

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2010

A meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on November 16, 2010 at the DRS Headquarters Building in Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present: Charles Benagh (teleconference), Stephanie Colorado, Sandra Cook, Matthew Deans, Daniel DeBoer, Charles Downs, Donna Kay Graff, Shannon McManus Jones, Toney Lineberry, James Rothrock, Karen Gregory-Williams, Florence Watt

Members Absent: Gregory Coleman, Sarah Liddle, Kathy Maybee, Marianne Moore

Others Present: Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Quality Assurance Analyst; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Doug Powell, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired SRC Chair; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operating Officer ; Cat Clough and Bernadette Mayhall, Interpreters

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2010 meeting and noted that the addendum to the minutes includes the written reports of the SRC members.

Mr. Downs announced that he had received a written request from Chuck Benagh to participate by teleconference because of a medical condition/disability that prevented his attendance.

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

Chairperson's Report:

- Matthew Deans will serve as the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee and Danny DeBoer will serve as the Chair of the External Affairs Committee for Federal Fiscal Year 2011.
- On November 5, 2010 Commissioner Rothrock convened a Council Leadership Summit with representation from various boards and councils associated with DRS and the Department for the Aging. Senator Walter A. Stosch spoke on the "View of the General Assembly" and Secretary William A. Hazel, Jr., MD presented on the "View from the Secretary's Office." In addition, the participants received training on parliamentary procedure.
- SRC members were asked to review the SRC by-laws and be prepared to consider changes regarding the definition of a quorum and continuation of member terms pending notice of reappointments.

- Mr. Downs submitted a research topic to the RSA Institute on Rehabilitation Issues for consideration. The topic pertains to best practices in overcoming disincentives to employment for people with disabilities.
- The following 2011 meeting dates were agreed to: January 24, March 14, May 9, August 8, and November 14-15 (with retreat). The March meeting will be held in conjunction with the Transition Forum in Norfolk.
- Members expressed their appreciation for the Planning Retreat held the day before and felt that it was a good opportunity to learn about Virginia's Independent Living Program and the various topics presented by Rob Froehlich from the George Washington University TACE Center on the SRC collaborative relationships, responsibilities, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Members expressed an interest in learning more about the State and DRS budget process and reviewing the SRC bylaws. Members were asked to return their evaluation forms if they have not already done so.
- Sandra Cook participated in a conference call of Region III (Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, D.C., and West Virginia), SRC members, and liaisons to plan for future meetings of these individuals in concert with the GWU TACE Center. The next meeting of this group will be held on November 19, 2010 and Ms. Cook, Mr. Downs, and Elizabeth Smith will attend the meeting.
- Mr. Downs announced that he has made several contacts on behalf of the SRC: responded to a column in the Richmond Times Dispatch regarding disabled supports and sent a letter to Chet Avery congratulating him and his wife on their recognition from the City of Alexandria.

DRS Program Report

Ernie Steidle reported on the status of the budget for State Fiscal Year 2011 and provided members with a detailed budget breakdown. The Governor will release his budget on December 17th and the Commissioner will give an update at the January meeting.

Council Roundtable

The Statewide Independent Living Council, the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, and the Department of Education reports were submitted in writing and are attached.

External Affairs Committee Report

Danny DeBoer demonstrated the revisions that have been completed on the SRC Website. Revisions are still underway.

Aileen Colorado, Sarah Ross, and Vanessa Rakestraw previewed the SRC 2010 Annual Report. The theme for this year's report is "A Commonwealth of Opportunity". Charlie Downs and Shannon McManus Jones are serving on the Annual Report work group and

assisted with drafting the report's content. The Committee members approved the design and theme of the Annual Report.

Danny DeBoer updated the Committee on the status of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. DRS and DBVI are collaborating on this process and staff members for both DRS and DBVI have met regularly to develop the assessment. A Steering Committee, that includes members of the SRC, has been formed to provide advice on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment process and a literature search is currently being conducted.

Danny DeBoer discussed the outcome of the SRC retreat with the Committee. As a result, the Committee decided to assign specific duties to individual Committee members. Shannon McManus Jones and Charlie Downs will continue to work on the SRC Annual Report next year. Florence Watt and Sandra Cook will work on legislative outreach activities. Danny DeBoer, Florence Watt, and Gregory Coleman are currently involved with the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

Internal Affairs Committee

The Committee has formed a Subcommittee regarding DRS' Comprehensive System of Personnel Development and will invite Susan Gaillard, DRS Training Manager, to their next meeting to discuss DRS' In-Service Training Grant program.

