

SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Hybrid

100 S. Grand Ave. East
Springfield, IL 62794

Harris Building: Executive Conference Room (3rd Floor)

9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductions

Attendance

Rob Gould, Rachel Weisberg, Cindy Montgomery, Robyn Lewis

Dave Friedman, Sybil Nash, Kim Borowicz, Hershel Jackson, Keith

McKinley, Kristin Wagner, Cassie Laird

9:15-9:30 Approvals

- Approval of Agenda for March 22, 2023
- Approval of Minutes for September 22/23, 2022; December 14, 2022
 - Dave motioned to approve the agenda.
 - Cindy seconded.
 - All in favor of approving the agenda. Motion carries.
 - Meeting minutes from September 22/23 and December 14 were approved.
 - Cindy motioned to approve.
 - Hershel seconded.
 - All in favor. Motion carries.

9:45-11:00 DRS Staff and Liaison Reports

Bureau Highlights

Chief of Staff

Andy Losasso

Kimberly Pinkney will be joining the central office staff and bringing with her years of growth as a rehab counselor, as an assistant bureau chief.

I will report what are we doing for retention and what are those retention numbers as well as hiring and recruiting.

Bureau of Customer & Community Services (BCCS)

Kristin Wagner, Erik Hansen

Kristin Wagner

We monitor and manage all of the voc rehab contracts for the state so that both on the adult side and on the transition services side. We increase the number of customized employment contracts for fiscal year 23. We went from eight to 13. We have increased staff in our unit. We manage a lot of contracts in our unit. So we currently have over 400 contracts that we manage, and approximately 280 different providers.

Bureau of Engagement & Support Services (BESS)

Francisco Alvarado, Christi Pean, Marcus Deamer

Christie and Marcus were not able to attend. Robyn shared Christie's highlights.

Christy works mostly with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. And she holds bimonthly meetings with her counselors throughout this state.

She attended the South East Regional Institute for the deafness conference, and this is a national event that rotates between states and there were approximately 19 states that attended.

She attends monthly envision Illinois meetings and this group focuses on the provision of domestic violence services to disabled persons who experience violence they also say that Christie also worked diligently to create a form to hopefully reach students who are not currently reached within the school district. Her priorities for the next quarter is to continue with some outreach activities conducted towards parents of deaf and hard of hearing.

Kelsey mentioned that the Supreme Court yesterday ruled unanimously in favor of a deaf student from Michigan who had sued his school district for providing inadequate accommodations throughout his schooling. This was the first time that the court ever ruled in favor of damages.

Robyn Lewis

She briefly went over the Bureau of engagement and support services. They have developed QR codes to be utilized at job fairs to improve some

communication with employers. The QR codes will link employers to the agency Workforce Development Unit. And they have a new webpage PRs or illinois.gov. <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29764>

Bureau of Support Services (BSS)

Cassie Laird

Also received some funding from the American rescue plan to increase provider capacity. And for the VR program. What we're very proud of, is that we were able to get \$3 million in the governor's ask for the 24 budget. Illinois has received almost 1.5 billion. And over those 12 years, we have a very strong history. of fully utilizing our federal award, right? Over that same time period. So those 12 years, Illinois only relinquished 1.6%.

Bureau of Planning & Strategic Management (BPMS)

Sybil Nash

I am the bureau chief for the Bureau of planning and strategic management. We have four units that are under the umbrella of PSM. So we have audited data analysis, quality assurance, and Rehabilitation Technology. We are looking at a more qualitative approach of analyzing and accounting to the services that we're providing to our customers.

Bureau of Customer and Community Support for Blind (BBS)

Kim Borowicz

We are constantly working digital accessibility and many others call that drive often the voice in the room when we're talking about any electronic form, or like a website survey that's kind of being produced by the IRS or the front view.

Client Assistance Program (Equip for Equality)

Rachel W

Historically there's been this notion that CAP gets involved when there's a problem on an individual level, but we're trying to kind of get in there from the beginning as well and just kind of make sure everything is moving smoothly and that folks are getting the services that they need. We can help provide advice on people's employment rights under Title One of the

IDEA. We are making sure DRS counselors know who we are, so the first time we call people aren't defensive. We are also working on outreach materials and making sure they are accessible. We've had 67 open cases. Oftentimes there's just like a communication breakdown between our client and a VR counselor.

