
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 25, 2025

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Zoom

Members Present:	Jennie Dopp	Kate Larimer	Shayne Roy
	Bianca Gonzalez	Dani Williams	Christine Anderson
	Heather Mousley	Austin Oseguera	Steven Phelps
	Lisa Wade	Ramsey Beesley	Marnie West
	Jared Sorensen	Esperanza Reyes	Selena Harris
Excused:	<i>Lavinia Gripentrog</i>	<i>Summer Sylvester</i>	<i>Jasi Sefcik</i>

Absent:

Quorum: YES

USOR Staff: Aaron Thompson
Sylvia Gines Gordon Swensen
Jason Bennington Rylee Williams
Aimee Langone

OTHER ATTENDEES: Kelly Boehmer Matt Wappatt

ACTION ITEM(S):

- Member Spotlight each meeting
- Success Stories

WELCOME & OPENING BUSINESS

- Jennie Dopp welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday, June 25th at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting (March): **Motion to approve**: by Christine Anderson and Dani Williams with the second; council approved min.
- Mission Statement & Values read by Jennie Dopp and Aaron Thompson.
- The SRC had a motion of support for the Policy Review Plan. Selena Harris with the 1st and Esperanza Reyes with the second. A second motion for the CRP support, Shayne Roy with the 1st and Jennie Dopp with the second.
- Public Comment: None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Disability Advocate Jennie Dopp**: working with someone who got a job and is excited.
- **Consumer (Selena Harris)**:
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez)**: New cases coming in with unclear answers from VR. Outreach with Youth residential facilities.
- **Special Education (Lavinia Grpentrog)**: No Report.
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera)**: going over our Survey Responses and getting equipment ordered for the upcoming school year.
- **DSDHH (Jasi Sefcik)**: Nothing to report from Kelly Boehmer
- **DSPD (Lisa Wade)**: wrapping up fiscal year, contacting families on wait list still needing additional staffing. Attended the Transition Institute earlier in the month.
Navajo Nation: No report.
- **VR (Steven Phelps)**: Upcoming Employer Workshops, flyers were sent out to council (for employers to help them with employees), Golden Key Awards on Sept. 25, 2025; Job Fair in October
- **Parent Center (Esperanza Reyes)**: Family Festival last weekend in June, with partnerships; Summer Activities
- **USILC**: No Report
- **WDD (Heather Mousley)**: Virtual Job Fair July 10th; office recertifications in St. George; the centers are getting busier.
- **U of U Center for Disability & Access (Christine Anderson)**: busy with orientation, fiscal year end report, training for upcoming year.
- **Beautiful Ability (Summer Sylvester)**: No Report.

- **BI&L (Shayne Roy):** getting ready for another apprenticeship, we have people from VR applying. Integrating AI with the apprenticeships; expanding to Union High School in Duchesne county.
- **LSI (Dani Williams):** Attended the Transition Institute in Provo earlier in the month, made new connections.
- **BI&L (Kate Larimer):** Change in leadership in company, bringing in new people, lots of events coming up.
- **DSBVI (Marnie West):** Open house coming up at DSBVI on Oct. 2nd.
- **Consumer (Ramsey Beesley):** Nothing to report
- **Consumer (Jared Sorenson):** New bikes arrived, getting them ready for clients. Changing employment but staying on as an advisor.

USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES : Aaron Thompson - VR Director Report - Powerpoint sent out after the meeting

- VR Performance Update - WIOA Performance Year (July-June)
- RSA Federal Monitoring
 - Visit in August 2024; assessed VR program; included analysis performance, fiscal reports, policies & procedures; draft report early 2025; final report June 2025 included findings & recommendations; USOR responsible for an action plan, & quarterly updates, until resolved.
- Program Finding: Case Service Manual (CSM) outdated or incomplete information, needs documented revision dates; Corrective Action: must update policies to reflect current regulations and definitions; establish review cycle to ensure ongoing accuracy and compliance.
- Financial Finding: Insufficient internal controls to ensure compliance with federal fiscal reporting; Corrective Action: revise written policies to include detailed guidance; additional fiscal monitoring of contracts; develop a comprehensive policy outlining steps and procedures for tracking, reporting grant award applications during grant period.
- Next Steps: USOR will draft a corrective action plan and submit to RSA for review and approval; Quarterly updates to RSA; corrective actions have already been implemented; USOR will provide updates to SRC; full report at VR Program Monitoring and Technical Assistance.
- Upcoming Events - July 22; August 5th; September 9th; September 25; October 7th.

