

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2008

A meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on August 11, 2008 at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present: Karen Baugh, Charles Benagh, Sandra Cook, Daniel DeBoer, Matthew Deans, Sarah Liddle, Kathleen Maybee, Marianne Moore, James Rothrock, Samuel Simon, Cherie Takemoto, Florence Watt

Members Absent: Donna Kay Graff, Kenneth Holloway, Hiawatha Nicely, Michael Organ, Roy Ward

Others Present: John Phelps, Field Rehabilitative Services Director; Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Mary Lutkenhaus, Policy Analyst; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Rick Sizemore, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Director; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Ernie Steidle, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer; Myra Owens, Ph.D., Lead Research and Evaluation Analyst; Mable Fleming, Senior Research and Evaluation Analyst.

Call to Order: Council Chairperson Danny DeBoer called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charles Benagh, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting as distributed.

Matters of Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairperson Danny DeBoer announced Hiawatha Nicely, SRC representative from the Virginia Workforce Council, as the recipient of the 2008 SRC Chairperson's Recognition Award.
- A motion was made by Matthew Deans, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend that Mr. DeBoer and Kathy Maybee serve as the SRC liaisons to the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired's SRC to succeed Roy Ward. The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2008.
- Cherie Takemoto was nominated as the 2008-2009 Chair of the SRC and Matthew Deans as the Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations for these positions, a motion was made by Danny DeBoer, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to elect these individuals.
- The members agreed to hold the November 17-18, 2008 SRC meeting and retreat in Richmond at a location to be determined. Sam Simon, Danny DeBoer, Matthew Deans and Cherie Takemoto agreed to be on the planning committee for the retreat.

- Mr. DeBoer briefed the members on his participation at the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) SRC training in Orlando, Florida on May 14-16, 2008. Mr. DeBoer found the training program to be very beneficial and recommended that the SRC and DRS participate in any future training of this sort. Mr. DeBoer introduced the members to the E-rehab SRC Training Series, which is sponsored by RSA. The training series may be accessed at <http://www.erehab.org/SRC/> and SRC members are encouraged to review the modules as they have time. It also was recommended that newly appointed members be notified of the training to review before their first SRC meeting.
- The March meeting of the SRC will be held in Norfolk in conjunction with the Transition Forum. The SRC would like to have a State Plan public hearing scheduled during the forum.

Commissioner's Report

- On August 7, 2008 a meeting was held for DRS manager's and others, 28 on site and 48 more via teleconference, that are involved in the six model comprehensive One-Stop sites and Workforce Investment Boards. The Honorable Daniel LeBlanc, Senior Advisor for Workforce, provided an overview of the Governor's vision for workforce and stated the importance of a comprehensive, coordinated workforce system to the citizens of the Commonwealth, including those with disabilities. Gail Robinson, Deputy Advisor for Workforce, and Marietta Sawyer also attended and provided information on the purpose of co-locations. The One-Stop in Charlottesville is in full operation and the Commissioner expects additional One-Stops to open around the State.
- On August 18, 2008, Governor Kaine will provide a budget update to members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. A budget deficit for Virginia is projected, but it is not clear what effect the deficit will have on DRS.
- The Commissioner invited members to go to the www.vadrs.org website and review "What's New" to find interesting information on brain injury and veteran's services, among other items.
- On November 7, 2008, WWRC will host a Wounded Warrior Forum – others have been held around the Commonwealth. Additional information will be forwarded.
- There are currently 918 individuals on the vocational rehabilitation waiting list. The SRC members will be provided with information about the length of time individuals have been on the list at the next SRC meeting.
- The Annual Disability Employer Champions Luncheon, which is co-sponsored with Dominion Resources, will be held at the Sheraton West in Richmond on October 2, 2008. Invitations will be mailed to the SRC members.
- Virginia Commonwealth University has received a grant, effective October 1, 2008, to evaluate the value of vocational rehabilitation for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders. DRS will be working with VCU on this grant.
- Commissioner Rothrock and Liz Smith talked with RSA about the 2009 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and some changes that RSA is requesting,

particularly more information on the process utilized by the SRC to develop their annual recommendations attachment. Ms. Smith will be making the recommended changes and submitting revised attachments to RSA.

- On July 29-30, 2008, WWRC hosted a successful site visit with a representative from the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). RSA has contracted with RTI to conduct an evaluation of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers. Mr. DeBoer met with the RTI evaluator during the site visit.
- On July 18, 2008 a meeting was held with about 50 different entities on the new Ticket to Work regulations and Employment Networks.
- Commissioner Rothrock presented Danny DeBoer with a gavel in recognition of his excellent leadership during the year as SRC Chairperson

Council Roundtable

Virginia Workforce Council and & Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired SRC: No reports

Department of Education (DOE): Ms. Moore reported that Governor Timothy M. Kaine appointed Dr. Patricia I. Wright to succeed Dr. Billy Cannaday as Superintendent of Public Instruction, effective October 1, 2008. Dr. Wright currently serves as Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position she has held since 2006. DOE is working on a goal to improve the graduation rates of secondary school students.

