

**Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
State Rehabilitation Council
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2012**

A meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on August 13, 2012 at DARS Headquarters in Henrico, Virginia.

Members Present: Suzanne Bowers, Sandra Cook, Matthew Deans, Charles Downs, Karen Gregory-Williams, Sarah Liddle, Toney Lineberry, Ellen McIlhenny, Thalia Simpson-Clement, Sally J. Thompson, Julie Triplett

Members Absent: John Eisenberg, Cheryl Johnson, Romy Mohta, J. Bryant Neville, James Rothrock

Others Present: Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Jim Taylor, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired SRC Representative; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operating Officer; Barbara Burkett, Lead Analyst; Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst; Rick Sizemore, WWRC Director; Jean Steveson, Eastern Regional Director, Joe Ashley, Assistant Commissioner, Grants and Special Programs, David Leon, Ticket to Work Program, Kristen Rowe, Grants and Systems Development Specialist, Cat Clough and Bernadette Mayhall, Interpreters.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting were approved as written and included the submitted SRC Roundtable Reports.

Matters of Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson's Report:

- The Nominating Committee nominated Toney Lineberry for the position of 2013 SRC Chair. Hearing no other nominations, a motion was made by Ellen McIlhenny, seconded by Karen Gregory-Williams, and unanimously passed to elect Toney Lineberry as Chair. The Nominating Committee also recommended that the election of a Vice-Chair be deferred until the November, 2012 meeting due to the late appointment of new members. A motion was made by Matthew Deans, seconded by Charlie Downs, and unanimously passed to defer the Vice-Chair election until the November, 2012 meeting.
- Ms. Cook noted that all positions on the SRC are currently filled due to the recent member appointments by the Governor.
- Ms. Cook presented the 2012 SRC Chairperson's Leadership Recognition Award to Toney Lineberry, Karen Gregory-Williams, and Matthew Deans. Sandra Cook and Sarah Liddle received certificates in recognition of their years of service on the SRC.

- Toney Lineberry distributed a copy of the proposed agenda for the November 13, 2013 retreat. It was suggested that the “Role of the VR Counselor” be presented prior to the “Evaluating the Effectiveness of the VR Program”. Liz Smith indicated that a VR counselor would be selected to provide the presentation; Mr. Deans offered to assist with this presentation. The Council suggested starting both the November 13 Retreat and the November 14 meeting at 10:00 am to reduce the necessity for overnight lodging for several members.
- The SRC bylaws need to be changed to reflect the new agency name. Because this change is necessitated by a change in the *Code of Virginia*, the normal procedure to change the by-laws does not seem applicable. Therefore, a motion was made by Suzanne Bowers, seconded by Thalia Simpson-Clement, and unanimously passed to proceed with changing the bylaws to reflect the new agency name.
- The 2013 SRC meeting dates are:
 - January 14
 - March 11 with Transition Conference to be held in Richmond
 - June 10
 - August 12
 - November 18-19 with retreat

Commissioner’s Report

In the absence of the Commissioner, David Leon, Ticket to Work Coordinator, provided an update on the Ticket to Work and Partnership Plus programs. Over \$350,000 has been paid to DARS Partnership Plus Employment Network partners participating in the Ticket to Work program. As a result of the early success of the Virginia program, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has identified the state as a strategic partner, which provides additional technical assistance resources and access to address issues and concerns. The goal of the effort is to bring resources into Virginia to support the long-term employment services for individuals with disabilities. Of particular note nationally, over 80% of the ticket payments received by our Partnership Plus Employment Networks in Virginia have been in the form of outcome payments, which indicates that a client is earning wages above \$1,010 per month and is no longer living on a federal benefit check. These funds do not come to DARS, but to our partners and expands our State’s service capacity at the local levels.

Ernie Steidle, Chief Operating Officer, briefed the SRC on the agency’s performance Dashboard located on the DARS website. Currently, the Dashboard consists of measures for Disability Determination Services, the Division of Rehabilitative Services, and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. Measures for the programs at the Virginia Division for Aging will be added shortly.

