

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

May 28, 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, June 25, 2014

PRESENT:	Kelly Boehmer	Sharon Brand	Ron Campbell
	Ken Gourdin	Susan Loving	Karim Mardanlou
	Louise Ogden	Deja Powell	Lester Ruesch
	Maree Webb	Rylee Williams	
PHONE:	Lindsay Boerens	Kent McGregor	Amy Powell
	Paula Seanez	Jim Sterzer	
EXCUSED:	Jan Quinn Carter	Bart Hill	Mark Marrott
	Merina Pope	Sandy Terry	
USOR Staff	Russ Thelin	Kyle Walker	John Woeste
	Rachel Anderson	Aaron Thompson	Ginny Henderscheid
GUESTS:	Kris Fawson, USILC	Brooke Wilson, USILC	Donna McCormick, USILC
	Andy Curry, USILC	Matthew Huskinson, USILC	Leslie Gertsch, USILC
	Andrea Pitts, USILC	Rolf Halbfell, USILC	Debra Mair, USILC
	Kim Lister, USILC	Robert Ferris, USILC	Barbara Stallone
	Ralph Glathar	Teesha Kirschbaum	

COUNCIL BUSINESS COUNCIL WELCOME

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting starting at 9:10 a.m. It was noted Teesha Kirschbaum MS, CRC, Executive Director; Washington State Rehab Council was joining the meeting via teleconference.

Ron welcomed new Council member, Deja Powell, representing Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI), replacing Sachin Pavithran, who resigned.

John Woeste gave condolences to a past Council member, Vickie Brenchley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2014 meeting were amended by Kent McGregor stating Page 1, listed Tim Lewis, twice in attendance. Ken Gourdin made an amendment to correct Karim Mardanlou's name in the attendance list.

MOTION: Kent McGregor made the motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2014 as amended. Ken Gourdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ken Gourdin volunteered to read the mission statement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

RUSS THELIN / KYLE WALKER

Russ announced that he along with Leah Lobato, Director, Governor's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities and the Chairperson of the committee, had an opportunity to meet with Governor Herbert to speak on the Vocational Rehabilitation program. As part of the Governor's economic development initiative, they addressed employment needs for people with disabilities. Russ reported the response from the Governor was very favorable and stated the meeting proved to be very impactful.

Russ spoke on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, saying last Wednesday, May 21, 2014, this bill was put out to the public in a press release. The proposed legislation is a compromise bill between the Senate and House. The expectation is that both bodies will consider this proposed legislation, which is meant to be a "legacy bill" for Senator Tom Harkin (IA). He is not seeking reelection and would like to get this bill passed before the July 4th Congressional Recess. (If not done by this time, it is likely not to get done, due to Congress going into full campaign mode.)

Title IV of the WIOA is the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, including the Vocational Rehabilitation program. The bill is 811 pages, with Title IV (VR) being approximately 200 pages which is 23% of the bill. Russ reported that VR has been working hard on some of the issues with each of the Senate and House versions of the bills that were modified for the WIOA proposed legislation.

Russ discussed his meetings with the staff of Senator Harkin and Senator Alexander office going back to last fall. More recently, this spring he met with all of our Utah congressional delegation (these meetings included SRC Chair, Ron Campbell.) He summarized and reported on the following issues:

SKILLS Act (House), WIA (Senate) Moving of RSA to the Dept. of Labor, downgrading of RSA Commissioner to a secretary appointment, moving IL to the Department of Health and Human Services, discretionary funding of 15% for the Governor for one-stop Infrastructure, and the downgrading of SCPD Standards and Subminimum wage.

Russ continued the report with what is on the Bill. He mentioned that a total of 15 programs were eliminated throughout the bill.

1. It requires states to produce one strategic plan describing how they will provide training, employment services, adult education and vocational rehabilitation through a coordinated and comprehensive system.
2. Most importantly, RSA is retained in the Department of Education and is not to be removed and sent to the Department of Labor.
3. Independent Living (IL) and the National Institute on Disability Independent Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) will be relocated to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living.
4. The RSA Commissioner will be retained as a Presidential Appointee rather than one by the Secretary of Education.
5. It reduces the minimum national standard for Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. Russ discussed this as a concern.

6. It eliminates four Rehab Act programs. Russ reported the first three were currently eliminated as VR was not using these programs, but they were still on the books. The only concern was the elimination of In-Service training. This program provided funding for agencies to offer in-service training for the CRC exam. Russ stated VR would now have to find other resources.
7. It applies one set of accountability metrics to every federal workforce program under the bill.
8. It allows States the option to prioritize Transition Students from among all served.
9. Much stronger transition language is used throughout the bill with clear emphasis on Transition focus.
10. It requires VR to provide "pre-employment transition services" coordinated with school IDEA services.
11. It requires multiple competitive employment opportunities, to include Supported Employment, before sub-minimum wage employment can be considered appropriate.
12. It mandates a 15% set-aside of allocation specifically for transition from High School to post-secondary education and employment.
13. One-Stop System Infrastructure costs are required proportional to use, with CAPS for VR starting at .75% (second year) and maximum of 1.5% (fifth year).
14. The COLA for the VR program is retained at the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U).

Russ reported that both Houses are in full support and expect to come to the floor and pass this bill quickly. Russ mentioned that a letter of gratitude to the congressional delegation would be appropriate, naming Senator Orrin Hatch, staffer Dianne Browning, Senator Michael S. Lee, and Congressmen Jason Chaffetz, Rob Bishop, Chris Stewart, and Jim Matheson. Included also were Senator Harkin and Senator Alexander. At this time, Russ also recognized SRC Chair, Ron Campbell, stating Ron's exceptionally strong advocacy in Washington D.C. made a difference. An e-mail list to contact the Federal Delegation will be forwarded to members.

