

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2011

A meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on May 9, 2011 at the Richmond Marriott West in Glen Allen, Virginia.

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

Members Absent: Gregory Coleman, Shannon McManus Jones

Others Present: Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Analyst; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Barbara Burkett, Research and Evaluation Lead Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operations Officer; Rick Sizemore, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Director; Barbara Ostrander, WWRC Medical Rehab Services Administration; Kathy Hayfield, FRS Director; Rebecca Wilkens, Special Assistant to the Commissioner; Julie Triplett, Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy; Cat Clough and Bernadette Mayhall, Interpreters; Gary Vial, Guest.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting as amended.

Matters of Public Comment: There were no comments from the public. Ms. Smith provided an overview of the comments that had been received during the State Plan public comment period. The comments were compiled from the four public hearings and those submitted in writing. A response will be drafted for each comment and the comments/responses will be placed on the agency's website.

Chairperson's Report:

- Danny DeBoer and Florence Watt will serve as the Nominating Committee for the election of the 2012 SRC Chair and Vice-Chair. The election of new officers will occur at the August 8 meeting.
- The SRC will hold a planning retreat on November 14-15, 2011. Rob Froehlich, the George Washington University TACE Center representative for Virginia, will help the SRC plan and implement the retreat.
- Charlie Downs and Sandra Cook attended the April, 2011 meeting of the Region III SRCs. The 36th Institute on Rehabilitation Issues has issued the publication "The State Rehabilitation Council-Vocational Rehabilitation Partnership". Commissioner Rothrock will get copies of the publication for the SRC members.

The next Region III SRC meeting will be held on November 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Richmond. Possible meeting topics include the SRC role as an advocate, public hearings, budgets, emerging practices, and SRC committee structures.

Commissioner's Report

- DRS' vocational rehabilitation (VR) program is still operating with all categories closed under Order of Selection. This is necessitated by the large number of consumers who came into the program after the categories were opened utilizing Federal Stimulus Funds, the delay in receipt of VR funds from the Federal Government, and increased costs of serving VR consumers. Currently, the waiting list is approximately 500 consumers.
- The Commissioner will be meeting with the Secretary of Administration to discuss potential changes to the Commonwealth's Small, Women and Minority vendor program to enhance use by the Commonwealth of the Employment Services Organizations' products and services.
- The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center will have a small reduction in force necessitated by the decrease in third party funding for services provided by the Center. Rick Sizemore will discuss this more in his report.
- Effective July 1, 2011, the Field Rehabilitative Services (FRS) will change from five regions to four regions because of the retirements of one Regional Director, one Regional Secretary, and two FRS Managers.
- The Commissioner received a letter from the Director of the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) clarifying that the role of the Client Assistance Program representative on the SRC is to be an advocate on behalf of constituents of VOPA's Client Assistance Program.
- The Disability Commission will meet on May 18, 2011 and will continue their efforts to afford secondary-school students the ability to retain school purchased assistive technology devices following graduation.
- The Board of the Piedmont Center for Independent Living (CIL) has decided to dissolve the CIL following the termination of the Director and several staff members. DRS will issue a Request for Proposal to create a satellite CIL in that geographic area as an interim step towards the creation of a new CIL.
- The Commissioner will provide the SRC with a copy of the draft *Blueprint for Livable Communities* that contains information on community resources for the aging and disabled population, including information on available transportation resources.
- The Commissioner received a letter acknowledging Donna Martin, VR counselor, for her assistance in helping a consumer on the wait-list with employment. While Ms. Martin's assistance was minimal and no VR funds were used, her efforts were recognized.

SRC Employee Leadership Recognition Awards

The following DRS employees were recognized with the 2011 SRC Roy J. Ward Employee Leadership Award: Dale Batten, Jane Bennett, Mary Breister and Emily West.

Department of Education Collaboration

As continuing education for the SRC members, Marianne Moore made a presentation on the organization of the Department of Education, the Virginia procedural safeguards for disabled youth in special education, and transition services for disabled youth.

The August, 2011 continuing education program will be on deaf and hard of hearing services.

DRS Program Reports

Budget: Ernie Steidle made a presentation on the budget process for agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the process used by DRS to develop operating budgets for the 2012 Fiscal Year.