Working Lunch: Council Roundtable Reports

- On October 6, 2012 the DBVI SRC will meet at the DBVI Headquarters. Because no DARS SRC members are available to attend the meeting, Jim Taylor will provide an update at the November meeting.

- Toney Lineberry agreed to serve as the SRC representative to the Assistive Technology Advisory Council. Their next meeting will be held on September 13 at the DARS Headquarters building.
- The SILC Report is included as an attachment to the meeting minutes. Ms. Liddle also reported on a letter she wrote regarding accessibility issues at the Virginia Business Leadership Network workshop held at Dominion Resources in August.

DARS Program Reports:

In the absence of Kathy Hayfield, Barbara Burkett, Lead Analyst, reviewed the Commissioner's Scorecard, as of July, 2012; this Scorecard provides a report on the performance measures for the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS). Average hourly earnings and competitive employment of VR consumers remain strong while the number of successful employment outcomes and the rehabilitation rate are below the target. Jean Steveson, Eastern Region Regional Director, provided an overview of her Region, the employment opportunities for VR consumers in the Hampton Roads area, the status and successes of the ICE (Intense Consumer Engagement) and the "Cold Case" projects.

Rick Sizemore, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Director, announced that WWRC has been reaccredited for another six years by the Council on Occupational Education. WWRC staff are attending meetings of the local Workforce Investment Boards to learn more about employment opportunities for consumers in the regions. Development will begin in August on the WWRC Blueprint 4, with an emphasis on improving linkages with Business Development Managers. Renovation for the Anderson Training Center is in the next capital budget and the grand opening for the dorm renovation will be held in the spring. Disability Determination Services was able to give 250 surplus computers to WWRC, which provided an opportunity for computer systems training students to refurbish them and materials management training students to transport them. Rick Sizemore has been elected President of the Consortium of Rehabilitation Centers and has been asked to do a presentation on the Rehabilitation Centers at the 2012 Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Employment Conference.

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs: Matthew Deans, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee is recommending that the contracts for the current two Hearing Officers be extended for another year. A motion was made by Matthew Deans, seconded by Sarah Liddle, and unanimously approved to recommend to Commissioner Rothrock that the contracts of Regina Kane and Barbara Byers, Hearing Officers, be extended for another year. No bids were received to hire a third Hearing Officer, so the Invitation for Bid will be reissued with a response deadline of October 1, 2012.

Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst, briefed the Committee on the FFY 2011 Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report. A motion was made by Matthew Deans, seconded by

Charlie Downs, and unanimously approved to accept the Report as written. A Consumer Satisfaction Subcommittee will be formed.

Scott Fraley presented a draft of the DRS Fiscal Report to be reviewed at each SRC meeting. The draft will be revised based on the suggestions offered by the Committee members.

External Affairs: Karen Gregory-Williams, Committee Chair, reported on the upcoming vacancies for the SRC. New appointees are needed for the positions held by Sarah Liddle and Sandra Cook.

Barbara Burkett and Liz Smith reviewed the status of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. The final Needs Assessment will be available by October 15. The Committee discussed the 2012 SRC Annual Report that is due to the RSA Commissioner and the Governor by December 31, 2012. The theme this year will center on VR consumers involved in post-secondary training, including college. Thalia Simpson-Clement and Ellen McIlhenny agreed to work on the Report.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Toney Lineberry reported that he and Sandra Cook attended the DARS Board and Council Leadership Summit in June. Participants included the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all of the DARS boards and councils. The Summit provided a good opportunity for the participants to learn more about the role and responsibilities of the different boards and councils. In addition, Commission Rothrock briefed the participants on the new DARS agency and a parliamentarian provided training on parliamentary procedure.