PRESENTATIONS BY: Jason Bennington - Employment Support Services Specialist

- Collaboration in Development -
 - Updates to the agreement were developed with DWS Legal Department; draft agreement reviewed by CRP's for feedback and input; Information sessions were held with CRP leadership to share updates and address questions or concerns; All CRP's will be required to sign the updated agreement.
 - Additions to CRP Agreement - Conflict of Interest; non-discrimination; DWS Code of Conduct; Sexual Harassment Policy; Insurance Coverage; Background Checks; Protection of Client Records
 - Powerpoint sent out to Council
- Dr. Matthew Wappett - USU Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice
 - Founded in 1972 by Dr. Marvin Fifield
 - formerly the Exceptional Child Center (ECC) 1972
 - Developmental Center for Handicapped Persons in 1978
 - Center for Persons with Disabilities in 1991
 - Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice in 2021
 - Over 50 years of history, the IDRPP has grown into one of the largest UCEDD programs & is recognized as a pioneer in research, training, and services for people with disabilities
 - IDRPP Mission - We are working together to create inclusive communities and in the lives of children and adults with disabilities of all ages through sustainable innovation, collaborative research, responsive service, interdisciplinary training & education
- Serve as a key partner with the other DD Network agencies; the Utah DD Council and the Disability Law Center.
- Organizational Hierarchy: USU Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services; IDRPP; Administrative Division; Research & Training Division; Services Division; Technical Assistance Division
- FY2024: Key Data Points
 - Total Projects: 189; Total Staff: 273; Research & Evaluation 66; Peer-Reviewed Publications Published or In-Press-24; Conference Presentations 122; Products Developed 881; Total Individuals Served 3,158; Total Individuals Trained 14,353
 - Key Focus Areas - Early Intervention; Special Education; Inclusive Education; Mental Health; Employment; Community Living; Web Accessibility & more.
 - Employment and Transition Impact - Center for Employment and Inclusion; Advocacy and policy focus on competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities, and the support/training needed to ensure that is a priority.

- Current Threats - UCEDD's are zeroed out in Presidential budget; Supporting documentation shows that UCEDD funding may be sent to ILCs or SILCs and UCEDDs will have to work through them to access their funding; Reality is that we don't know what will happen, and we are advocating for our survival...although our role is mandated in the DD Act of 2000; the war against higher education.
- How can we assist you? (and vice versa)
 - Grant writing collaborations; Project implementation collaborations; Evaluation support; Research support; Participant recruitment; Collaborative training; Regional outreach and dissemination
- Aimee Langone - Pre-ETS Update
 - Pre-ETS Service Contracts
 - 2022 contracts will expire Sept. 30, 2025
 - Post a new RFP soon
 - Contractors are exceeding services/billing from last year
 - Pre-ETS Admin Team are currently conducting contract monitoring and shadowing contractors
 - Pre-ETS Authorized Contract
 - Awarded to Public Consulting Group; Begins July 1st
 - Pre-ETS Summer Activities
 - Transition Institute
 - Instructor Summer Training in August
 - Summer Contracts - Bloom Consulting; PCG; Camp K; Community Options; CETC; PARC
 - Examples of fee for service programs: Camp K SWEET Program; USU WBLE; Tooele SD
 - New Resources - IEP/504 Document; VR and Education Collaboration documents; Pre-ETS journal coming soon
- Rylee Williams - Policy Update Process
- The Big Picture - VR Policy Review Process Purpose & Scope; Roles & Responsibilities; Substantive Policy Change; Process Overview
- VR Policy Purpose - VR policy ensures consistent, compliant, and effective service delivery
- Policy Review Process: Key Goals - VR policies reviewed at least once every 2 years; Promote and uphold consistent effective service delivery; Operational Excellence-Compliance with all federal and state regulations; Promote Alignment with agency goals for employee success and excellent client service.

- Defining the Scope - VR policy includes all client service policies in the VR program
- Oversight - Policy & Training Coordinator Responsibilities: Ensure systematic, biennial reviews of VR policies; Reviews must assess: Legal and regulatory compliance; Operational effectiveness must be assessed; Align with agency goals and procedures
- Roles & Responsibilities - Policy & Training Team: monitor and maintain up-to-date policy inventory; Track review cycles and initiate reviews; Communicate and implement policy changes through staff training. Compliance / QA Staff - Provide review support; Validate completion of reviews
- Roles & Responsibilities - VR Administrative Leadership; Subject Matter Experts; Field Staff; Stakeholders.
- Defining Substantive Policy Change - involves significant revision; Alters the nature, scope, or delivery of services; Substantive change impacts client rights, eligibility, or procedures; Stakeholder/public input is required for substantive policy changes per federal regulations.
- Streamlining Policy Reviews Process Overview - Planning & Scheduling; Policy Evaluation; Revision & Approval; Implementation & Communication.
- Policy Review Key Takeaways - All VR client service policies must be reviewed at least every two years minimum; Reviews must be systematic, documented and approved; Policy changes must be effectively communicated and implemented agency-wide; Stakeholder input is required for substantive policy changes

Jennie Dopp proposed that the SRC Council put a letter of support for funding to the federal delegation for federal funding, Aaron Thompson suggested a quick meeting with the Ex. committee after the meeting to discuss.

Call to Adjourn Meeting by - Shayne Roy & Bianca Gonzalez with the 2nd.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in-person at Judy Ann Buffmire Building