Field Rehabilitative Services: Kathy Hayfield reviewed the July 1, 2011 changes to the FRS regions brought about by upcoming employee retirements. The Field Offices for the current Blue Ridge Region will be divided between the Southwest, Central and Northern Regions. The Eastern Region will not change. There also will be some change in responsibilities for employees in the FRS Central Office due to Central Office retirements.

Following the closure of all Order of Selection priority categories in March, 2011, there are about 1,200 consumers still in Application Status and about 20,000 in some form of service status. Referrals of consumers to the VR program are continuing and after being determined eligible for services, they are placed on the waiting list and referred to other entities (Workforce Centers) for assistance.

Ms. Hayfield also reviewed the FRS performance data for Federal Fiscal Year 2011 as of May 8, 2011. The number of successful employment closures is strong, as well as the number of Individualized Plans for Employment developed, average hourly earnings and competitive employment. FRS continues to work on improving the rehabilitation rate.

An Employment Summit will be held at WWRC at the end of June. Attendees at the Summit will include business development managers, placement counselors and vocational evaluators. Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner, and Kareem Dale, Assistant to the President for Disability Policy, will speak to the attendees by video-conference on the Federal Hiring Initiative. Ms. Hayfield will forward information on the Summit to Mr. Downs in case SRC members would like to attend.

WWRC: WWRC began the implementation of Blueprint III on November 1, 2010, which is being revised to reflect actions taken to address the \$1.5 million budget shortfall and commentary contained in the RSA 2010 Monitoring Report. Blueprint III was

reviewed with the SRC Internal Affairs Committee and will focus on the core mission of providing quality services to VR consumers. WWRC will continue with its goal to serve 3,000 or more consumers per year and expects to exceed this target for 2011. Mr. Sizemore reviewed some staffing and program adjustments to refocus resources towards vocational outcomes.

Council Roundtable Reports

Written reports will be submitted to Barbara Tyson to include with the meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Internal Affairs:

The Committee reviewed the 2012 State Plan Attachments, Attachment 4.2(c) Recommendations of the State Rehabilitation Council and Attachment 4.11(c) Goals and Priorities. A motion was made by Matthew Deans and approved unanimously to approve these Attachments.

Donna Bonessi, Employment Support Services, briefed the Committee on the status of the ESO Report Card. The Report Card is being developed by a committee that includes representation from the Employment Services Organizations. Work should be completed by January, 2012.

Liz Smith briefed the Committee on the status of the 2010 RSA Monitoring Report. On May 10, 2011 DRS staff and GWU TACE Center staff will meet with RSA to discuss the Technical Assistance Plan and Corrective Action Plan. Almost all of the items on the Corrective Action Plan have been addressed. There are very few items on the Technical Assistance Plan. Ms. Smith will share the final drafts of the plans with the SRC once they are completed. The next RSA Monitoring for DRS will occur in 2016.

External Affairs:

Barbara Burkett reviewed the status of the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment. The literature review has been completed and the staff surveys have been collected but not analyzed. A stakeholder survey will be sent in approximately one month.

SRC membership requirements were reviewed. Three new potential members are being recommended by the Committee. Marianne Moore indicated that she will look into the possibility of identifying a potential member from the healthcare setting where consumers have been placed in positions.

The Committee discussed whether the SRC should designate a representative to attend meetings of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). Sarah Liddle is currently SILC representative to the SRC. The Committee believes that this is sufficient representation.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

Sandra Cook reported that she attended the April meeting of the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) in Bethesda, Maryland and that she found the meeting informative. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously for the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council to sign the NCSRC Resolution supporting the development of the NCSRC.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Roundtable Report Attachments:

**Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council Report (SILC)
To the
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
May 9, 2011**

The SILC met April 27-28, 2011 in Grundy, VA.

As a planning council the SILC is addressing four issues that may be of interest to the SRC.

- 1- A list of state agencies is being developed to assist the SILC in the achievement of independent living goals, objectives and activities in the 2010-2013 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Agencies of focus are members of the Olmstead Implementation Team, comprised of representatives from 24 State Agencies and 8 statewide organizations, Department of Motor Vehicles, State Board of Elections, and the Department of Emergency Management. Additionally, RSA has deemed it necessary for other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities have representation on the SILC.
- 2- To assist the SILC in achieving several goals in the current SPIL, there is the need for working definitions of the terms constituency groups, unserved/underserved, and minority populations. A work group/sub-committee was appointed comprised of members from Goal I/IV and II/III Committees. The charge of the work group will be to review the DRS, DBVI and VACIL definitions, and develop a draft of potential definitions for SILC usage to be presented to the full Council in July.

