



State Rehabilitation Council
to the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services



Regular Scheduled SRC Meeting
September 11, 2013

Southeastern Employment Services LLC, 7 Halls Road Old Lyme, CT

Attendance

SRC Members: Jim Quick – Chair, Ellen Econs - Vice-Chair, Tom Boudreau – Secretary, Jan Hasenjager – Treasurer, Marisel DeCordova, Sharon Denson, Michele Fontaine, Roberta Hurley, Gary Prushko, & Warren Stamp.

Ex-Officio: Amy Porter, Acting Director

BRS Staff: Evelyn Oliver Knight

^Volunteers: no volunteers noted.

Excused

SRC Member: Mary Pierson Keating, Bruce Stovall, Larry Robinson, and Victor Xavier.

Absent

SRC Members: Tanisha Minnis

^Volunteers – 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
25 SIGOURNEY STREET • 11TH FLOOR, HARTFORD, CT 06106-5033
Phone: (860) 424-4844 Information: 1-800-537-2549 TDD: (860) 424-4839 Fax: (860) 424-4850
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Welcome/Introductions:

Jim opened the meeting and gave introductions around the room to introduce people to the new members.

1. Minutes: There were two sets of minutes/notes reviewed to include: revised notes from the Strategic Plan 5/8/13 and the regular scheduled SRC Meeting minutes of 5/8/13.

- Motion to approve with the agenda approved as well – approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer Report: A review of expenses was completed. Questions were answered with some costs different from years past. The costs are below budget and no concerns noted. Roberta moved to accept the report and seconded by Ellen – approved unanimously.

3. SRC Chairperson Update:

- Jim shared concerns regarding the Senate Bill with the linkage of BRS up until now and possibility of moving it under the Department of Labor; it is somewhat of a surprise with not much research completed and differences noted with some requirements for staff; and he expressed that there are not many positives related to a change. The SRC contacted and sent a letter for discussion to representatives Washington D.C. - in order to explain why these moves have been proposed; the SRC has not received responses related to this. We are hopeful to get some better understanding for there appears to be some confusion regarding the bill. The logistical move makes sense to the “common person”; however there are deeper philosophical differences of rehabilitation and people with disabilities regarding making a “good match with a job” verses “just acquiring the job”. Jim has contacted Chris Murphy’s schedulers regarding trying to meet with/getting a response from him.

Amy shared some of her thoughts on the Senate Bill and the elements that are unique to BRS verses DOL and the different systems. Proponents of the legislation have shared that moving certain pieces may make sense such as Voc Rehab from one agency to another agency; however the language that has been proposed is questionable. However, in the past most legislation would allow for time for discussion and public review- this time is has been without review and based on little research. Although there is room for improvement, is moving to another agency going to improve the program and fix some of the concerns that have risen?

It was agreed that Jim should contact the Senator again as follow up and he will report back to the council.

- Proposed calendar – doing the 3rd Wednesday of every other month. We discussed having a one meeting as a teleconference. We also discussed having some extra meeting times between SRC council dates. A final version will be forwarded by Evelyn.
- Committee responsibilities – discussed to perhaps expand on further tasks that can be related to the different committees. Evelyn noted that the annual report also reviews the goals of accomplishments of last year and this year’s direction.
- The components discussed from May and the “strategic plan” will be revisited at the next meeting in November.
- NCSRC & CSAVR 11/9-11/13 – there is an urgency related to this due to timeframes being tight with considerations of limited rooms. Along with some of the discussion related to the recent legislation that was proposed from Washington D.C.
- BRS Annual meeting is at the Crowne Plaza in October. SRC members are invited to attend.

4. BRS Update: Amy Porter

- BRS recruitment/hiring/staffing - moving forward on these elements.
- DORS recruitment/hiring/staffing - moving forward with these elements.
- Occupancy has been approved in Enfield as of 9/1. Components regarding this move including staffing should be forth coming. Middletown is still not moving forward due to problems with state space, however the matter is not lost and Amy continues to try and address it. There have been concerns related to the Hartford Office; some bugs are infesting space and unsure hope to manage but carpeting is to be removed later in the month.
- Strategic Plan for DORS. A Grant has been given (BESB and BRS worked together on it) with a group formed to work with a consultant and focus on strategic mapping for the agency. It allowed for both short and long term goals including some elements around internal structure issues, creating a robust agency, continuing programmatic excellence – this information will be distributed at the same time in the future.
- Mark Henry from BRS was ill and unable to attend. Amy shared some elements of ISTPP that he was supposed to address; in particular – how to meet the large companies’ needs and partner with a host employer to give a longer stability to those companies that have high turnover? Some of the entities include: Mohegan Sun, Lowes, Walgreens, CVS and the potential of Mystic Aquarium.

5. SRC Update: Evelyn Oliver Knight

- Evelyn shared the new list of members.
- The calendar of meeting dates for 2014 was selected.
- Additional activities and dates for the upcoming year were reviewed.
- Discussion about the upcoming Annual Meeting and the theme of “Embracing Diversity”.
- CT YLP Youth Leadership scholarship selection information was shared and the 2013 scholarship recipient will be included in the SRC annual report. A discussion of the SRC scholarship was addressed – perhaps a representative from the SRC can deliver the award in the future.
- “Technology and Transition” resource guide was developed and available for review.
- Evelyn continues to investigate the possibilities to place on the BRS website (password for SRC members) – case summaries of Administrative Hearings for SRC review.

6. Committee Reports:

- **Business Partnership** – Roberta shared that the sub-committee has divided up the workload so that materials and information can be delivered. It is difficult to meet with the Chambers of Commerce. Mark Henry (from BRS) will hopefully present in November some of the information that he is working on.
- **Consumer Satisfaction** – Jim shared they are trying to follow up with the results of their survey. There remains a concern with “signage issues” in general and Jim will follow up with Amy as needed. They also gave out a list of staff meetings and hopes that SRC members can attend – contact Evelyn if you are expecting to attend a meeting so that logistics can be arranged.
- **Inter-council/Nominations** – Evelyn reported in Mary’s absence; three new members have been added to the SRC: Marisel DeCordova, Gary Prushko, and Bruce Stovall.
- **Legislation** – Larry was unable to attend the meeting. He is hopeful to be engaged later in the weeks to come and support Jim with the Letter.

Announcement:

Sharon shared information about – **CTBLN (CT Business Leadership Network)**: the website is being updated with hopes to connect to other sites and a blog; concerns related

to sustainability; and as well have an upcoming Employment Conference on 11/8/13 in Berlin (at Northeast Utilities).

Meeting was closed at 3pm.

Next Meeting:

The next regular scheduled SRC meeting is November 20, 12:00 – 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Boudreau

SRC Secretary