



State Rehabilitation Council
to the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services



Minutes of the November 17, 2010 Meeting
ACES
20 Skiff Street, Hamden

Attendance

Present

SRC Members: Laraine Bronski, Michele Fontaine, Heidi Forrest, Jan Hasenjager, Mary Pierson Keating, Roberta Hurley, Sandy Inzinga, Barbara Konow, Janette Williams, & Victor Xavier

BRS Staff: Kathy Blewett, Evelyn Oliver Knight, & Amy Porter

Volunteers: Gladys Brooks, Jennifer Hannah, Mick Posner, & Larry Robinson

Excused

SRC Members: Sharon Denson, Sarah Harvey, Simone Mason, Laura Micklus, Jim Quick & John Sims

**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

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Sandy called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and greeted potential new members.

Secretary's Report – Mary Pierson Keating

Mary presented the minutes from the September meeting. Laraine moved to approve the minutes and Janette seconded the motion; all approved.

President's Report – Sandy Inzinga

Sandy reported on the meeting in San Diego in which 36 states participated at the NCSRC & CSAVR. The meeting focused on SRC monitoring of State Plan. Sandy highlighted different state practices. She noted that due to the size of the state and its 70 counselor's, CA's SRC has three separate groups and communicate via video conferences. She further noted that WV's SRC has developed a notebook that discusses its members, committees, mission statement and achievements. Sandy suggested that our SRC develop a similar notebook, although she was reminded that E. Knight already has compiled a similar one. It was suggested that the SRC add the SRC's achievements to our current notebook. It could then provide it to the RSA when they came to evaluate BRS.

Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP) evaluation was another focus of the meetings. Sandy brought back a DVD regarding sign language.

Sandy presented materials from the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). She also said that YLF is looking for \$1,000 from the SRC to for the YLF.

Sandy is preparing the SRC Chairperson's letter for the Annual Report. In her letter, she plans to discuss the highlights of the SRC's success this year: developing the SRC strategic plan; increasing SRC's involvement with YLF and Connect -Ability; and the importance of the SRC Chair attending the national meetings.

Election of Officers for 2011

Mary Keating was elected the Chair, Victor was elected Vice-Chair, Roberta was elected Secretary and Michele was elected Treasurer.

Departing Members

Lorraine and Heidi were given Certificates of Recognition for their service to the SRC. Lorraine noted how important it was to be an enthusiastic council member.

Treasurer's Report – Heidi

Heidi reviewed our current budget, noted that the SRC was on budget, and noted that the SRC was keeping funds in reserve for PC's. Heidi then presented the proposed new budget which was approved by all members.

BRS Updates - Amy

Amy noted that BRS didn't do very well with the Standards and Indicators of the RSA. The main reason for the poor performance was due to the state of the economy. The second biggest factor was that BRS lost experienced counselors which directly affected the number of consumers that became employed. On a better note, Amy reported that there are many new counselors and a stable staff with a lot of enthusiasm. In addition the on the job training is helping improve BRS's success rate.

Amy commented that although CT's law concerning VR services is very complex it is very flexible. BRS is considering providing services to groups instead of to individual consumers. BRS has held Prep Rallies and invited all of its consumers. At the Prep Rallies, BRS has partnered with rehab providers to offer interview skills to our consumers.

VR's goal for this year is to place 1,200 consumers in competitive jobs where they stay employed for at least 90 days. Next year's goal will be 1,400.

Roberta asked about CRT's and OJT's as there are now three employment specialist counselors in each region. Roberta suggested asking Mark to come back and speak to us about the OJT's as she feels it is very successful.

Sandy asked about the outcome of the Statewide Needs Assessment (SNA). Amy talked about how the SNA period was very short this year and suggested using UCONN in the future to help complete the SNA. When Sandy also asked about the use of surveys, Amy suggested that we have a meeting to discuss the surveys.

Mary asked about funding and Amy said that there was plenty of funding.

Michele asked about how many consumers were there now. Amy guessed we have about 7,000 consumers statewide.

Mary asked about focusing on the businesses who hire the consumers. Heidi discussed the importance of Employer mentoring.

Program Update – Evelyn

Evelyn discussed the Public Meetings (including one scheduled after the SRC meeting) and the need for SRC attendance. Evelyn has presented training on the State Plan and the SRC to staff in the regional BRS offices. She reviewed the internal "who to call" sheet and their responsibilities. In her new role coordinating Administrative Hearings, she learned that SRC members should get a copy of hearing results with names of participants deleted.

Evelyn thanked the new officers for stepping up to the plate.

Committee Reports:

Business Partnership Committee – Roberta noted that she sits on the employment workgroup for Connect-Ability (CA). Roberta is trying to get more employers to the CA summit. Roberta and Lori are providing training across the state for people with disabilities and mental health and addiction issues.

Consumer Satisfaction Report – Jan presented in Barbara’s absence. CSC made some minor changes to the survey which will be revised and redistributed.

Inter Council/Nominations – Five names were submitted to the Governor for nomination to the SRC. If the nominees submit the Governor’s paper work in time, the appointments should be made before Governor Rell is out of office.

Legislation, Policy & Planning – Heidi presented in Sara’s absence. The LPPC wants to develop a new workshop for parents and their children entering the business world. Sara is contacting CERC to collaborate and will report back to the SRC.

It was noted that the SRC will need new chairs to the committees Heidi and Lorraine were chairing. All the committees will be reorganized in January. Evelyn reminded chairs that each committee chair is responsible to move its agenda along. To facilitate that, committees can meet outside the SRC meeting time so that each can report their progress at the SRC meeting.

Sandy agreed to provide Amy with a copy of the Strategic Plan that the SRC developed.

Consumer Issues:

Transportation – Sharon raised an issue concerning transportation. Amy said that the issue involves the interpretation of regulations. Some are reading the regulations to prohibit PCA’s from driving their consumers to work. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) reviewed the DSS waiver application and driving consumers was not checked. PCA waiver is the Medicaid waiver. This is happening just in Connecticut for the time being. Recommendation is that Sandy will contact Sharon to see where she is on the issue.

Video Services - Amy said that the delay in providing video services to those with hearing impairments is not due to a lack of funding but to technical issues. It is an ongoing issue with DSS.

Roberta will attend a Board of Education Services for the Blind (BESB) SRC meeting to network and learn if there are opportunities to collaborate.

Everyone congratulated Sandy for her term as President and her direction in helping the SRC develop a strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20.

Minutes submitted by Mary Pierson Keating