

# STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## MARCH 3, 2020

### ATTENDEES:

Nicole Cleveland, Kim Drew, Amy Dutton, Pam Fitzsimmons (via phone), Sarah Martinez, Mari Reynolds, Daryn Richardson, Lisa Schneider (arrived @ 11:30a), Scott Turczynski, Alex Watters

**IVRS Support Staff:** Brian Warner, David Mitchell, Brandy McOmber, Jeff Haight, Lee Ann Russo, Steve Faulkner, Kelley Rice, Lori Buske

**Other:** From 2:00pm-3:00pm Kensie Channon VR Counselor and 2 interpreters, IVRS Area Office Supervisors; Holly Mateer, Monica Brockway, Leslie McCarthy, Eric Evans, Jeanne Helling, Sally Rolf, Kelli Hugo, Lori Kolbeck, Brittney Gutzmann and VR Counselor Genevieve Shafer attended the meeting

### ABSENT

Rich Phelan, Kyle Roed, Monalisa McGee, Randy Davis

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alex Watters called the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meeting to order at 10:40a, with a welcome and introductions. New Member Sarah Martinez was introduced at this time. Sarah Martinez is the SILC Representative and the Director of Access 2 Independence in Iowa City.

### QUORUM

A quorum was not established at this time with 9 of 14 voting members present. Due to not having a quorum Mari questioned what needs to be done going forward to ensure we do not continue to have this issue. Amy Dutton suggested scheduling actionable items at a specified time each meeting, allowing members who may not be able to attend the full meeting the option to attend this portion. The Bylaws on Absences (7.5) was discussed at this time. Kim Drew and Lori Buske will discuss this further and communicate with the board next steps.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Volunteers to determine potential candidates for SFY2020 Chair and Vice-Chair are Kim Drew, Scott Turczynski and Pam Fitzsimmons – Lori Buske will share with the committee information necessary to determine potential candidates.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Outreach – Kim Drew, Committee Chair** – Kim reported that ‘goodie bags’ were prepared for the SRC Legislative Reception during their committee meeting. During their committee meeting each member discussed their experiences related to people ‘hearing’ about VR and what to do about educating more people. Mari shared that she frequently visits with families who have never heard about VR. It was shared that Mary Jackson (IVRS Transition Resource Manager) is working with Kirsten McCullough to improve outreach on VR options to students in transition – they are working with the AEA also to make this happen.

Daryn Richardson shared a personal story his family is facing that is likely affecting many other families. Daryn has a step-son with an Anxiety Disorder who has lost 3 jobs due to his

disability, the team decided to change directions and focus on the 'Employer' rather than the 'Job Task' and this has worked well and his new job is successful. The family was recently notified that he would not have a job coach on Sunday due to the MCO not being able to get the authorization on time and without an authorization the CRP cannot serve the individual. The MCO explained that it takes time for the authorization to be approved. Daryn asked; What happens when someone starts CIE – what are we doing to keep everyone on track?, How can we make the process more seamless – this is not a medical model?, How is this affecting the CRP's? David Mitchell and Daryn agreed to follow up after the meeting to get more information as David shared that IVRS is in ongoing communication with the MCO's, and can follow up with them to express these concerns. David also emphasized if an individual is experiencing this as a concern and has an active VR file we can step in and provide the authorization to pay for the services until this issue is resolved with the MCO. It is, however, a system systemic issue needing to be addressed by case managers.

**VR Service Delivery –Alex Watters and Brandy McOmber** - Policy updates were discussed and Brandy provided an update that there are 20 policies left to review. The committee continued to look at feedback from the survey and looked for ways to improve. The committee had a discussion on 'care' --- when VR has done everything right there are often times other entities that are making the process less seamless for individuals – if you don't have the support you need to get to work then how can you be successful at work?

Sarah Martinez was introduced as the new Committee Chair. Sarah talked about the Upgrade Medicaid event on the Hill noting centers for independent living are not allowed to lobby. Sarah discussed the importance of sharing what privatization has done to care and how people are being affected across the state, she shared she is on the council to educate others on the services the centers can provide.

