

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2007

The meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on August 13, 2007, at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), Richmond, Virginia.

Members Present: Chet Avery, Karen Baugh, Charles Benagh, Sandra Cook, Daniel DeBoer, Donna Kay Graff, Kenneth Holloway, Kathleen Maybee, Marianne Moore, Dana Nelson, Michael Organ, Philip Sieck, Samuel Simon, Cherie Takemoto, Roy Ward, and Florence Watt

Members Absent: Hiawatha Nicely, William Hall, James Rothrock

Others Present: John Phelps, Field Rehabilitative Services Director; Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operations Officer; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Mary Lutkenhaus, Policy Analyst; Rick Sizemore, WWRC Director, Cat Clough and Bernadette Mayhall, Interpreters; Joe Ashley, Grants and Special Programs Assistant Commissioner; Anne McDonnell, Virginia Brain Injury Council Chairperson; Patricia Beattie, SRC Chair for the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

Call to Order: Council Vice Chairperson Daniel DeBoer called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Roy Ward, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting as amended.

Matters of Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson's Report

- On behalf of Chairperson Hiawatha Nicely, Mr. DeBoer presented Chester Avery, Dana Nelson, Samuel Simon, and Roy Ward with a 2007 SRC Chairperson's Award in recognition of their dedicated service to the SRC and improving the lives of Virginians with disabilities.
- The SRC New Member Orientation was held on July 24, 2007. During the orientation, Kathy Maybee suggested that the SRC might benefit from information on People First Language. Therefore, Mr. DeBoer provided the members with a handout describing People First Language.
- A motion was made by Chet Avery, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend that Commissioner Rothrock appoint Sam Simon as the SRC

- representative on the Virginia Assistive Technology System Advisory Council to succeed Chet Avery.
- On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Sam Simon nominated Danny DeBoer as the next Chair of the SRC and Marianne Moore as the next Vice-Chair. Hearing no other nominations for these positions, a motion was made by Chet Avery, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to elect Danny DeBoer as Chair and Marianne Moore as Vice-Chair of the SRC for 2007-2008.
 - The members agreed to change the November meeting, scheduled to be held at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation (WWRC), to November 8-9, 2007 so that members may attend the WWRC 60th Anniversary celebration.

Commissioner's Report

- During the week of July 30-August 3, 2007, Skills for Leadership training was held at Sweet Briar College. Thirty employees participated in the program and are now working on team projects, which include establishing an integrated set of non-traditional work environments for staff, outreach to potential vocational rehabilitation customers with limited English proficiency, video teleconferencing network enhancement, and elaborating on the agency's "Roadmap to Success." Bill Leighty, Chief of Staff Emeritus, was the guest speaker at the training on August 3.
- On August 20, 2007, Governor Kaine will provide a budget update to members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. A budget deficit for Virginia is projected, but it is not clear what effect the deficit will have on DRS.
- The Rehabilitation Services Administration issued a grant proposal for vocational rehabilitation agencies to enhance transition services. While DRS unfortunately missed the opportunity to apply for the grant, hopefully, there will be other opportunities in the future.

Council Roundtable

Workforce Investment Act Council

No report

Statewide Independent Living Council

Mr. Sieck reported that the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) met on August 11, 2007, to finalize the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). With the assistance of a facilitator, the SPIL was agreed upon by the SILC members.

Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) Advisory Council

Mr. Avery reported that the Council meets quarterly; is part of a public/private partnership that is operating assistive technology recycling programs and building new

ones so that needed devices are available statewide, and that he will attend the September meeting.

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

Ms. Takemoto distributed copies of the PEATC Press and brochures which feature building positive futures for Virginia's children. Additional copies and information can be obtained by going to their website at www.peatc.org. Marianne Moore suggested that for statistics on "no child left behind", individuals go to the Virginia Department of Education website at www.pen.k12.va.us.