The Committee reviewed the draft of the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DRS and the SRC for the administration of the vocational rehabilitation consumer satisfaction survey. The Committee decided to continue to renew this MOU on an annual basis. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the 2011 MOU.

Toney Lineberry and Chuck Benagh provided a report on the 2011 WWRC Blueprint. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve this Blueprint.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

The WWRC Land Transfer agenda item was postponed until the January, 2011 meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote for Danny DeBoer and Matthew Deans to serve on the Advisory Council for the Return on Investment Federal Grant received by the University of Richmond. Commissioner Rothrock will serve as Chair of the Advisory Council.

At the next SRC meeting, Doug Powell will provide a presentation on the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired and their SRC.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council Report (SILC) to the Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) November 16, 2010

The quarterly business meeting of the SILC was held October 21, 2010 at the Virginia Housing Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Highlights from the meeting include:

On October 6, 2010 the SILC was notified by RSA that the 2011-2013 State Plan for Independent Living had been approved.

The SILC Committees reviewed the Goals and Objectives under their purview and assigned responsibility to each committee member for monitoring objective(s) for the October 2010- September 2011 period.

Rebecca Wilkens of DRS provided an overview and update of the “Blueprint for Livable Communities” project. The project is mandated by § 2.2-213.4 of the Code of Virginia, with a written report of the blueprint due by June 30, 2011 to the General Assembly. SILC chair, Jack Brandt is the SILC representative on the citizen advisory group which met on October 8 to review this project which is at the research and information collecting stages.

The By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing the current by-laws and will include the recommended changes discussed at the October meeting. The By-Law committee will introduce the revisions and a draft during the Feb, 2011 meeting and then have a final vote to implement them during the April 2011 meeting.

The Operations Committee chair appointed five members to the 2014 – 2016 SPIL Sub-committee. This sub-committee will begin the development of the next State Plan for Independent Living

At the request of newer SILC members, it was recommended that the Council add thirty (30) minutes to the quarterly business meeting agenda for debriefing between newer members and existing members. It was felt that this specific agenda item would offer opportunities to newer members to more fully integrate into the Council and to understand the specific responsibilities of membership.

The SILC voted to provide \$3000.00 additional funding for the CIL Housing Training to be held in Richmond in December. This Housing Training is a direct outcome of a SPIL Goal for 2011-2013.

Special Reports:

Olmstead Commission Update – A joint meeting was held for the Community Integration Advisory Commission and the Implementation Team on September 24, 2010 in Richmond. Carter Harrison is the Chair of the Commission. A work plan for the upcoming year was discussed because there is a new administration. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and decided upon four recommendations, in time for the Governor's Budget Amendments, which were: 1) increase ID and DD waiver slots; 2) restore respite cuts in FY '12; 3) restore the 5% provider rate cuts in FY '12, and 4) support an increase to Livable Housing Tax Credits. The Office of Community Integration has been moved to DRS, and the Commission/Team was assured by Secretary Hazel that the same level of cooperation will exist. The OCI Director position has since been closed to applications and awaiting the interview process.

State Rehabilitation Council, DBVI and Older Blind Grant (OBG) – Jane Ward-Solomon, our DSU representative from DBVI reported the following: The Rehab Council plans to conduct a needs assessment. There is more detailed information posted on the DBVI website. The OBG funding is provided to DBVI in accordance with Title VII, Chapter 2. There are currently 22 rehab teachers for the RT/IL program. With stimulus funding, the OBG Technology project was created and will run through September 30, 2011, and the regular OBG program formula funding will continue. Older individuals who are blind have received computer equipment including adaptive software which has enhanced independence. Approximately 88 individuals have successfully received computers to date.

Virginia Assistive Technology Advisory Council (VATS) – SILC member, Shaun Utt is a recent appointment to the VATS Advisory Council.

Virginia Association for Independent Living (VACIL) – VACIL received a grant that will be utilized to expose junior high school and community college students to become personal aides. CIL Day at the General Assembly will be February 2. VACIL legislative agenda will include budget amendments requesting that the 10% cut to the CILs be restored. VACIL will also be requesting funding for the DRS PAS program. VACIL is working with Area Agencies on Aging on an options counseling grant and also plans to work with AAA and DMAS for marketing of MFP for Virginia.

