

**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 29, 2024
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: Zoom

Members Present:

Lavinia Gripentrog	Selena Harris	Steven Phelps
Austin Oseguera	Jenni Thompson	Matthew Huskinson
Rob Ferris	Jennie Dopp	Heather Mousley
Dani Williams	Bianca Gonzalez	Christine Anderson
Amber Marsh		

Excused: *Julie Beckstead Jasi Sefcik Brian Lahti*

Absent: *Matthew Huskinson Velma Spencer*

Quorum: YES

USOR Staff: Sarah Brenna Aaron Thompson Gordon Swensen

OTHER ATTENDEES: Bryn Peterson (DH... Linda Cropper Lisa Wade
 Esperanza Reyes

ACTION ITEM(S):

- Member Spotlight each meeting
- Success Stories
- Survey Results with speakers for upcoming meetings
- Utah Schools for the Deaf & Blind would like to present
- Lora Bench would like to speak to the Council (date to be determined)

WELCOME & OPENING BUSINESS

- Lavinia Gripentrog welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday, May 29th at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting (November): **Motion to approve**: by Jennie Dopp and Christine Anderson with the second; council approved min.
- Mission Statement & Values read by Steven Phelps and Dani Williams.
- Public Comment: None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Consumer (Brian Lahti)**: No report.
- **BI&L (Rob Ferris)**: Super busy, always looking to hire, year round part-time then we help them find other full-time employment.
- **BI&L (Dani Williams)**: LSI is fully staffed. We are a Pre-ETS contractor in most counties throughout the state. Finishing up the school year.
- **Consumer (Selena Harris)**: Nothing to report.
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez)**: Working on individual cases with self employment, VR clients are wanting to pursue self-employment.
- **Special Education (Lavinia Gripentrog)**: Transition Institute June 11th & 12th, first day is for everyone, 2nd day is for school teams. Pre-register as in-person registration is double the cost. The Post High Survey is starting again and will update this later. The NCSRC conference in April confirmed our SRC functions and saw that other states' structures were different with states facing similar challenges.
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera)**: UATT is wrapping up the school year and planning for next year. Conference is in the works for 2025 more info to come. Hoping to fill the vacant Vehicle Modification position.
- **DSDHH (Jasi Sefcik)**: No Report
- **DSPD (Bryn Petersen)**: June 10th & 11th UDDC Conference, the Care Fiver Compensation is scheduled for July of this year. Employment First strategic plan is in the works. Many staff changes with Hayden Johnson over the Independent Living Center in Southern Utah for DSPD which means that there will be a new person on the SRC Council taking his place. Rack Cards for DSPD are finished and will be sent out to VR offices. Sending out after the meeting for you to see.

- **Navajo Nation (Velma Spencer):** No report.
- **DSBVI (Jenni Thompson):** Nothing to Report
- **VR (Steven Phelps):** New partnership with USU for work based learning, Transition Conference June 11 & 12th. Vendor and Job Fair was held in April and a Lunch & Learn in June will be about Communication.
- **USILC (Julie Beckstead):** No Report
- **Disability Advocate (Jennie Dopp):** Working with families nationally; compare their experiences from here in Utah what's working what's not working especially for the rural areas.
- **WDD (Heather Mousley):** Logan and Provo Job Centers had recertifications; we have 30 new hires throughout the state; in the process of training them.
- **Consumer (Matthew Huskinson):** No report
- **LSI (Dani Williams):** End of the school year, 408 students were served which is up from last year's 330. Have staff going to the Transition Institute in June.
- **UCED (Amber Marsh):** Utah State quarterly numbers were tripled; job development training; grant on rural areas; resources toward mental health, need more self-advocate input & connect with the community.
- **U of U Center for Disability & Access (Christine Anderson):** Graduations are happening up at the U along with youth camps this summer. Will be presenting later in the meeting.

USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES :

Aaron Thompson - Overview - See PowerPoint for more information

- Senate Bill 26 - Behavioral Health Licensing Amendments
 - Amends behavioral health licensing provisions
 - Promotes efficiency, inter-state portability, consolidation of licensing boards and alternative pathways to licensure
- Elimination of VR Counseling Licensure Rationale
 - The current count of licensed VR Counselors (LVRCs) in the State of Utah is fewer than 160
- Additional Considerations for the Profession
 - Licensure, certification and master's level education requirements have created challenges for recruitment and hiring
- New Standards
 - Effective May 1, 2024 VR Counselor licensure will no longer be required, as per the new state law.
 - Effective July 1, 2024 USOR will no longer require certification and master's level education for VR Counselors as a condition of employment

- Current Employees
 - USOR will continue to provide tuition assistance for all current employees who are enrolled or accepted into MRC programs by June 30, 2024
 - Employees currently attending MRC programs will have the option to disenroll if they so choose.
- New Employees
 - USOR will support and encourage, but not require new employees hired after July 1, 2024 to obtain a master's degree
- Credential Incentive and Support
- VR Career Series Advancement
- Staff Training & Development Standards
- Required VR Counselor Competencies
- Staff Training & Development Standards

Sarah Brenna - The changes that have been made should have minimal impact, but also help us as an organization. We were concerned about maintaining quality while serving clients; are we doing an effective job? a quality job? That is the main objective with this project. Still finalizing some things with the department of Human Resource Management which controls job descriptions; we are working with them to modify the VR job description. No name change or type, want to reward more time in the job; experience with hands-on and mentoring; multiple ways to progress within the actual job title to keep employees. Federal regulations and law state we have a responsibility to train individuals; develop in our state plan the comprehensive personnel development system; staff possess understanding of the labor force and needs of individuals with disabilities. Creating a plan that incorporates a lot of different ways to ensure training and knowledge to our employees, provide certain courses in-house, and meet with Utah State for others.

Rylee Williams - Policy & Training Update - see Powerpoint for all info

- **Policy & Training Team**
 - Aaron Thompson - Asst. Director
 - Rylee Williams - Policy & Training Coordinator
 - Erin Talley - Training Specialist
 - Becky Danilenko - Training Specialist
- Training Areas
 - VR Training Academy (all new staff) Case Management; Ethics; Program Overview
 - Supervisory & District Director Onboarding/Training
- Upcoming: VR Essentials 4 sessions in June
- Recent Policy Updates
 - Chapter 12 Appendix B

- Clarifications for Psychologist Travel
 - Chapter 19 & 20
 - Clarification on Out of State and Online Training
- Policy Updates to Come
 - Supported Education Milestone Pilot

PRESENTATIONS BY:

Linda Cropper: Program Manager Workforce Development Division (WDD)

see Powerpoint for all info

- Career & Education Program
 - One-on-One Help
 - Available Resources
 - Career coaching; assessment; incentives; tutoring; job searching; job development; supportive services; community resources.
 - Who is Eligible? - meet one of the following
 - Laid off; Qualifying income; Age 14-25
 - How to Apply
 - Submit application online
 - jobs.utah.gov/career
 - Conference June 10-11th - Building Together

Christine Anderson: Director Center for Disability & Access University of Utah

- see Powerpoint for all information
- ADA - qualified individuals with a disability shall, not solely by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation or denied benefits of services etc.
- The Center for Disability & Access (CDA) is dedicated to students with disabilities by providing the opportunity for success and equal access at the University of Utah, etc.
- Students with Disabilities
 - 2022-2023 academic year, assisted 2,800 students all levels
 - 13 categories of disabilities
 - 1,271 students identify as Neurodivergent
- Disabilities Served - see chart
- Accommodations
 - Individualized - Note taking; Exams; Physical accessibility; Adaptive Technology
- Eligible for Services with a Qualified Disability

- CDA Determination Process
 - Intake appt.; Submit documentation; Case Review; Qualified; Individualized Accommodation; Meet at least once per semester
- Collaborative Process
 - Student - CDA - Faculty
- Making a Referral
 - Resources on Campus; referral does not assume a disability; student has choice to disclose; CDA is authorized to approve accommodations; CDA always available; provides referrals to community organizations.
- UReach - Peer Mentoring
 - Pilot Program Summer 2023 had 4 students; Fall 23- Spring 24 had 34 participants
 - Recruitment - 10 students interested being paired with mentor
 - Hiring - Additional Mentors to assist students.
 - Growth - Expanding UReach - programming & workshops; Living Learning Community

Call to Adjourn Meeting by - Rob Ferris & Selena Harris with the 2nd.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, June 26th 9:00 am to 11:00 am.