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC): Ms. Takemoto reported that PEATC will sponsor a Middle School Summit on September 13, 2008, at Petersburg High School. Parents, educators, services providers, and community members can information share, participate in workshops, hear dynamic presenters, and receive free resources from vendors who promote and support parent and school partnerships. On October 13, 2008, a talent competition for youth with disabilities will be held at the Landmark Theatre in Richmond. Additional information can be obtained at the PEATC website at www.peatc.org.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC): Ms. Liddle reported that the next SILC meeting will be held on October 15-16, 2008 in Richmond. Ms. Liddle distributed copies and briefly discussed the Vision, Philosophy, Mission Statement, Historical Overview, and State Plan History of the SILC. You may review the information and Appendix by going to www.vasilc.org.

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) Advisory Council: Mr. Simon reported that at the July 31, 2008 meeting Sonja Schaible, the new Executive Director of the Foundation for Rehabilitative Equipment and Endowment (FREE), gave a report, via video teleconference, on the Virginia Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Network Grant initiative that FREE is co-managing with VATS. All VATS Regional Sites were in attendance and reported on significant events and activities for the second

and third quarters of the current fiscal year. The next VATS Advisory Council meeting is schedule to be held on September 9, 2008. On September 19, 2008, PEATC and VATS will be holding a computer software fair.

Committee Reports

Internal Affairs Committee

Karen Baugh, Chair, reported on the following:

John Phelps, Field Services Director, distributed the Field Rehabilitation Services (FRS) Division Performance Measures for Federal Fiscal Year 2008, Month ending June 2008. In most of the performance measure categories, FRS is not performing as well as compared to the same time period in Federal Fiscal Year 2007. Some possible explanations include the continuing impact of order of selection (having only the most significantly disabled priority category open) and the high number of consumers with successful employment outcomes in Federal Fiscal Year 2007, which impacts the number for 2008. Ms. Metcalf and Ms. Baugh both stated that the current Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) consumers are much more significantly disabled than in the past, which presents many challenges for the VR counselors. Mr. Simon asked about the availability of performance predictors and Mr. Steidle stated that he knows of no statistically valid predictors.

The Committee reviewed the status of the contracts with the hearing officers for the vocational rehabilitation program. A motion was made by the Committee, seconded and approved unanimously to renew the three hearing officer contracts for another 12 months. Gail Jaspen, the current designated Reviewing Official for hearing officer decisions, has accepted a position as Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science effective August 25, 2008. Accordingly, a request will be sent from Commissioner Rothrock and Commissioner Hopkins to Secretary Marilyn B. Tavenner to appoint a new Reviewing Official for DRS and DBVI.

Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst, provided the Committee with a report on the 2007 vocational rehabilitation consumer satisfaction survey results. During 2007, the overall satisfaction rate was 80%. Myra Owens briefed the Committee on the results of the Internal Audit of the consumer satisfaction system. One recommendation from the audit was that the SRC and DRS enter into an official agreement for DRS to administer the survey for the SRC. This agreement will be drafted and presented to the Committee at the next meeting. The SRC received a copy of the survey results for their review and further discussion at the next meeting.

External Affairs Committee

In the absence of Ken Holloway, Danny DeBoer reported on the following:

The Committee reviewed the status of SRC member appointments. The Governor will be appointing a representative from the Client Assistance Program and Commissioner Rothrock has requested the appointment of a member from the Virginia Workforce Council to succeed Hiawatha Nicely. There are still a few more appointments to be made and SRC members are encouraged to submit recommendations to the Commissioner or the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Planning will begin soon for the development of the 2008 SRC Annual Report. Sam Simon agreed to work with DRS staff on developing the annual report and a draft will be available for review at the November meeting.

The Roy J. Ward SRC Employee Leadership Recognition Award eligibility criteria and nomination form will be distributed to SRC members and DRS staff. The nomination deadline is November 1, 2008, and nominations should be forwarded to Barbara.Tyson@drs.virginia.gov. Up to five individuals can receive the award and the External Affairs Committee will review applications, and make recommendations to the full Council.

Dr. Barbara Burkett, Lead Analyst, provided preliminary results of the survey conducted with school personnel attending the 2007 Transition Forum on transition services to be utilized for the department's vocational rehabilitation triennial needs assessment. December is the completion date of the triennial needs assessment.

Unfinished Business

Fiscal Report

Ernie Steidle reported on the status of the budget 11 months through the State Fiscal year. Overall, the agency expended 97% of the budget, which is on target for the year.

Rick Sizemore reported that WWRC's has launched a "YouTube" Channel, which has received more than 1500 hits since June 26, 2008. Information on the site is being utilized by VR counselors in working with consumers who are interested in attending WWRC. Future plans for the channel, located at <http://www.youtube.com/user/WWRCvirginiagov> include expanding the library of videos with virtual tours, student/staff interviews and activities, graduations, etc. Mr. Sizemore provided a demonstration of the site.

New Business

A motion was made by Ms. Takemoto, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote that the SRC would forward a letter to Governor Timothy M. Kaine requesting his assistance in broadening the public meeting provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to allow expanded participation in board and council meeting by videoconferencing or teleconferencing as a cost savings measure.

The Disability Commission will meet on August 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the General Assembly Building, House Room D.

Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting with planning retreat will be held on November 17-18, 2008, in Richmond at a location to be determined. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.