UTAH STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (USILC) COLLABORATION KRIS FAWSON

Kris Fawson, Administrator and Public Policy Specialist at USILC, addressed the Council by mentioning this joint meeting is mandated and was pleased that everyone was here for the joint collaboration, which should meet once a year.

Kris spoke describing USILC as a not-for-profit state wide planning and advocacy organization. The Rehabilitation Act requires each state to create an autonomous Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) to develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL.) USILC and USOR, with input from CILs, develop the SPIL. USILC is not a service provider, nor does it fund or directly monitor services. At least 51% of the USILC board must be individuals with disabilities. Members are elected with consideration of statewide representation. Members work on community and system change in their areas as well as statewide.

Kris stated the most important role for the Council is to develop a SPIL every three years. Kris reported last year's new SPIL had been submitted to RSA and was accepted and will be going into effect in October.

Kris distributed a copy of Utah's Independent Living Network Mission and reported on the four goals listed. Lester Ruesch, USILC Chair, discussed the compromised bill regarding the IL move to Department of Health and Human Services focusing on the new changes for IL. Some improvements are the additional service Nursing Home Transition, and new SILC activities with the increase of new resource development. Discussed also were the requirements that independent living centers be involved in collection of data and other information for the

writing of the SPIL which will authorize them to sign off on it. Clarification was requested on a statement "States can choose their designated state entity/Designated State Unit (DSU)." Russ responded that each state has a choice to move or not, Utah's IL Centers will continue to operate as before and Russ stated this will not change the structure in Utah, for now.

A map of the six state wide programs for Independent Living in Utah was distributed including the IL locations, directors, staff, and phones numbers.

Debra Mair, Director of the Utah Independent Living Center (UILC), described Center services and reported on the six Independent Living Centers in Utah and what activities were happening in each location.

VOC REHAB/UTAH INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER COLLABORATION RACHEL ANDERSON

Rachel distributed copies of the "Division of Rehabilitation Services & Independent Living Centers Relationships & Collaboration." Rachel started the report by summarizing the three myths that currently have been a huge part in limiting a stronger relationship between IL and VR:

- 1) A client/consumer cannot work with both IL and VR.
- 2) IL & VR does not serve the same populations.
- 3) VR cannot pay for A.T. for Independent Living.

Rachel continued her report by summarizing each IL center and their relationship with VR. In the past year, she has been part of the IL conferences by her presentations and she felt this was helpful. She asked for input and would like to continue with more collaboration with the IL centers. After reporting on the IL centers, it was suggested that building a more solid partnership ought to include SRC periodically spotlighting an IL center and reporting on their activities.

AGENCY UPDATE

Louise Ogden, The Utah Parent Center, focused on assisting youths with transition towards successful employment.

Lindsay Boerens, DLC, had nothing to report.

Deja Powell, DSVBI, said that currently the agency is transitioning with new staff.

Paula Seanez, Title 121, reported that CANAR membership met with RSA, Mark Snyderman, regarding funding applications for Native American tribal vocational programs. Paula announced CANAR Executive Director, Joe Kelly, resigned and said this position is open. If anyone is interested they can go to the website CANAR.org to apply. Paula also announced that the Fall CANAR Conference is set for November 18-20, 2014, and will be located around the Florida area (TBA.)

Kelly Boehmer, DSDHH, had nothing to report

Aaron Thompson, Program Administrator for Client Services, reported (along with John Woeste Program Administrator for Specialized Services), that they met with the Utah Work Incentive Planning Services (UWIPS) to move forward with the recommendation on developing benefit training for counselors. Aaron stated support will be available on how to make the appropriate referrals while empathizing they are not expecting them to be benefit planners

but to be able to address concerns and then referring them to benefit planners for more detailed information.

Aaron, along with Rachel Anderson, Transition Specialist, announced they were in the process of revising and updating the Cooperative Agreement with the local school districts. Aaron stated they are focusing on local goals, communication collaboration with the 41 schools districts, charter schools, Schools for the Deaf and Blind and Job Corps. The due date is the end of June. Aaron reported that district directors and counselors were actively making efforts by getting these signed and completed.

John Woeste announced UCAT's Director position is up for vacancy as Kent Remund, Director, of UCAT will be taking Craig Boogaard's position as Director of the Utah Assistive Technology Teams (UATT) program within UCAT. John mentioned that Julia Pierce, acting as an assistant, is working out well in her position.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Russ spoke on the joint meeting today remarking how well it went. Russ briefly summarized the "Rehab Way" for IL members attending.

SUCCESS STORY

JOHN WOESTE

Sam Clapham was referred to Utah's Vocational Rehabilitation program while still in High School and was assigned to a highly qualified VR Counselor who specializes in helping transition aged youth transition from school to work. Sam wanted a real "first job" on which he could learn many duties and responsibilities. His work related and transferable skills needed to be discovered and through the process of a comprehensive individualized assessment Sam and his VR Counselor discovered many skills and abilities that would help him find a job. A functional resume was created to highlight his strengths for potential employers and to help group these skill sets. With the help of his VR Counselor, Sam received work and interview clothing, equipment and a much needed bicycle to facilitate the transportation to interviews and work.

For his interview Sam arrived on time dressed for success and "aced" the interview. When asked when he could start, Sam said "How about now?" He was hired on the spot. Beginning as a Dishwasher for a growing local employer, Sam's new manager already sees potential to eventually cross train him to grow with the company. Like all of us, Sam will use the initial job experience to grow and develop his work skills and eventually build a meaningful career that helps him to be independent and self-sufficient.

Ron Campbell, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Executive Secretary, Ginny Henderscheid