

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
September 24, 2014
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

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

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 29, 2014

PRESENT:	Kelly Boehmer	Sharon Brand	Lindsay Boerens
	Ron Campbell	Jan Quinn Carter	Robyn Chidester
	Melissa Freigang	Ken Gourdin	James Harvey
	Kent McGregor	Merina Pope	Evelyn Owen
	Amy Powell	Deja Powell	Lester Ruesch
	Amberley Snyder	Sandy Terry	Rylee Williams
PHONE:	Paula Seanez		
EXCUSED:	Susan Loving	Karim Mardanlou	Jim Sterzer
	Tammy Wood		
USOR Staff	Russ Thelin	Kyle Walker	John Woeste
	Leah Laboto	Jennifer Roth	Ginny Henderscheid
GUESTS:	Kris Fawson, USILC	Interpreters	
	Terry H. Owen, Union Pacific, Omaha, NE via phone		

WELCOME/MISSION STATEMENT

Ron Campbell welcomed Council members and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Ron confirmed attendance via teleconference call in. The SRC mission statement was already read by Kent McGregor at the morning session of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron requested any amendments or corrections to the August 2014 minutes. None were given.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

RUSS THELIN

Russ introduced a new USOR staff member, Jennifer Roth, replacing Danny Schoenfeld as the new Budget and Program Evaluation Specialist. Jennifer gave a brief self-introduction.

At the August meeting, Russ reported that the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation was nominated for the Inaugural Utah Ethical Leadership Awards, sponsored by the Daniel's Fund, the University of Utah Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA), Utah Business magazine, the Community Foundation of Utah, and Zion's Bank. USOR was nominated in the Government category. The other two categories were for business and non-profit.

At the Awards' Breakfast on September 12, 2014, USOR was announced as the winner and was presented with a crystal plaque that is now displayed in USOR's reception area. Russ stated that while several of the staff from the Home Office went to this event, the real winners were USOR staff members that operate as ethical leaders all across the state. SRC members applauded this recognition.

Russ reported that on September 19th a special issue of the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation was issued online with a host of articles relating to implementation of evidence-based practices within VR programs. One article in the issue is titled "Promising Best Practices that lead to employment in Vocational Rehabilitation: Findings from a four-state multiple case studies. This article is over 14 pages, highlighting evidenced based practices for consideration from Maryland, Mississippi, Texas, and Utah. After Utah was selected as one of the promising practices states for the research, the researchers spent several days with agency staff and learned of the UOSR's innovative practices. Russ will send this information electronically to the Executive Secretary to be forwarded to Council members.

Russ next reported on the reaction to the passing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Rehabilitation Act, which governs the VR program, is Title IV of WIOA. USOR participated in a host of webinars with the Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Labor, and other entities under WIOA to try to get a head start until regulations are issued. USOR learned yesterday that the Department of Labor region that includes Utah (along with 10 other states ranging from Louisiana to Montana), will be holding a WIOA Town Meeting the end of October in Dallas, Texas. USOR's Aaron Thompson will be the representative for the Rehab Act portion of WIOA for our state. It was suggested Aaron give a brief update at the November meeting on this event.

Yesterday USOR was notified that the 2014 Utah State Auditor's Office single audit of the USOR Vocational Rehabilitation program, their reviews, analyses and advice, was completed and there were no audit findings. Russ announced USOR is running a "clean ship."

Russ and Kyle attended the Social Services Appropriations Sub-Committee Interim meeting. There were a few items on the agenda that related to USOR, but nothing that required a

response from USOR. There was a review of USOR's performance measures for the new funding USOR received, as well as an issue brief that looked at travel expenses for the four agencies reporting to this committee (Health, Human Services, DWS, and USOR). It was noted in the issue brief that the USOR travel expenses were 2.1 times higher than the next highest agency (Health), and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA) questioned why. USOR provided a response to the LFA, but will be generating a more formal response for review at the next interim meeting in December.

Russ invited SRC Council members to attend the Annual USOR Conference on Tuesday, October 28th 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Russ mentioned members could also just attend the awards luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Utah Valley University, Ballroom. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by October 15th to the Executive Secretary. Russ will send out an agenda which will be forwarded by the Executive Secretary to Council members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

RON CAMPBELL

Ron started the election process by announcing the vacant positions: Vice-Chair, Secretary and Member-at-Large. It was noted the Vice-Chair, Sharon Brand will ascend to Chairperson. Ron asked for nominations for any of the vacant positions. Ron noted that the Bylaws state that those holding current vacant positions may take on another term, if so desired. Ron asked Ken Gourdin, Secretary if he would take another term as Secretary. Ken accepted. Ron asked Rylee Williams, Member-at-Large if she would take another term as Member-at-Large. Rylee accepted.

