

Department on Disability Services
Rehabilitation Services Administration
1125 15th Street, NW, Conference Room 2b
Washington, D.C. 20005

District of Columbia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

Meeting Minutes

09/17/2014

9:30 a.m. -11:15 am

1 Call to Order

- a. **Introductions:** Members introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

SRC Members- Andrew Reese, Deputy Director, DDS RSA, Shawn Callaway (Chair), Siavosh Hedayati, Merritt Drucker, Members participating via teleconference- were Marion Levine, and Pamela Carreker. SRC members excused - Maria Barrera, Weade Wallace, Joseph Brinley, Wayne Curtis and Mathew McCullough. **In attendance** awaiting SRC membership approval were Rohini Singh (new Client Assistant Representative) and Sarah Presley.

RSA Staff – Nicole Boykin, Meredith Young, Dan Dougherty and Darnise Henry Bush

ASL Interpreters –Jay Penuel, and Jina Lynne

2 Approval of July 10, 2014 Minutes:

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Draft Minutes dated July 10, 2014 were read by Ms. Henry Bush. Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes pending corrections. Corrected minutes will be posted.

<http://sites.google.com/site/wdsrc/> .

3. SRC Chair -Shawn Callaway

Chair requested a moment of silence after briefly summarizing disability community contributions by Robert (Bobby) Coward, Jr.

Shawn reminded members that he will not continue as SRC Chair. He reminded the membership that several terms are due to expire, as soon as November, 2014. He announced that members who plan to continue should forward their applications as soon as possible. Darnise will work with OBC to track pending application progress. He urged SRC members to seriously refer potential members.

Shawn discussed the significance of SRC members participating in workshops and training seminars. He stated that the Council needs to be acquainted with the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Service Delivery Process as well as the role and responsibilities of VR employees.

He briefly discussed the benefit he received from his participation in a recent VR staff training.

Andy invited SRC member participation in the VR Training activities.

6. RSA Financial Outlook – Nicole Boykin (this section deviated from Agenda and was presented earlier than listed due to scheduling changes)–

Nicole provided DDS/RSA Budget presentation updating DDS RSA spending.

DDS was notified of eligibility for Reallotment during July and has since received the monies. Reallotment refers to a process whereby unused grant funding is returned to USDE for re-distribution. The Reallotment funding was previously allocated to other states and not utilized.

Subsequently, USDE determines eligibility to different states based on their service provision needs and utilization time constraints. DDS was approved for 4 Million.

18.9 million with 5.8 million pending

4 Million –pending payment due.

1.5 Million Estimated carryover for this year\ (Last Year 1.9 million)

Discussion:

FY'15 - The annual grant budget projection is 14 million which is received and programmed on a quarterly basis.

Annual funding breakdown is Federal 80%/ Local 20% for VR DDS RSA.

4. Director's Report – Andrew Reese

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services State Plan was approved and is posted on the DDS RSA website.

The WIOA approved changes to the VR State Plan will not affect service delivery and the reporting until the FY 2017 State Plan.

WIOA establishes requirements that One Stop Centers make services available from all Workforce agencies as a result .American Job Centers are discussed monthly at Workforce Investment Council (WIC) meetings held by DOES partners. The One Stop process is under review in preparation.

On September 12, 2014, the new Post-Secondary Education Regulations regarding RSA's level of support to students who attend schools out of state were published. People have thirty days to comment on the Regulations.

Andy shared the Draft Proposed Regulations regarding rates for Job Development and Supported Employment Services. All current Human Care Agreements (HCAs) have been extended until the end of calendar year 2014. The Agency expects to publish new rates by Regulations and issue a Solicitation for HCA's in time to establish new HCA's by January 1, 2015. Included in the new rates are incentives to providers based on the entry level wages of people for whom they find employment; for people who obtain employment with health benefits and for people who are able to successfully exit SSI/SSDI.

SRC commentary is requested by October 1, 2014.

The Agency anticipates meeting the required Federal Standards and Indicators, with the exception of the standard regarding entry level wages: DDS/RSA goal for successful closures this year is 622; currently there are 574 closures, based on the number of people who have been placed in employment. It is anticipated that the DDS RSA will exceed its goal for this standard.

The Agency is challenged by the \$19.00 per hour federal monetary requirement for employment in the District of Columbia. Average DC placements are approximately \$12.00 per hour.

Discussion:

The new Post-Secondary Education Policy implementation will not affect current IPE's or counselor case management.

One of the changes in WIOA affects the education and experience level of vocational rehabilitation counselors. The requirements have been changed to allow agencies to hire a broader range of professionals who have experience in job development. The previous requirement that all VR counselors have a CRC by October 1, 2015, is in the current State Plan. However, based on the changes in WIOA, we expect this requirement will change in the 2016 State Plan. RSA will work with Human Resources to make necessary changes to position descriptions based on these new requirements.

5. Committee Reports

Membership Mr. Kermit Kaleba has been sworn in, He replaces Ms. Allison A. Gerber, as the WIC Representative. The application for Ms. Sarah Presley is pending.

The Office of Boards and Commissions has agreed to work with the SRC to expedite SRC applications.

Practice Matthew McCollough, Chair, excused.

Policy

Chair (Vacant) Mr. Joseph Cooney's retirement reception was held on September 12, 2014. Rohini Singh is the new SRC Client Assistance Program representative. Ms. Singh will serve on the Policy Committee. Her SRC application has been forwarded to OBC for vetting.

The RSA Self Employment Policy and Procedure is open for SRC review. Meredith will have it forwarded to the SRC membership. A Policy Committee meeting has been scheduled for October 3, 2014, to discuss this policy and procedure. All members are welcome to attend.

All VR counselors and other relevant staff were provided training on September 24, 2014, on the new Post-Secondary Regulations.

7. Old Business

CSNA – Focus Groups – Dan Dougherty

Focus group information gathering for the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) has been completed. The teleconference survey is available through September 2014.

Interviewers were impressed by the increased number of participants and their varied experiences. The number of business representatives increased from the previous CSNA.

San Diego University will forward the draft results by November 7, 2014. The Final Draft Report will be completed by December 5, 2014 with Final Presentation results completed by December 17, 2014.

Post-Secondary Education Policy Meredith Young

Meredith shared a PowerPoint training presentation for VR staff implementation of the Post-Secondary Education Policy –It enables Rehabilitation Counselors to

address clients Higher Education Supports by a visual aid) demonstrations- college is not the only answer. (Copy of Power Point attached)

This training aid will assist the VR staff in determining *who is college is ready* by outlining a comprehensive assessment process that operates within the guidelines of VR case management (attachment).

8. Announcements

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Next SRC General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 9:30am – 12:00 noon.

9. Adjournment.

DRAFT