

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Amy Robasse (in-person)
Morgan Johnson (In-person)
Daryn Richardson (In-person)
Linda Rouse (In- Person)
Margee Woywood (Virtual)
Lisa Schneider (Phone)

Public/Guest:

Rich Phelan (Virtual)
Michelle McNertney (Virtual)
Director Townsend (In-person)
Jon Peppetti (Virtual)

IVRS Support Staff:

Lori Kolbeck
Jeff Haight
Mary Jackson
Brandy McOmber (Virtual)
April Stotz
Michelle Krefft
Victoria Carrington
Kelley Rice (Virtual)

ABSENT:

James Luttrell
Demarcus Thomas
Mari Reynolds
Susan Koch-Seehase
Kirsten Lane

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daryn Richardson called the April 25th, 2023 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 10:33a.

QUORUM

A quorum was not established with only 5 of 10 voting members present.

JANUARY 24TH, 2023 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Meeting minutes will be held until July meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VOTE TO SELECT SFY23 SRC CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

The Nominating Committee (Richardson, Reynolds and Schubert) presented their candidates to the council for the 2022-2023 officers. They nominated Richardson as Chair and Reynolds as Vice-Chair, both agreed to accept the nomination – no other nominations were made. The committee was unable to make a motion to approve without a quorum and a discussion was held on holding the vote by email and voting members present were in support of this.

VOTE TO SELECT SFY24 SRC CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

The Nominating Committee (Reynolds, Robasse, Amy Desenberg-Wines) presented their candidates to the council for the 2023-2024 officers. They nominated Richardson as Chair and Reynolds as Vice-Chair, both have agreed to accept the nomination – no other nominations were made. The committee was unable to make a motion to approve without a quorum.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MEMBERS

Administrator Tallon recognized SRC Members Kirsten Lane, James Luttrell and Demarcus Thomas for their time and engagement on the Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach – Lori Kolbeck –

- Reviewed the committee's purpose
- Updates were provided on appointments from Governor's Office
- Discussion on planning for the SRC Annual Report
 - Message to Legislators – What do people with disabilities bring to the workforce? What is Iowa's bottom line?

VR Service Delivery – Lisa Schneider –

- Discussed forming smaller committees within our committee and would like to discuss this with the entire council to determine what support is needed with different initiatives going on.
- Eric and Brandy provided an update to the committee on their current projects including; DIF Grant, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Native American population

Committee discussed what is currently being done for Business Outreach and what else can be done:

- IVRS develops individual success stories and shares events
- Recently worked with IWD on a joint story that was feature in the Workforce Newsletter
- Provided details regarding IVRS ADA Team how they are providing an impact
- AskJAN was discussed as a resource
- Discussed developing weekly tip videos for businesses

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Contract for CSNA has been signed with the University of Iowa; starting to begin data collection, working with IWD for feedback, adding a grad students, working with Mary Jackson on transition opportunities
- We would like to develop a Parent and Family Group/Committee that would have a focus heavily on transition.
 - Mary will be partnering with ASK Resources and SRC Members would be invited to attend an additional meeting similar to the meeting that was held last year and we would look to schedule this twice a year.
 - Outreach Committee will have a focus on Job Development and Service Delivery would have a focus on CRP Billings and develop a module on APSE
- School Contracts – update from Mary Jackson
 - We have 7 new districts; Bettendorf, Clinton, Iowa City, Carroll, Keokuk, Mt. Pleasant and Urbandale – we are also in conversation with 8 other districts.
- Harkin Institute will be holding a Self-Employment Conference next month
- Veteran's Professional Network
 - Dan will lead this of CSAVR Nationwide
 - Recently had a presentation with the Paralyzed Veterans of America
 - Focus on Schedule A

- Working on presentation that will partner with Rehabilitation Counselors called Voya Cares
 - They publish financial information related to scenarios that individuals with disabilities may encounter that impact their benefits or financial situation
- New requirements were published in the RSA-911 and are out for comments
- State Plan
 - Government Realignment bill was signed and we will need to revise mandatory section of the State Plan for alignment
 - SRC will be able to provide input, we will schedule a meeting to discuss the State Plan
 - Volunteers include Daryn, Amy and Lisa
- Committee discussed the concern around the agency eliminating positions due to realignment.
 - Dan shared that there are concerns due to the changes as many IVRS staff have dedicated their time and entire professional career to our clients, we will hopefully have more information by the end of this week around the scope of these positions and the planning process for these individuals and what the impact will be on the agency.
 - Director Townsend reiterated no one's going to lose their job as a result of it, it is an opportunity to find new role for new roles and the good news is that there is no job loss. It will give these individuals who will be affected an opportunity to take on something different and learn new skills.
- Order of Selection
 - We are an order of selection state but we currently do not have a waiting list for applicants
 - Need to determine what this looks like going forward

RSB UPDATE

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing is being led by Lori Kolbeck, recently met with Department of Education and our goals was to be a partner, provide information and develop outreach.
 - Lori Kolbeck shared information about this meeting; IVRS had 4 of our staff attend and discussed the number of students in the state who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing – we discussed our goals on increasing outreach to the school. The staff also presented on Deaf Culture tips at an all staff meeting. We will also be presenting at an Iowa Works meeting on 5/31.
- IVRS and IWD are working on trainings that are taking place for all staff on Wednesdays on various topics; recently a training was offered on Financial Literacy, 5/31 will be Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Mary Jackson provided an updated on the 'Summer Career Academy' that is focused on our Deaf students across the state.
 - On Campus and the University of Iowa July 17th-21st
 - Counselors are currently work with families to identify participants
 - Focus will be on various Pre-Employment Transition service activities
 - Tours of local business, self advocacy instruction, work readiness skills, training and various activities.

- Partnering with the Iowa School for the Deaf and Department for the Blind and University of Iowa
- Statewide Needs Assessment and our focus on Indigenous People
 - Rescheduling a meeting with the American Indian Council to rebuild this relationship
- Introduced Lori Kolbeck as the new Assistant Rehabilitation Services Bureau Chief her focus will be on Deaf Services, Self-Employment, Policy, Quality Assurance and Benefits Planning
 - Lori has been with IVRS for 23 years; 15 years as a counselor and 8 years as a supervisor
 - Kali Nelson will be the new Fort Dodge Area Office Supervisor

DIF GRANT PRESENTATION – BRANDY MCOMBER

- Brandy McOmber provide a presentation to the SRC on the DIF Grant.

COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATES

- Financial Overview – Jeff Haight
- CAP Update – Lisa Schneider

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50p.

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 _____