

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Mari Brown
Morgan Johnson
Daryn Richardson
Margee Woywood (virtual)
Eva Castillo
Lisa Schneider (virtual)
Linda Rouse (virtual)
David Zrostlik (virtual)
Susan Koch-Seehase

Public/Guest:

Neil Shah (IWD)
Izzie Buchanan (Goodwill) (virtual)
Brian Dennis (IWD)
Jesse Dougherty (IWD)
Jeff Eckholff (IWD)
Kathy Anderson (IWD)
Michelle Krefft (IWD)
Brenda Boten (IWD)

IVRS/IWD Support Staff:

Brian Warner
Victoria Carrington
Melissa Keen
Mary Jackson
Brandy McOmber
Kali Troe
April Stotz
Sandy Ostendorf
Vienna Hoang
Bob Hendrickson
Rachel Lundsford
Lori Kolbeck
Jeff Haight
Paul Fuller
Ashley Baner
Jason Rubel (virtual)
Genevieve Shafer (virtual)
Cindy Whalen (virtual)
Chad Pratz (virtual)
Eric Evans (arrived late, virtual)
Dr. James Williams (Administrator)

ABSENT:

Rich Phelan
Amy Robasse (left position)

CALL TO ORDER

SRC Chair Daryn Richardson called the January 23, 2024 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 10:30a.

QUORUM

A quorum was established at the beginning of the meeting.

OCTOBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Mari, Second Eva – approved agenda

Motion by Mari, Second Eva – approved minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lisa Schneider and Margee Woywood will participate as the nominating committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach – Mari Brown –

- Legislative Reception
 - Flyers have been prepared and thank you to Eva and APSE for donation for the paper bags.
 - Had a question regarding the “ask” and it was shared by James that the lack of match is a major barrier for IVRS as it requires serving the same number of individuals with same lack of staff and funds; match process explained
- Annual Report
 - Report was discussed and has been submitted.
- Other Documents
 - Discussion held on CSNA; outreach committee is looking forward to the next round of CSNA planning.
 - Discussed CRP survey going out soon.

VR Service Delivery – Margee Woywood –

- Discussion held on funding opportunity in Dubuque—grant that greater Dubuque Development Corporation received; Margee will inquire as to whether this is available in other areas around the state; purpose is upskilling and tuition assistance for this purpose
- Iowa Blueprint for Change meetings are underway; one held last week; breakout group discussed applications for transition pilot projects and it closes January 31, 2024.
- Concern regarding VR is the waiting list—hoping that it opens soon or at least partially
- Subcommittee inquired about the new IVRS mobile unit and James shared the idea of Counselor Specialists hired to fill in gaps around the State; this will provide some relief to offices with the first focus being the Des Moines office; members are welcome to submit questions to IVRS who can provide answers

Business Services – Eva Castillo – the first subcommittee meeting will commence during the next SRC meeting held in April.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Dr. James Williams, IVRS Administrator
 - Deputy Administrator position was posted and is closed; shared duties of this position and how the individual will positively impact SRC and IVRS including providing support for SRC, policy, and coverage and support for management team
 - Shared details on the remote counselor unit; Eric Evans, Bureau Chief, is in the process of rewriting two PDQs to create the Counselor Specialist roles discussed previously; should be posted in approximately one month
 - VR Statewide Conference will be held April 30 and May 1, with strategic planning with leadership included; SRC is invited to participate and notes from strategic planning will be shared with continued information provided to SRC as we move forward
 - Restructuring Core team for Titles 1 – IV: IVRS is under IWD and can work more closely with other Title programs to provide more resources and efforts

- IRSS Transition – looking at transitioning from current IRSS case management system to a new system; currently working on the RFP process for vendors and hoping to connect to GeoSolutions
- IVRS IT modernization – ways to modernize IT infrastructure and make better use of helpdesk resources
- Business Engagement team changes – Michelle Krefft accepted new position under IWD under Business Engagement division; focus on opportunities for all individuals and IVRS will use this pipeline to harness for IVRS; Michelle’s role will be backfilled
- OWEPE program – IVRS made the difficult decision to discontinue this program due to cost of program and pay structure; IVRS and IWD will work to provide potential job opportunities to OWEPE staff

RSB BUREAU CHIEF REPORT

- Went to the waiting list, and are short-handed but working on it; supervisors have done a great job of volunteering to help Des Moines and other offices which is helping the agency get on track. Hoping the waiting list will end soon.
- Moving forward, want to go to a mobile team as described by James. So starting with two Counselor Specialists positions that will be assigned for times of need. Eric will supervise them and provide information. Will also work with April on training. Will most likely be backfilling positions.

UNIFIED STATE PLAN

- Brandy McOmber and Mary Jackson provided a presentation on the VR portion of the Unified State Plan, specifically focusing on IVRS goals and strategies, personnel changes, and transition changes.
- Public comment information was shared, and SRC members are encouraged to submit comments.
- Unified State Plan was developed in collaboration with the SRC; information was also obtained from the CSNA, RSA Monitoring and data, and other sources.

COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATES

- **IL/Partner Contracts – Bob Hendrickson:** Bob shared funding concerns and the current budget status—approximately \$55,000 of the \$90,000 has been spent and there are 19 active cases with around 40 on the waiting list; conversations are being held to determine if funds will be removed from IVRS and provided directly to SILCS and SILS and Bob is concerned about this.
- **Financial Overview – Jeff Haight:** Jeff reviewed the Financial Notes that were provided.
- **CAP Update – Lisa Schneider:** Lisa shared that she commends IVRS for services—she has the fewest clients this past fiscal year; whereas IDB has an extreme increase in clients; of the three previously with IVRS, two have closed out and now only one; due to realignment, Lisa shared there will be delays in brochures but the current one is still available on the website
- **Other Business – Committee Members:** Ashley Baner shared that through the Iowa Blueprint for Change and Eva Castillo’s efforts, Matt will be sharing his success story during the legislative reception moving from subminimum wage to competitive integrated employment.

PARTNER PRESENTATIONS

Partners were invited to present to the SRC based on questions asked at the last meeting regarding how the IWD system can support IVRS. The following individuals provided presentations, with Michelle McNertney being unable to attend (she will be rescheduled to the next SRC meeting).

Linda Rouse: American Job Center Collaboration

Neil Shah, Rachel Lunsford: IT Support

Jesse Dougherty, Jeff Eckhoff, Victoria Carrington: Communications Support

Kathy Anderson, Michelle Krefft, Brian Dennis: Business Engagement

Brenda Boten: HR/Building Support

BUREAU LEADERSHIP/SRC INTRODUCTIONS

IVRS Bureau Leadership were invited to attend the SRC meeting today to meet the SRC members and prepare for the Legislative Reception.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25p by Daryn Richardson.

The legislative reception is tomorrow from 7:00 am – 9:30 am.

The next SRC meeting is Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

The next year’s legislative reception was approved for January 25, 2025.



Meeting minutes approved by the Council on this date: _____



SRC Chair – Daryn Richardson



Date