
**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 29, 2025
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: Zoom

Members Present:

Jennie Dopp	Selena Harris	Shayne Roy
Bianca Gonzalez	Dani Williams	Christine Anderson
Heather Mousley	Austin Oseguera	Steven Phelps
Esperanza Reyes	Summer Sylvester	Jasi Sefcik

Excused: *Lisa Wade* *Lavinia Gripentrog*

Absent: *Velma Spencer* *Julie Beckstead* *Linda Lartigue*

Quorum: YES

USOR Staff:

Sarah Brenna	Aaron Thompson	Gordon Swensen
Sylvia Gines	Ben Baldonado	Jason Bennington

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Perla	Melody Fico	Brian Phillips
Shannon Sirkel (DSPD)		

ACTION ITEM(S):

- Member Spotlight each meeting
- Success Stories

WELCOME & OPENING BUSINESS

- Jennie Dopp welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday, January 29th at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting (Sept): **Motion to approve**: by Heather Mousley and Shayne Roy with the second; council approved min.
- Mission Statement & Values read by Aaron Thompson.
- Public Comment: None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Disability Advocate Jennie Dopp**: concerned about the recent funding freeze and the potential impact on the community. Disability events coming up at the Capital, encouraged all to participate.
- **BI&L (Dani Williams)**: there are 17 advocates throughout the state Southern; Central; VR counselors with Pre ETS hoping this helps with Pre ETS.
- **Consumer (Selena Harris)**: Nothing to report
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez)**: working on cases and delays in VR
- **Special Education (Lavinia Gripentrog)**: No Report
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera)**: Conference coming up at the end of February; position open in UCAT.
- **DSDHH (Jasi Sefcik)**: new case manager, training process; community events: awareness & disability. VITA tax services in St. George, Provo, Taylorsville, Ogden for DSDHH
- **DSPD (Lisa Wade)**: ARPA funds grant for Assistive Tech. \$5000 limit with competitive employment thru Dec. 2025; this is also for those on the waitlist.
- **Navajo Nation (Velma Spencer)**: No report.
- **VR (Steven Phelps)**: new VR transition counselors and the change in hiring qualifications to a bachelor's degree; new training system for counselors to ensure their competency in counseling skills and understanding of disabilities. Job Fair in April at the Sanderson Center; employers will be looking for employees and the workshops have various topics.
- **USILC (Julie Beckstead)**: No Report
- **WDD (Heather Mousley)**: Legislative session crazy week with the telework update.

- **U of U Center for Disability & Access (Christine Anderson):** generous gift for spinal cord injuries from Craig H. Nielsen open now part of financial aid packet with a March deadline for current and prospective students
- **Beautiful Ability (Summer Sylvester):** Ogden VR office has made improvements since the new district director has been there.
- **Ogden City (Linda Lartigue):** No Report
- **BI&L (Shayne Roy):** working on individuals who benefited from VR services to join the council.

Follow up:

Aaron to share the job posting for the open position at UCAT to the council; links for upcoming events from Business Relations; letter from the office of Management and Budget about programs that could be impacted by the federal funding freeze; consult with the Executive Leadership about the appropriateness of SRC drafting a letter regarding the federal funding freeze.

Jennie Dopp will start drafting a potential letter of support from the SRC regarding the federal funding freeze impact on disability organizations, pending further clarification.

USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES :

Sarah Brenna - Chaos with federal funding don't believe will impact specific areas of funding. Telework modified by the governor, it will take effect in July this year. DDS is impacted by update to telework days; Pre-ETS are not impacted as they will continue to be in the schools; No Federal DOJ update; waiting for next steps. There is talk that the new administration (President) can't eliminate monies, it will be a wait and see through the legislature. USOR has no specific budget requests; funding for DSPD is with the governor, go to his website under budget it is the best place for information. Hearing tomorrow for budget on Economic & Workforce Committee; IL Centers request for appropriation; Summer EPT Program for students.

Aaron Thompson - VR Director Report - Powerpoint sent out after the meeting

- VR Performance Update - New applicants up from January 2024; other categories are close to the same numbers and days.
- Additional Specialized High School Transition Counselors in Provo, Spanish Fork, Centerville & Taylorsville
- Regional Trainers: have a new trainer so all three VR regions have a dedicated trainer to assist in training new counselors and providing ongoing support to existing VR counselors
- VR has reinstated the authorization for limited payment of missed medical behavioral health appointment fees

- Provision of no show/cancellation fees added to ensure positive vendor relationships and best support clients
- February staff training will cover: overview of various psychological assessment levels; Effective communication strategies with clinicians to establish assessment goals that best serve clients; Key considerations when reviewing psychological assessments.
- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development will be the new platform for VR-specific training for both new and current employees; utilized by over 30 VR agencies, it supports staff development in core competencies essential for rehabilitation counselors; Designed by VR professionals, for VR professionals, tailored to meet the unique needs of the field.

Ben Baldonado with Business Relations - flyers sent out before the meeting about the upcoming Job Fairs and Lunch and Learns.

PRESENTATIONS BY: Brian Phillips - Powerpoint sent out before the meeting.

- avihumanservices.org is the website for the Tool kit (TRT)
- Presentation on the Transition Readiness Toolkit; has been rolled out in eight states and is set to expand to nine next month, initially developed to measure pre-post change in services provided by contracted providers, and has been adopted by the VR system across the country. Agencies have customized reports and views, with state-level monitoring and analysis.
- Since 2022 Utah students' responses have collected impressive data. The Help Center is reducing training costs; quality assessment and importance in measuring. It is important to have quality measures in contract monitoring and technical assistance to providers.

Member Spotlight: Summer Sylvester Director of Beautiful Ability

- Mission Statement - “By your side, we promote disability awareness and inclusion, empower communities and break down barriers”.
- Services provided for all working ages (14+) and all categories of disability
- Objectives: provide supported employment services; serve a diverse caseload; work effectively with partnering agencies; address the individual barriers; ensure job placements ie: long-term & stable positions.
- Accomplishments: JPD Community Rehabilitation Provider of the year 2023; Rank first in the state for Community Rehabilitation Providers; nominated for the 50th annual Golden Key Awards 2024.
- Trends and Data: see power point

- Challenges and possible solutions: Centralized Communication Platform; Digital Signatures and Forms; Utilizing Virtual Meetings.
- Established in 2017 with one employment specialist; by 2025 expanded to nine specialists/job coaches. Cornerstone of success lies in our commitment to treating everyone as an individual; extends to the people we serve to our employment specialist/job coaches, fostering respect, personalization, and collaboration.

Call to Adjourn Meeting by - Esperanza Reyes & Shayne Roy with the 2nd.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, March 26th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm In-Person at Judy Ann Buffmire Building