- 3- Due to some areas of the last SPIL not being fully addressed by the SILC, one or more SILC members are responsible for monitoring the forward movement of specific objectives and activities under a specific Goal. At each quarterly meeting reports are being given on achievements and barriers encountered in this monitoring process.
- 4- The Operations Committee has begun work on the development of the 2014-2016 SPIL.

The SILC will meet July 27-28, 2011 in Winchester, VA.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah A. Liddle, SILC liaison to the SRC

**March 10, 2011 Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting Report
by Matthew Deans**

Report on Project Catalyst

Mike Behrmann

[Project Catalyst](#): “New Technical Assistance Center”:

Michael Behrmann, Ed.D., GMU, gave a report on Project Catalyst. Project Catalyst is the new Tech Act Technical Assistance Project and Dr. Behrmann is highly involved in this project. A proposal was submitted to RESNA to work in an advisory capacity with the [ATIA](#): (Assistive Technology Industry Association) to develop training webinars. GMU will be providing links for webinars that are being planned for the next three years. The webinars are for professional development. The first webinar will held March 23, 2011 and all webinars will be archived.

- Objective of the Training Activities: to work with ATIA to have a series of joint webinars to focus on products and materials that comes out of the members of ATIA.
 - o Tip: All “Tech Act” States are able to get to the webinars for free through their website.
 - o Helpful for DRS and VATS personnel to participate in this training.
 - o Mike has access to the username and password so you can access this on your own.
- Project Catalyst is planning a full three years of these webinars.
- In addition [ATIA has their regular webinar series](#):
- Additional Webinar Trainings: [T/TAC Online](#):

AT Director Update

Kathy Hayfield

(From the minutes taken during the meeting)

Kathy Hayfield, Director, FRS, reported that Council members had recently received the VATS Update from Bob Krollman. The VATS Annual Report was submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration. VATS served nearly 5,000 Virginians with disabilities last year and will focus on data and will be able to include more data through

our assistive technology (AT) equipment which is located at WWRC.

Barclay Shepard, VATS, has been appointed to the National Task Force on AT Reuse. Robert Krollman and Barclay Shepard recently presented for the Department of Aging and VATS plans to focus more on the aging population.

Ms. Hayfield, as the new Director of Field Rehabilitative Services, discussed how her change in position may affect VATS. She acknowledged the “cradle to grave” requirement of the AT Act and the importance of assuring that VATS focus on access and acquisition of AT in the areas of education, employment and community living. She also commented on the benefits to VATS in being connected to the FRS program of DRS, especially as it relates to maximizing limited resources of the Commonwealth on behalf of consumers with disabilities. Ms. Hayfield encouraged the Council to regularly provide input to VATS regarding its activities related to meeting the requirements of the AT Act and the needs of people with disabilities.

Report on New Well Fund

Joey Wallace

\$500000 amendment to reestablish the consumer service fund did not pass, but efforts will continue into next year to try again.

Support Letter to the Eye and Ear Foundation: Reestablish the CSF in Richmond for hearing equipment. We'll hear more next week and will update ASAP.

They completed a financial plan to determine how long funds will last with increases increment. They've determined that if they continue to do business as they have been doing, they will have 6 million dollars at the end of 10 years. The goal has been to be self-sustaining as much as possible. Everything that was projected was based on historical data and trends so this is good news that New Well Fund will be around for some time.

Marketing News: New Well Fund presented to a conference (name unknown) to discuss his program, WWRC were also in attendance and so it turned out well that they got the right information to these attending people.

F.R.E.E. Reports

Sonja Schaible, Executive Director, FREE, provided an update.

Updates from [FREE Foundation](#):

Richmond Chapter is up and running as of last December. Core of volunteers are made of up of highly energetic people. Saturday they will be having an info booth on [Brain Injury Association of VA](#) Annual Conference. FREE will also have a ¼ page ad in the Brain Injury Association of VA newsletter. They are also developing a partnership with the [Spinal Cord Injury Association of Virginia](#) and they have an article in their ¼ [newsletter](#) as well.

South Hampton Roads Chapter Update:

Still moving forward and are in the pre-opening phase. They have a strong staff with lots of energy. Biggest hurdle is finding a space large enough to handle FREE. President of SHR Chapter: Mr. Mitchell