Statewide center for Independent Living

Shelley Richardson: We are still needing those transportation stories. I will send you also a form /template for people to fill out. We're doing a webinar about the new source of income protection law that was passed here in the state of Illinois. And it will be a very interesting session. We'll get you all up to speed on why this bill was passed with this bill is about and how it affects you or any of the consumers that you serve. So Robin, I'll try to remember to send that link out so that you can forward it to the entire group.

Policy Updates

Robyn Lewis

As the policy advisor, the two hats that I that I wear that I'm going to record on right now is the chair of the rules committee. Some rules that we're examining right now is customer financial participation. We're reviewing the hearing aid rules, salary service. Hearing Aid evaluation vehicle adaptation and Van modification rules. We're also formulating a workgroup to discuss self-employment to improve that process.

We plan to repeal the summer school rule. We're going to continue through that next quarter trying to push those rule changes through legal so that we can update our rules that have not really had an overhaul since 2012. So we're the when the new fiscal year starts, we're going to try to just start at the top and work our way down to make sure all of our rules are current with this century. So that's the goal.

11:15-12:00 Old Business

- Needs Assessment
- SWTCIE Grant update
- 2023 Mandatory SRC Training review
- Website update; Brochure Review

Kelsey: Director Patrick had mentioned at our December meeting about the hiring of peers self-advocates and kind of helping with career counseling. The interview questions were revised because I think that the ones that people who developed the interview questions were not really considering the fact that we might have some limited intellectual capacity. One of the goals wanted to be teaching them how to find businesses that are hired that are hiring and training businesses to hire because a lot of these providers keep saying jewel Mariano's, you know it's just kind of the same things and I think they really need to expand. I'm going to be able to bring my 20 years of experience of connecting businesses and education and transition services into play here. We have very strong program where I previously worked and coordinating and collaborating with the business network was critical to our success.

12:00-12:30 Year-to-date Data Update

Wolfgang Arterberry provided year to date data and statistic update.

12:30-1:00 Directors report

More Directors Report - Rahnee Patrick: In 2022 DRS We reinvented and realigned ourselves to better meet the needs of our customers with disabilities. And so there's the Bureau of commerce, customer and community services, The Bureau of engagement and support services, the bureau home and community based services where we combine independent living with our Home Services Program The chief of staff role, the bureau support services, and the beer or a new bureau called the Bureau of planning and strategic management.

More than 32,000 people with disabilities remained in their own homes and out of nursing home care. With the support of the Home Services Program is across the state of Illinois.

2:00-2:15 State Plan Review (Kelsey)

I would like for us to consider what our priorities are going to look like when we do get around to updating the plan. I believe there's nine goals that we had identified. We had goals that pertain to our comprehensive statewide needs assessment. Where's the satisfaction surveys where we want to hear from those current customers from the satisfaction surveys to see how

things are gone. Robin do you know and I know that we have the tool available? I know that they have done some periodic surveys. We have had conversations about making that a more routine or readily accessible link for customers to provide feedback.

SRC members recommend increasing the scope of work based learning experience for customers and youth with disabilities, including internships, apprenticeships, transitional jobs and other non-traditional experiences that increase the skills of the individual and Enhance Future Opportunities for competitive integrated employment. Cindy asked if there is a law that would help enforce discrimination in the schools that don't offer internships to students with disabilities. Title One? Well, this is Renee. Fortunately, we have a chief of staff who may have some networks with Title One.

2:15-2:30 Council Appointments Updates
- Current Vacancies

2:30-3:15 SRC Committee Reports

- Operations
- Policy and legislation
- Member engagement

Committees under reorganization, nothing to report

3:15-3:45 New Business

- 2023 Meeting dates were discussed

Public Comment

Lea Whitney

Tammy

Cherie Humphrey - There is a need for teacher to be involved in the transition process *before* the student leaves college.

3:45-4:00 Wrap Up/Next Steps

- Adjourn

Upcoming Dates:
June 14-15, 2023

Downstate Venue—working on IMPACT CIL in Alto