

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
October 29, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES
Utah State Board of Education
Main Conference Room**

Conference calls: 1-877-820-7831 269450#

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 26, 2014

PRESENT:	Kelly Boehmer	Sharon Brand	Ronald Campbell
	Robyn Chidester	Melissa Freigang	Ken Gourdin
	James Harvey	Susan Loving	W. Kent McGregor
	Amy Powell	Lester Ruesch	Amberley Snyder
	Rylee Williams		
PHONE:	Karim Mardanlou	Paula Seanez	
EXCUSED:	Jan Carter	Sandy Terry	Russ Thelin
USOR Staff	Kyle Walker	John Woeste	Rachel Anderson
	Ginny Henderscheid		
GUESTS:	Kris Fawson, USILC	Ralph Glathar	Interpreters

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

Sharon Brand, Chair, welcomed Council members and called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Sharon confirmed attendance via teleconference call in. The mission statement was read by Kent McGregor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sharon requested any amendments or corrections to the September 2014 minutes. None were given.

MOTION: Melissa Freigang made the motion to approve the minutes. Kent McGregor seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

KYLE WALKER

John Woeste reported on the USOR Annual Conference held earlier this week and presented an Executive Director Award to Ron Campbell given by USOR Director, Russ Thelin. This award was for his contribution on leadership and specifically towards advocating and representing the Utah State Rehabilitation Council on significant local national issues, such as governance and WIOA. Member-at-Large, Rylee Williams was recognized for receiving the Professional of the Year Award at the Utah Rehabilitation Association Annual meeting.

Kyle started his update by reporting on the USOR Annual Conference held last week. Kyle stated this year was more of a training conference with several beneficial break-out sessions. Kyle spoke on one award named "Team Work Award" which detailed what the client experiences with not only their VR district office but other agencies as well working together for a successful employment outcome. It was suggested for future SRC meetings to read these stories.

Kyle mentioned the new Federal Fiscal Year started October 1. Kyle gave an update on the Performance Indicators speaking on 2 specific issues.

Standard Indicator 1.1 This indicator shows the agency met or exceeded the number of successful clients from the previous year. Kyle stated last year USOR successfully closed 3,655 clients. This year, 3,699 clients graduated from USOR with employment outcomes, the highest ever. The average age range served is eighteen to sixty which shows USOR serves all individuals regardless of age.

Standard Indicator 1.2 This indicator called the Rehab Rate shows a percentage of successful closure reaching the employment outcome including the unsuccessful closures that did not exit with an employment outcome. Kyle explained some of the reasons that a client might not exit with an employment outcome.

John spoke on the change to the Client Satisfaction Survey that SRC Council approved of with the added new question which addressed the issue of what happens to clients that do not reach employment outcome. John reported the rate of satisfaction on the survey from the unsuccessful clients was 70% which indicated services provided were good even though the clients did not exit with an employment outcome. The added question regarding this was beneficial.

Kyle noted the Federal goal for the Standard Indicator 1.2 is over 55% of the ratio. USOR serviced 29,000 individuals last year with 59.8% successful employment outcomes and reached the goal; however, this year USOR did not reach it. This year USOR had approximately 53% successful employment outcomes missing the goal by 2%. Kyle explained why this goal was purposely not met, reporting on the Agency

concern for the client base size per counselor. There are approximately 230 caseload clients per counselor. The transformation USOR Rehab Way is to allow counselors the ability to fully use their counseling skills to counsel clients. With such large caseloads this cannot be achieved, explaining why the 55% ratio was not met.

Following the issue of client base size, Kyle reported on the grant received in partnership with the University of Massachusetts-Boston. This grant was to review and to achieve; reduction of client/VRC ratio, increase client/VRC counseling contact time, improve client outcomes, and improve quality of rehabilitation experience. A goal has been set to lower client base caseloads to 160 clients per counselor by 2016. Kyle, Russ, John Woeste, and Aaron Thompson met with thirteen other states in Portland, OR in August to find out how other states are dealing with; supply-demand issues, how Order Of Selection (OOS) has been implemented in other states and what are the pros/cons of OOS. A Council member requested a copy of an article that Kyle covered that references client base size and quality issues. Kyle will forward to the SRC Executive Secretary to send out.

Kyle gave an update on the meeting with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. This was in regards to the Building Block Request noting at this time the name has been changed to "Budget Adjustment Requests." One of the requests was to get the state match portion and to add FTE's to the agency. Kyle reported the first priority request was \$275,000.00 for Center for Independent Living (CILs). The second priority request was for five additional VR counselor positions (this would help client base size), and for one Benefits Specialist. The third priority was for IL Assistive Technology of \$100,000.00 for on-going money and \$400,000.00 for one-time money. The last request is for The Division Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Last year there was a grant for a rural outreach with on-going money but at the last minute was changed to one-time money. This year the request is for on-going money.

Last month Russ met with the Governor's Committee to discuss issues on the Governance of USOR. Kyle reported a presentation was given by Russ on the case of why USOR should stay with Utah State Board of Education (USBOE.) After the meeting, Kyle stated that the issue is not dead and that he anticipates this issue will be discussed further. Kyle encouraged Council members to continue to contact their Board representative and to let them know how SRC views this issue. It was mentioned that Ron Campbell earlier in the year sent a letter of concern regarding this issue. A Council member requested a copy of this letter.

The Council of State Administration of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) Conference will be held next week with SRC Chair, Sharon Brand attending with Russ and Kyle.

HORIZON REPORT ON JOB READINESS

RACHEL ANDERSON

Rachel summarized the Transition Job Club Horizon Task Force vision and gave a background. A copy of a booklet of the results of the Horizon Task Force, and a copy of a report on the research activities, and resources was passed around for Council members to view.

Rachel continued by giving a PowerPoint presentation on the USOR Horizons 2013-2014 Transition Job Club Task Force. The objectives were on job club research, job readiness workshop curriculum, outcomes, and recommendations.

Council members requested a copy of the counselor guide, the report, and workbook to be sent electronically. Rachel will send this to the SRC Executive Secretary to send out.

A Council member questioned if the workbooks would be done in braille. Rachel confirmed that braille has been considered, as well as other languages in the future. Sharon Brand, Chair asked members for recommendation to continue the pilot program on Transition job readiness.

MOTION: Kent McGregor made the motion to support the USOR Horizon Transition Pilot Program and requested progress reports. Susan Loving seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

OPEN DISCUSSION/AGENCY UPDATE

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lester Ruesch, USIIL Chair, reported on the Associated Program for Rural Independent Living stating they are focusing on youth this year. He advised SRC to keep note of the upcoming Legislative session, January 15, 2015.

Robyn Chidester, Parent Center, reported the Center is expanding their curriculum by offering workshop forums to families as well as on their website regarding adult services and transition information. Robyn reported the Center has broadened the scope of their presentation of the Courier Grant on transition and more information on IL Centers. Robyn stated the Center just finished a DVD on self-determination to show the skill building that is necessary to help an individual to have a self-determined life. It will be available at the end of the year.

Kelly Boehmer, DSDHH. No update at this time.

Paula Seanz, Title 21 of the Navajo Nation, announced the Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) just finished their strategic planning and that all grant applications for VR has been awarded. Paula also announced the CANAR Annual Training Conference on November 18-20, 2014 in Panama City Beach, FL. Paula mentioned they are in the fifth year of funding looking at needs assessments. She requested any ideas to help prepare for their 2015 grant.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Minutes were submitted by Ginny Henderscheid, SRC Executive Secretary