Open nominations for the Vice-Chair position were taken. Ron Campbell nominated W. Kent McGregor for Vice-Chair. W. Kent McGregor accepted the nomination. No other nominations were taken. Ron noted as only one nomination for Vice Chair was taken, no private ballot was necessary.

MOTION: Kent McGregor made the motion to nominate Ken Gourdin for Secretary. Sharon Brand seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

MOTION: Robyn Chidester made the motion to nominate Rylee Williams for Member-at-Large. Kent McGregor seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

MOTION: Ron Campbell made the motion to nominate W. Kent McGregor for Vice-Chair. Ken Gourdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

Lester Ruesch, IL Director had no report at this time.

Deja Powell, DSBVI, had no report at this time.

Robyn Chidester, from The Parent Center, reported that the Center is busy with outreach programs to all districts and charter schools to make them aware of the Courier Grant with Utah Office of Education and USOR on accessing Voc Rehab and the services that are provided. She reported on the collaboration with USOR's Transition Specialist, Rachel Anderson, making contact with students.

Evelyn Owen, CAP, announced she is the new advocate from the Disability Law Center (DLC). Council members welcomed her to the position.

Kelly Boehmer, DSDHH, reported on an outreach program for hard of hearing individuals which had one-time funds to work with clients in rural areas. They are working to get on-going funds of \$82,000.

Paula Seanz, Title 21 of the Navajo Nation, reported that Travis Morgan is no longer the Director and was replaced by Mary Leonard. Paula announced that Mary just gave her resignation as Director as of September 30, 2014.

SUCCESS STORY

VIDEO

This video story was about a young man named Jeff Young. Jeff struggled with school initially. He faced many challenges including a learning disability that put him behind. Instead of facing his challenges, he reacted by getting into fights, skipping school, and heading down a path of no success.

In conjunction with Utah's Vocational Rehabilitation programs, Innovative Harbor worked with Jeff to face his challenges. Through the class called "Why Try", Jeff learned to act instead of to react.

Innovative Harbor was able to connect Jeff with a position with Utah's Department of Natural Resources. Jeff loves his job and his employer enjoys working with him. Now Jeff is on track for graduating high school and has a future with the DNR.

GOVERNOR COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LEAH LOBATO

Russ introduced Leah Lobato, Director. Leah gave a brief history of the Utah Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. She reported this committee had been around since the 1970's with the purpose of educating and to assist both businesses and individuals with disabilities for opportunities and advancement for employment. A list of mandated groups that are on the committee are: business & industry, individuals with disabilities, job training and placement, state agencies', labor, veterans, medical professionals, insurance professionals, media and general public.

Leah summarized the three objectives of the Committee:

- Objective #1. To increase the outreach and education level of Alternative State Application Program (ASAP) for decision-makers who are responsible for hiring state employees. Leah mentioned that there are some state agencies that are not aware of ASAP and the focus is to get the word out. It was noted that an ASAP video was developed that includes examples of personal experience that were hired through the ASAP program. Leah will send this video to the Executive Secretary to forward to Council members.
- Objective #2. Help businesses understand and qualify to become a 503-compliant company. Leah explained the outreach program was to provide education to businesses. She then reported on the changes for Federal contractors who hire and fall under the Title 503 of the Rehabilitation Act. She explained the concerns on the utilization goal of the 7% hiring rate for businesses who hire those having a disability. Leah reported the rate of 7% was based on data from the American Community Survey (ACS).
- Objective #3. Improve upon existing campaigns, create new programs where needed, and eliminate antiquated operations.

Leah announced and invited Council members to the Golden Key Awards to be held October 2, 2014. Invitations are being mailed and, for those wanting to attend, she will e-mail information to the Executive Secretary to forward to Council members.

Leah also invited the Council members to the Work Ability Career Fair, to be held October 7, 2014. Leah noted 28 businesses are now registered and she would like to get the word out. Leah will send information to the Executive Secretary to forward to Council members regarding this event.

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Minutes were submitted by Ginny Henderscheid, SRC Executive Secretary