Kristen Rowe and Joe Ashley reported on the Return on Investment (ROI) research being conducted by DARS in conjunction with economists at the University of Richmond and the University of Virginia. Former SRC member, Danny DeBoer, continues to serve on the Steering Committee for this project which is looking at the long-term ROI for VR consumers. DBVI and the VR programs in Maryland and Indiana are now involved in the research.

Adjournment

Prior to adjourning, the SRC recognized Sandra Cook for her leadership as the Vice-Chair and Chair of the SRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Report
To the
Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
August 13, 2012**

The quarterly business meeting of the SILC was held July 26, 2012 at the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center (BRILC), 1502 B Williamson Road NE, Roanoke, VA.

The SILC welcomed two new appointees to the membership. Lee Price, Director of Developmental Services, VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Ronald Lanier, Director, Department of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

An article for the magazine, *Virginia Capitol Connections*, has been written by the SILC Chair. The article will be printed in the January 2013 edition of the magazine and will highlight the activities and responsibilities of the SILC

The SILC Chair will write a letter to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, requesting the appointment of Ken Jessup to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRA) of DBVI as SILC representative, the appointment of the Chair's designee to the SRC of DARS, and the appointment of representatives from an unserved area of Virginia to the SILC. Copies of the letter should be sent to Commissioners of DARS and DBVI, respectively.

As part of the quarterly educational presentations, the next SILC meeting will have a certified parliamentarian to present a refresher course on Roberts Rules of Order to the members.

After several years of cooperative discussion and review of national trends among states, the SILC, in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has decided to no longer seek the Department of Justice (DOJ) certification of the state building code. A letter will be written by the SILC Chair to DHCD stating the SILC's position. The letter will be posted on the SILC website with the documenting support for the SILC's decision.

In an effort to meet a SPIL goal for youth recruitment and development of future leaders in the disability movement, the SILC will support the recruitment and membership to the National Centers for Independent Living (NCIL) of five individuals under the age of 26 from each of the 15 CILs. This will result in 80 youth participating in NCIL as representatives from VA.

Development of the federally mandated 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) is progressing. The survey will conclude August 10, 2012. As of August 1, there were 412 hits. Many of the SILC's community partners have assisted in marketing the survey and providing outreach about the survey to stakeholders. The survey announcement was disseminated to the CILs and hard copies were available for those not

having access to a computer. Mabel Fleming, DARS, has been instrumental in assisting in the development and the assessment of the results.

After much work by the SILC staff and selected members, a Policy and Procedures Manual was approved. This manual is the first-ever document of its kind, and will be revised and updated annually.

SILC officers for terms beginning October 1,

Chair – Shawn Utt

Vice Chair – Karen Michalski-Karney

Secretary – Mary Mathena

Treasurer – Lauren Snyder-Roche

SILC member and SRC liaison Sarah Liddle was approved to attend an August 1 workshop sponsored by the Virginia Business Leadership Network. The workshop is entitled, “Myth Busters: The Real Story about People with Disabilities in the Workforce.”

Olmstead Commission & Team are represented by SILC members, Brandt, Price and Michalski-Karney. The DOJ settlement continues to develop. A final decision by the judge overseeing the settlement will be making a final decision in the near future. The plans are to move 60 people from the training centers to the community as of June 30. Various waivers are being coordinated. The Department of Behavioral Health has set milestones for moving people out of the training centers and those are available on-line.

Virginia Association for Centers for Independent Living (VACIL) continues to work on the grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities to build a personal assistant registry and educate youth with developmental disabilities to become consumer-directed assistants. Options’ counseling in partnership with the agencies on aging continues. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers are facing snags with the two different data collection systems. The glitch has resulted in a standstill.

Commissioner Ronald Lanier announced that the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) will be celebrating of the agency’s 40th anniversary on July 27, 2012.

2012 Remaining Meeting Date:
October meeting - to be determined

2013 Meeting Date:
January 30, 31 in Richmond, IL Day at the General Assembly

Submitted by:
Sarah A. Liddle
SILC/SRC Liaison