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## STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Sept.24 , 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Location:** 1595 W. 500 S. Salt Lake City

**Members Present:**

Jennie Dopp	Kate Larimer	Summer Sylvester
Bianca Gonzalez	Dani Williams	Jasi Sefcik
Lavinia Gripentrog	Austin Oseguera	Steven Phelps
Lisa Wade	Esperanza Reyes	Christine Anderson
Selena Harris	Shayne Roy	

**Excused:** *Heather Mousley* *Marnie West*

**Absent:** *Ramsey Beesley* *Jared Sorensen*

**Quorum:** YES

**USOR Staff:**

Aaron Thompson	Sarah Brenna	Gordon Swensen
Sylvia Gines	Rylee Williams	

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Kevin Bolander

## ACTION ITEM(S):

- Member Spotlight each meeting
- Success Stories

## WELCOME & OPENING BUSINESS

- Jennie Dopp welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025 at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting: Lavinia Gripentrog **Motion to approve:** Dani Williams
- Mission Statement & Values read by: Lavinia Gripentrog
- New Slate: Council voted to approve the New Chair: Bianca Gonzalez; Past Chair: Jennie Dopp; Vice Chair: Esperanza Reyes; Secretary: Shayne Roy; Member at Large: Summer Sylvester. Selena Harris with the motion and Christine Anderson with the 2nd.
- Public Comment: None

## REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS -

- **Disability Advocate (Jennie Dopp):** Hearing about other states moving to OOS with the families I work with
- **Consumer (Selena Harris):** not awarded a contract this time; looking forward to sharpening CRP skills.
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez):** working on individual cases & outreach
- **Special Education (Lavinia Gripentrog):** Post High Survey in progress till the end of the month, will present in a few months to the council. Working on next year's Transition Conference.
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera):** UCAT is down a support staff hoping to be filled; working with OT & PT's in the schools, ordering new equipment and training.
- **DSDHH (Jasi Sefcik):** staff retreat last Monday; HEAT and SHIP programs starting again.
- **DSPD (Lisa Wade):** Change Management Group coming in to help see how we focus our time with clients; rate study making recommendations; taking applications for AT grants.
- **Navajo Nation: N/A**
- **VR (Steven Phelps):** Workability job fair & Workshops Oct. 7th, flyer sent out to council; training on OOS; working with students / Pre-ETS.
- **Parent Center (Esperanza Reyes):** Youth Advisory Board meet your Legislature on Oct. 1st; Building Life beyond School training Oct. 14th; January activity is Advocacy Day
- **USILC: N/A**
- **WDD (Heather Mousley): No Report**

- **U of U Center for Disability & Access (Christine Anderson):** Enrollment increased in our office about 3,700. Scholarship deadline is Dec. 10, 2025
- **Beautiful Ability (Summer Sylvester):** No wait list in Salt Lake right now
- **BI&L (Shayne Roy):** Launched Rural tech initiative - highlights 15 hires graduating from apprenticeship, added 21 new hires, A success story now has someone working at TESLA. Vernal gaming management system; city makes quests for community activities
- **LSI (Dani Williams):** A new contract was awarded to LSI, lots of training & new activities WBLE. New hire in Eastern & Cedar City, South Eastern has an opening
- **BI&L (Kate Larimer):** disability index report 90 out of 100 in the past, created a program that we will start with teams and work on those, Inclusion Council in January
- **DSBVI (Marnie West):** Open House Oct. 2nd, lunch provided, Oct. 14th presentation living with those that are Blind & Visually Impaired
- **Consumer (Ramsey Beesley): No Report**
- **Consumer (Jared Sorensen): No Report**
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#### **USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES : Sarah Brenna -**

OOS Plan is progressing, I talked to Employees on Sept. 5th so all of VR is aware of what will be changing. Town halls were virtual and took place in Sept. Submitting the draft plan next week will be approved. I just need to know when that will take place. The website will be updated for the public, talked about budget, only small changes is good news, but still uncertain, if the budget at the Federal level is approved it still wouldn't stop the OOS from happening. Every meeting there will be lots of updates.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month; Golden Key Awards are being held Thursday Sept. 25th; it's been around for 51 years. Thanked all of the Council members for understanding and support for the OOS.

