowa and they are looking at both IVRS and Department for the Blind – IVRS continues to exceed this amount to ensure compliance and continued funding
 - Formal Interagency agreement with the State Educational Agency
 - The existing MOA with the Department of Education (DE), which covers local school districts and AEA's, will remain in place, including the MOU, data sharing, and agreements.
 - As the transfer from DE to IWD takes place, access to ACHIEVE (the statewide IEP record system) will change. IVRS will temporarily lose access and will work closely with DE to regain access and determine how to share information back to ACHIEVE.
 - Existing Policies and Plans
 - Coordination with Employers
 - This is a requirement of WIOA that VR provide services directly to employers including the following requirements:
 - Provide the services that we have available.
 - Local office coordinate directly with employers.
 - System on Personnel and Personnel Development
 - Plan will be updated to include current staffing numbers
- Administrator Tallon requested additional comments from committee members, and the plan will be submitted for approval on June 16th.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA – CATHERINE JOHNSON

- Executive Director of Disability Rights Iowa provided information and concerns regarding the re-designation of the Client Assistant Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:43p.

The next SRC meeting is Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Meeting minutes approved by the Council on this date: 7/25/2023

Daryn Richardson

SRC Chair – Daryn Richardson _____