Committee Reports

Internal Affairs Committee

Marianne Moore, Chair, reported on the following:

John Phelps, Field Services Director, distributed the Field Rehabilitation Services Division Performance Measures for Federal Fiscal Year 2007, Month ending July 2007. He noted a 28% increase in the development of new Employment Plans and a 23.8% increase in successful cases closed as compared to the same time period in Federal Fiscal Year 2006. Due to order of selection, there are currently 398 individuals who have been determined eligible for services on the waiting list for services. These individuals are referred to One-Stop Centers and other locations for services. Mr. Phelps distributed the *Roadmap to Success* flyer that has been given to vocational rehabilitation staff to guide them in their service provisions to vocational rehabilitation consumers. Mr. Phelps will check on Ms. Graff's concern that people with hearing disabilities who are eligible for services are being placed on the order of selection waiting list.

Rick Sizemore, WWRC Director, distributed copies of the *Pathways to Premier* brochure which explains WWRC's four Centers for Excellence: Neuro-Rehabilitation, Assistive Technology, Comprehensive Evaluation and Assessment, and Youth in Transition Services. It was suggested that Mr. Sizemore provide his report to the full Council in the future.

Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst, provided the Committee with a report on the 2006 vocational rehabilitation consumer satisfaction survey. During 2006, the overall satisfaction rate was 82%.

External Affairs Committee

Chet Avery reported on the following:

The Committee reviewed the status of SRC vacancies and appointments. The SRC still needs a representative from the Client Assistance Program of the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy. In addition, DRS has identified a couple of students in

transition who are interested in serving on the SRC and will need a representative from business, industry and labor to succeed Dana Nelson.

Kelly Wolf, Marketing Director, provided information on plans for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The Champions Awards Luncheon will held at the Omni Richmond Hotel on October 23, 2007 (SRC members will receive an invitation). Ms. Wolf will provide the SRC members with a list of other planned events and will add the SRC members to the distribution list for the *DRScovery* newsletter.

The Roy J. Ward SRC Employee Leadership Recognition Awards eligibility criteria were distributed. The nomination deadline is November 1, 2007, and nominations should be forwarded to Barbara.Tyson@drs.virginia.gov. Up to five individuals can receive the awards and the External Affairs Committee will review applications, and make recommendations to the full Council.

Planning will begin soon for the 2007 SRC Annual Report. It was suggested that the report include information on the Champions Awards Luncheon, successful case closures, SRC initiatives, and data on fiscal impact of the employment of people with disabilities in Virginia.

For the 2008 General Assembly, the SRC's top priority is additional funding so all of the Order of Selection categories can be opened, enabling all eligible Virginians with disabilities to receive VR services.

The Committee recommended Ken Holloway to succeed Chet Avery as the Chair of the External Affairs Committee.

Old Business

Fiscal Report

Ernie Steidle reported on the status of the budget 11 months through the State Fiscal year. Overall, the agency expended 98% of the budget, which is on target for the year.

New Business

Dana Nelson reported on his activities with people with disabilities who live in Hanover County. His project, Operation of Hope, providing playgrounds for children with disabilities is being expanded to other areas in the county.

Anne McDonnell, Chair, Virginia Brain Injury Council (VBIC), met with the SRC to provide an update. The VBIC has worked on developing a strategic plan to address the need for the development of affordable and accessible services for Virginians with brain injuries across the Commonwealth, and the difficulties brain injury individuals have with accessing services. She commented that brain injury services have received increases from the General Assembly for the past three years. Further funds, however, are needed

in case management day programs and information and referral services. Ms. McDonnell informed the SRC that the VBIC has several vacancies and asked members to let individuals who may have interest in serving know.

Joseph Ashley reported on the status of the teleconferencing capability in the agency. In partnership with the Department of Transportation and other agencies, DRS has placed teleconferencing equipment in 72 locations across the State. The teleconferencing equipment saves money in staff time used to travel for meetings and will be useful in making interpreting services more readily available for consumers. The Council members were interested in the SMART rooms concept and would be interested in seeing a demonstration of the video teleconferencing network at their next meeting.

The March 17, 2008, SRC meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2008 Transition Conference to be held March 17-19 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia.

Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting with planning retreat will be held on November 8-9, 2007, at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.