#### SILC UPDATE

Sarah shared the SILC is currently working on their 3 year state plan – Iowa State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Information from Department for the Blind, Department on Aging, Vocational Rehabilitation are all used to develop the SPIL. Currently they are working on updating the SPIL by holding Consumer Public Meetings to get guidance. David updated the council on information about the Centers for Independent Living (CIL's) sharing that they currently cover a small percentage of our 99 counties and they currently operate on a minimal budget from federal funding. Sarah added the SPIL does discuss how they could cover the entire state if they had more money to operate. The SILC currently sponsors local conferences to expose individuals to information and referral, individual and systems advocacy, and self-development. Outreach and education is most of what they do and then they contract/fundraise to meet their needs.

Access 2 Independence is working on a Pilot Project with Iowa City Police Department – 'Project Blue Able' – this will be a voluntary program for individuals with disabilities to identify themselves as a person with a disability if interacting with police.

Sarah shared information on the Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition, which is working to resolve issues for residents of Mobile Home Communities in Johnson County. Access 2 Independence has been helping the victims of this crisis advocate for themselves.

#### QUORUM

A quorum was established at 11:30a with 10 of 14 voting members present.

## CAP REPORT

Lisa Schneider provided an update on her current caseload with VR. Current caseload is 19 VR cases; some of these cases have been going on over a span of 2 years. Some of these cases are low-level interventions. Noticing majority of cases are mental health conditions.

CAP and Dept. of Human Rights are working on a Pilot Program for Post-Secondary students with disabilities; Lisa described this as a very small scale Youth Leadership Forum

Lisa updated the council members on how CAP supports VR, describing her role related to answering reasonable accommodation requests and ADA questions. Lisa shared a story on an IVRS Job Candidate, VR Counselor and struggles with local colleges not accepting the job candidate into their program due to her disability.

## AGENDA APPROVAL

### AUGUST 27, 2019 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Scott Turczynski motioned to approve the agenda, Kim Drew seconded. **Approved unanimously by voice vote.**

### OCTOBER 22, 2019 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Scott Turczynski motioned to approve the agenda, Kim Drew seconded. **Approved unanimously by voice vote.**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kelley Rice IVRS Staff Attorney provided an update to the council on 'Bills of Interest' see handout.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) COUNCIL

Kelley Rice shared with the council information on the Annual DD Council Conference and IVRS' planned involvement. IVRS is planning a session that would include a panel with a JC, Business, CRP, parent and VR Rep who could discuss how CIE is working.

## RSB POLICY UPDATE

Brandy McOmer shared 12 policies with the council that the Coordinating Council had reviewed and revised. Changes to the policies included mostly aligning the policies with the regulations, shortening to make the policies less subjective and updating language. Policies discussed more in depth during the meeting included Individual Plan for Employment, OJT and Externship and Rehabilitation Technology. If you have comments or concerns please email either Lori Buske or David Mitchell by March 17, 2020.

David provided an update on the Procurement and Purchasing Principles and the work IVRS is doing to get flexibility in purchasing items for our job candidates.

## RSB UPDATE

Steve Faulkner provided an update on the Job Candidate Handbook that has been revised and is written in simpler language. An update was also provided on progress that has been made with having discussions with Subminimum Wage providers – handout included. The State Plan goals were also shared.

## WIOA SMALL GROUP CONVERSATION

Outreach Committee and VR Service Delivery Committee split into 2 groups and talked about the RSB Update Topics; Subminimum Wage, Job Candidate Handbook and State Plan.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Jeff Haight provided a Financial Update, see handout. The waiting list was discussed – IVRS has recently implemented a waiting list for Significantly Disabled (SD). IVRS currently has approximately 12,000 active cases and plans to reduce this to 11,500 with the implementation of the waiting list for SD individuals.

David updated the council on current FTE's and the request we will be making to the legislature for 3 additional FTE's to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population across the state.

## LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION PLANNING / RECEPTION TALKING POINTS

The council was provided with a handout with key talking points for the council at the legislative reception, David provided information and emphasized we are in support of the Governor's budget and are requesting 3 additional FTE's to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Deaf Counselor Kensie Channon – Des Moines Area Office Rehabilitation Counselor who serves the Deaf population in the Des Moines and surrounding areas was introduced and shared her story emphasizing the importance of hiring more counselors to serve the Deaf population in Iowa.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 3:00pm.

The next SRC meeting is Tuesday, June 2, 2020 in Des Moines at the Jessie Parker Building, Knudsen Room, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., with committee meetings beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved by the Council on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

SRC Chair – Alex Watters \_\_\_\_\_