#### **Aaron Thompson - WIOA VR and Supported Employment Goals and Priorities**

- Goal 1 - Ensure sufficient and reasonable resources are available to support the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council in carrying out essential and mandated tasks.
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 2 - Ensure the provision of quality Pre-Employment Transition Services that meet the needs of students with disabilities.
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal with more discussion
- Goal 3 - Enhance awareness and facilitate improved access to services for minority and underserved groups.
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal

- Goal 4 - Optimize and modernize VR processes to enhance accessibility and sustained engagement in services
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 5 - Fully Expand 15% Funding Reserve for Pre-Employment Transition Services
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 6 - Increase the number of students with disabilities participating in work-based learning experiences
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal with more discussion
- Goal 7 - Improve access and awareness for Transition and Pre-Employment Transition Services
  - Council agreed to Remove this goal
- Goal 8 - Improve client achievement of high-quality employment outcomes, considering factors such as wages, hours worked, benefits and occupations that require credentials
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 9 - Increase co-enrollment with Adult Education and Workforce Development programs to support client success
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 10 - Increase the number of competitive, integrated employment outcomes for individuals receiving supported employment services
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal
- Goal 11 - Increase the number of youth with most significant disabilities receiving supported employment services
  - Council agreed to Keep this goal

## **PRESENTATIONS BY: Kevin Bolander DWS Legal - Open & Public Meetings Act**

- Agencies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business
- Definitions
  - Public Body - any administrative body
  - Participate - ability to communicate with all members
  - Meeting - gathering of a public body to discuss, receive comments, or act on a relevant matter
  - Relevant Matter - within the scope of the public body's authority
  - Quorum- majority of the members
- Open to Public - Utah Code 52-4-201
- Notice of Meetings - at least 24 hours prior to the meeting includes Date, Time & Place and Meeting Agenda; Electronic Meetings; Unscheduled Meetings; Closing Meetings; Recording Meetings; Minutes; Enforcement; Conducting Meetings; Conflicts of Interest.

## **Rylee Williams - Disability Priority Classification Overview**

- Categories Explained; Review of Specific Categories: Most Significantly Disabled (MSD); Significantly Disabled (SD); Disabled (D).
- Disability Priority Categories
  - In the event that USOR lacks the resources to provide all eligible individuals VR services necessary to obtain, retain, or engage in employment, USOR must show and provide the justification for the order to be followed in selecting individuals to whom VR services will be provided.
  - The order of selection for the provision of VR services shall be determined on the basis of significance of disability.
  - Significance of disability is determined by the VR Counselor at the time of eligibility determination in accordance with criteria established by USOR.
- Priority Categories
  - Priority 1 - Eligible individuals with MSD - serious limitations in two or more functional capacities; in addition the individual must require multiple VR services over a period of time for employment
  - Priority 2 - Eligible individuals with SD - individual with a significant disability in any one of the three categories at any time while they are in the VR process
  - Priority 3 - All other eligible individuals with Disabilities (D) - Individual with a disability means has a physical or mental impairment which for the individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment.
- Ongoing Training Maintaining a Standard -
  - Annual Training on Disability Classification & Eligibility
    - VR Essentials (all counselors, supervisors & DD's)
    - New Employee Training (Life of a Case)
    - One-on-One Training for employees at all levels
      - Especially for new employees
  - Monthly Case File Reviews
    - Ensure Data Validation
    - Compliance with Policy
    - Verify appropriate decision making
    - Supervisory Tool

## **SRC Training - Postponed due to not enough time left in the meeting**

Two new committee members should be ready to join in November and may have the training then.

**Aaron Thompson presented the SRC Chair Jennie Dopp with a Certificate and Plaque in Appreciation for her service this past year.**

**Call to Adjourn Meeting by - Selena Harris & Lavinia Gripentrog**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025 9:00 am to 11:00 am virtually at Judy Ann Buffmire Building