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## STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** June 25, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am - 11:00 am

**Location:** Zoom

<b>Members Present:</b>	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

<b>Excused:</b>	<i>Lavinia Gripentrog</i>	<i>Summer Sylvester</i>	<i>Jasi Sefcik</i>
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**Absent:**

**Quorum:** YES

<b>USOR Staff:</b>	Aaron Thompson	Gordon Swensen	Rylee Williams
	Sylvia Gines	Jason Bennington	Aimee Langone

<b>OTHER ATTENDEES:</b>	Kelly Boehmer	Matt Wappatt
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## 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 Gripentrog):** 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 Sorensen):** 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