
VIRGINIA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED
Quarterly Meeting
APPROVED MINUTES
December 9, 2022
397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

SRC Members in Attendance

Alexa Bowe, Arlington, Representative of Business, Industry and Labor
Leelynn Untalan Brady, Suffolk, Representative of Statewide Independent Living Council
Annette Hyde, Radiant, Representative of the Workforce Council
Edna Johnson, Alexandria, Former or Current Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Heidi Lawyer, Henrico, Representative of Parent Training & Information Center (PEATC)
Liang Liao, Richmond, DBVI, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Ex-Officio Member
Joliefawn Liddell, Richmond, Representative of the Client Assistance Program
Ricardo Lizama, Arlington, Representative of Disability Advocacy Group
Marianne Moore, Richmond, Representative of the Virginia Department of Education
Chanthen Nene, Manassas, Representative of Disability Advocacy Group
Rachael Rounds, Midlothian, Representative of Community Rehabilitation Services Program
Milford Stern, Roanoke, Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor Via Zoom from Roanoke due to Personal Reason

SRC Members Not Able to Attend

Rick Mitchell, Richmond, Commissioner, DBVI, Ex-Officio Member

DBVI Staff Present

Pam Cato, Deputy Commissioner of Services
Megan Hall, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and Workforce Services via Zoom
Maggie Mills, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Mitchell – Recorder of Minutes
Susan Davis, Senior Policy Analyst and Training Coordinator

ASL Interpreters

Katherine Malady
Bernadette Mayhall

Public

Caroline Rammacher

Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions

Chair Bowe called the meeting to order. A roundtable of introductions took place. Quorum was met.

Adoption of Agenda

Deputy Commissioner Cato suggested one change to the Agenda under Old and New Business. Ms. Cato recommended adding a discussion item to review the suggested Bylaws update regarding the opportunity to consider holding an all-virtual meeting. Ms. Brady motioned to adopt the change to the Agenda and Ms. Lawyer seconded. All were in favor.

Adoption of September 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chair Bowe indicated one change to the presented Minutes. Chair Bowe's address has changed from Newport News to Arlington. Ms. Brady motioned to accept Minutes as presented with this change. Ms. Lawyer seconded. All were in favor

Public Comment

None

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Rick Mitchell

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows.

Deputy Commissioner Cato presented the Commissioner's Report in Commissioner Mitchells' absence. Ms. Cato reviewed several of the vacancies in the Services Division and gave an update on the recruitment status.

Deputy Commissioner's Report – Pam Cato

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows.

VRCBVI hosted its annual Family and Friends Day event October 15, 2022. The theme of this event was, "What If THIS Actually Works?".

The Director of Rehabilitation Technology, Dr. Peggy Fields, officially retires January 1, 2023. Dan Aunspach will be filling her position starting December 12, 2022

VR Program Update – Megan Hall

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows.

Ms. Hall reported via Zoom while attending her last of four seminars at the National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute (NLR). Participants of these seminars are required to be nominated based on their demonstrating the ability to lead changes within their organization. She shared that the IT Credential Fair was held on December 8. This has been a busy quarter for DBVI Pre-ETS with an IT tiered cohort, a new pilot for Career Immersion and planning for the IT Credential Fair as well as next spring through summer. Students achieve a basic understanding of computer systems. This leads a pathway for students to participate in more information technology events. The next step will be Security+ which begins in January.

November 18-20 saw a new pilot, Careers in Action-Bridge to Success, take place in Natural Bridge, Virginia. Twenty-one students, their parents and DBVI staff all came together for an incredible weekend of growth where they learned about various employment opportunities at the Natural Bridge Safari and Hotel and Conference Center. The speaker at the event was Kendal Swartzentruber, who is the state Co-Coordinator of VDOE's I'm Determined Program and the Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) Coordinator.

Old and New Business

Amendment to FOIA

Ms. Davis reported on the Amendment to FOIA that became effective September 1, 2022 – Code of Virginia 2.2-3708.3 Meetings held through electronic communication means; situations other than declared states of emergency. Ms. Mills will send proposed language to Council Members once

received from Ms. Davis.

Annual Report Update

Mr. Stern reported that everything needed to complete the Annual Report has been received except the report from the Richmond Regional Office. Mr. Stern will send Chair Bowe the Report to review format and accessibility. It will then be sent to Ms. Mills for a final proofread. The Annual Report is due to the Governor's Office by the end of the calendar year. It was suggested that a Subcommittee be created to work on the Annual Report for next year. Volunteers will be asked for at the March meeting. Sections will be assigned to Members and a timeline will be created.

CSAVR/NCSAB Debrief

Rachael Rounds represented the SRC at the NCSAB and gave a debrief of her experience. Deputy Commissioner Cato attended the CSAVR and NCSAB and gave a debrief of her experience noting that recruitment and retention within Vocational Rehabilitation was a large theme across all states. Ms. Cato also noted that accreditation requirements have changed for Rehabilitation Counseling programs leading to challenges in recruiting interns. The CSAVR 2023 Spring Conference will be held April 15-19, 2023, in Bethesda, MD. The CSAVR 2023 Fall Conference will be held October 28-November 1, 2023, in Savannah, GA. Visit the following link for more details: <https://www.csavr.org/events> The SRC sponsors one-two SRC members to attend each of these conferences.

SRC Appointments

Several SRC members' terms expired in September 2022. Appointments from the Governor's Office have not yet been announced.

2023 Proposed Quarterly SRC Meeting Dates

The following dates were proposed for the 2023 Quarterly SRC Meetings: March 10, June 9, September 8, December 8. Mr. Nene motioned to adopt the proposed dates. Ms. Brady seconded. All were in favor.

Representative Roundtable

Several of the SRC members provided highlights on the organizations they represent.

Other

Dr. Johnson proposed to have someone talk to VR Counselors regarding accommodations and offered her expertise in this area.

SRC Members were encouraged to come to March 2023 meeting with ideas of how they can become more engaged in their role as a Council Member and encouraged Members to review SRC Job Description.

Adjourn

Mr. Nene motioned to end the meeting. Ms. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next SRC Quarterly Meeting

March 10, 2023