Social Media –The SILC is reviewing methodologies to become more connected to social media outlets.

Letter of Congratulations to SILC Chair - Commissioner Rothrock presented a letter from the Governor to Jack Brandt, SILC Chair recognizing his award from Style Weekly Magazine having been named as one of Richmond's "Top 40 under 40".

Future Meeting Dates for 2011 -

February 2 – 3, Richmond
Thereafter, 4th week of the month of the quarter:
April 27 – 28, Grundy
July 27 – 28, Winchester
October 26 - 27, Richmond

Submitted by: Sarah A Liddle, ILC Liaison to SRC

**DEPARTMENT OF BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED (DBVI)
Highlights from meeting on July 13, 2010**

Commissioner's Report

Order of Selection categories remain open as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds and tight control of these fund
The Agency is recruiting for a Deputy Commissioner for Enterprises due to retirement of Bob Berrang

Virginia Industries for the Blind has 147 employees, of which 96 are blind. VIB is entering the new fiscal year in a sound business position with good prospects for increased employment. Prospect include the Army and two online catalog ordering projects with the state of Virginia's web-based procurement system and the Federal government e-commerce system

The VRCBVI endowment fund has a value of \$5,033,162, an increase over the previous year of \$122,630. The Board was given a financial report detailing the makeup of the endowment fund. Included in the report was how the funds could be used.

It was reported that a student who is blind and attends school in Greene County has been awarded a full national scholarship to attend college. This is a testament to the work of the professionals at DBVI



The Virginia College and Career Readiness Initiative

To better position Virginia's students for postsecondary training or a job and to meet employers' expectations of candidates for entry-level jobs, VDOE is looking for ways to increase students' preparation for the future. In Executive Order Number 9, Governor Robert F. McDonnell called for an increase of 100,000 additional associate and bachelor's degrees over the next 15 years.

The Virginia College and Career Readiness Initiative is designed to:

- Ensure that college and career ready learning standards in reading, writing and mathematics are taught in every Virginia high school classroom.
- Strengthen students' preparation for college and the work force before leaving high school.

Through the work in the initiative, Virginia is in the process of:

- Defining college and career ready performance expectations aligned to national and international college and career ready standards.
- Developing elective "capstone courses" to support students who need additional instruction to meet college and career ready performance expectations before leaving high school.
- Providing technical assistance and professional development to Virginia's educators to support implementation of the revised English and mathematics standards and the college and career ready performance expectations.
- Aligning the state assessments to measure student mastery of the more rigorous mathematics and English standards adopted in 2009 and 2010. Certain high school end-of-course tests will include quantitative indicators of whether students have met or exceeded the achievement levels needed to be successful in introductory mathematics and English courses in college.
- Identifying accountability measures and incentives for schools to increase the percentage of students who graduate high school having demonstrated the academic and career skills needed to be successful in postsecondary education programs.

Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) recently announced the establishment of the Center of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorders. A collaborative venture of VDOE and VCU's Schools of Education and Medicine, the center will serve as a focal point for research, professional development and technical assistance in implementing research-based effective practices and comprehensive services for students with autism. The center is funded through a start-up grant from VDOE.

One of the center's first projects will be to assist VDOE in working with selected school divisions to expand their capacity to provide high-quality programming for

students with autism. Participating school divisions will have access to board-certified behavior analysts who will provide technical assistance and training for teachers and paraprofessionals who work with students with autism. The center will be developing a consortium of institutes of higher education that will provide coursework leading to board certification in behavioral analysis and opportunities to prepare teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and related service providers to more effectively work with students with autism.

Youth and Parent Summits

These summits will be held November 15 and 16 in Staunton, Virginia. Over 160 parents, youth, and presenters will assemble in Staunton for the annual Summits. Youth will learn strategies for leading more self determined lives. They will also present on their experiences while attending the Summit on the Hill in Washington D.C. July, 2010. Miss Virginia, Rob Langston, Lisa Litsey, and Brett Leake are featured presenters.

Virginia Transition Forum

The Waterside Marriott is full! Registration is picking up and approximately 90 proposals have been sent to the Presentation Committee. Youth and Parents will have a presence representing the Youth and Parent Summits. Look for presentations by youth and their families.