



State of Connecticut

Department of Rehabilitation Services

*State Rehabilitation Council
to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services*

January 21, 2015

Webinar
Minutes

Attendance

Present:

SRC Officers: Jim Quick – Treasurer

SRC Members: Tom Boudreau, Bruce Stovall, Jan Hasenjager, & Miriam Torres-Thorburn.

Ex-officio - Amy Porter

BRS Staff: Dave Doukas, Kim Khantivong – Webinar Technician, & Evelyn Oliver Knight

Excused:

SRC Members: Ellen Econs – Chair , Marisel DeCordova – Vice Chair, Gary Prushko & Warren Stamp

Absent:

**Volunteers* – Kate Travis, Kristen Winkle, & Joe Wendover

**Persons interested in the SRC, but not appointed as Members are considered Volunteers. Volunteers may attend meetings and work on committees, but may not vote on any action. When new members are sought for the SRC, Volunteers can be considered for membership.*

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

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Webinar Instruction: Evelyn greeted everyone and Kim shared instructions on the webinar.

Brief Introductions: Jim is running the meeting for Ellen – who could not attend wanted to share her excitement for the upcoming year.

Minutes: The minutes from November 19, 2014 were reviewed. Jan moved to accept and Tom seconded. It was approved unanimously with Tom abstaining.

Budget Review:

Jim reviewed the budget and explained the expenses in particular for “interpreter services”. A review of the budget suggested that the “Consumer Survey” will be designated as its own line item. Tom moved to make the new line item and Jan seconded, discussion about having this as a separate line item allows for transparency and opportunity to have for later years – approved unanimously.

SRC Leadership:

Focus under the New Chair- Ellen is not here and will be meeting with Evelyn.

NCSRC – did not meet.

Amy Porter, BRS Acting Director/DORS Commissioner

WIOA - Regulations have been delayed until April and the DOL and SDE will be sending “joint regulations”. There will be an opportunity for comments once forwarded with hopes that the SRC will be able to review and comment as well.

BRS Updates – New committees coming through DORS with new regulations expected and having topics for review such as transition. When these occur Evelyn will share the information with the SRC.

Dave shared information about the office locations: new lease in East Harford with an office to open soon; looking for space in Middletown (with a location identified with a lease pending); and relocating the

Hartford office to the BESB (184 Windsor Avenue, Windsor, CT). There are some challenges going into an established space, however this is an exciting move.

Office and signage issue – Dave utilized the information from the SRC and he has made it to New London (DOL holds the lease – asking for changes) and Torrington (DSS holds the lease – asking for changes).

Staffing update – even with the hiring freeze there have been opportunities moving forward to replace counselors and others. The new VR Director for VR will be posted. Other opportunities related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services are also being posted.

DORS update - new letter head was noted. The topic around the BESB “family contribution” was discussed. The BESB SRC is seeking input from the BRS SRC so that approaches can be compatible. More information is needed for the BRS SRC to understand the importance of this matter and how to respond to the BESB SRC. Hope to discuss this at the next meeting.

Jim shared there is a new WIOA phone call expected, if any members wanted to listen in please contact Jim for the information.

BRS/SRC Update – Evelyn Oliver Knight:

- BRS Video –
Evelyn attempted to share a video on the Connect-ability Website that looks at VR (captions are available). Bruce shared that the perspective is from the employers and benefit of hiring consumers. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, we did not see the video. Evelyn will forward the link for members to access as needed.
[\[http://www.ct.gov/connect-ability/cwp/view.asp?a=4471&q=556638\]](http://www.ct.gov/connect-ability/cwp/view.asp?a=4471&q=556638)
- SRC Annual Report –
Evelyn discussed the annual report, which has been forwarded. Evelyn will print limited copies and share when are available. A new

feature of the report includes adding success stories along with the statistical information to demonstrate the success of the VR program.

- **SRC Slate of Officers and Chairs**

The SRC Secretary and two Committee Chairs are vacant. As current members are not interested/available for these positions, we eagerly await the appointment of new members who may be willing to assume some of these duties. Evelyn will help all new officers/committee chairs, as needed.

Committee Updates:

Business Partnership

Need a chair and several members left after their SRC tenure expired.

Consumer Satisfaction

Consumer Satisfaction - the SRC voted to work with CSCU with any potential questions to be asked from the survey. An Agreement of understanding is going to be addressed by Evelyn within the next few weeks.

InterCouncil/Nominations

Inter-council Nominations – Names have been forwarded to the Governor’s office.

Legislative Policy and Planning

There is no new information to report.

Consumer issues – Transportation services have been taken over by a new agency.

NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2014; 1:00-3:30 PM

Location is TBD

Sub-committee meetings may be scheduled at noon on the SRC meeting date. Committees are encouraged to meet as needed outside of the SRC meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm with a motion from Bruce and seconded from Tom with no discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Boudreau – Interim Secretary