

**State Rehabilitation Council**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2013**

A meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on March 22, 2013 at Goodwill Industries, 6301 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia.

**Members Present:** Suzanne Bowers, Charles Downs, Thalia Simpson-Clement, Cheryl Johnson, Toney Lineberry, Ellen McIlhenny, Lauren Snyder-Roche, James Rothrock, Julie Triplett

**Members Absent:** John Eisenberg, Romy Mohta, Bryant Neville, Sally J. Thompson

**Others Present:** Richard Keene, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support, Becky Bowers-Lanier, VRA Legislative Liaison.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.

**Approval of Minutes:** With no changes made, the minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting were approved as written; the addendum to the minutes includes the submitted SRC Roundtable Reports.

**Matters of Public comment:** There were no comments for the public.

### **Chairperson's Report**

- Mr. Lineberry will attend the National State Rehabilitation Council Forum to be held on June 25-26, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.
- The Region 3 State Rehabilitation Council Meeting will be held on October 15-16, 2013 in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Lineberry cannot attend, so a volunteer is needed to attend on behalf of the SRC.
- On March 11<sup>th</sup> a State Plan Public Hearing will be held from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Transition Conference. Another Public Hearing will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Springfield.

### **Commissioner's Report**

- The agency fared very well during this year's General Assembly, receiving budget amendments of \$1.3 million for the vocational rehabilitation program, \$240,000 for Long-Term Employment Support Services, \$105,000 for brain injury services, and \$240,000 for Personal Assistance Services. In addition, \$100,000 was provided for a Dementia Coordinator for the Division for Aging. There also were significant budget amendments for the Department for Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services for additional waiver slots. The Governor still has to act on the budget.

- The agency has been following the potential effect of the Federal sequestration on our programs. If reductions occur, the vocational rehabilitation program could be cut 5% and the AAA's may receive a \$2 million reduction.
- A workgroup, under the leadership of Deputy Secretary Keith Hare, met last week to discuss the implementation of Governor's Executive Order 55. The discussion of the agency representatives who attended centered around enhancing internship and mentoring opportunities for individuals with disabilities in state agencies and involving the Virginia Workforce Council in order to involve more private employers. There will be events planned around the State to support the efforts outlined in the Order.
- Under the leadership of Delaware Governor Markell, the National Governor's Association is focusing this year the employment of people with disabilities. Governor Markell and two State Directors testified before the Federal Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee last week on the needed efforts to enhance the hiring of people with disabilities.
- Dominion Virginia Power has donated a forklift to the WWRC Foundation for WWRC students to use for forklift training. On March 20, there will be Forklift Rodeo at WWRC for graduating clients to demonstrate their new job skills with the forklift. Council members will be invited.

**Working Lunch and Council Roundtable Reports:** Lauren Snyder-Roche provided an overview of the last SILC meeting. Written reports for the DBVI SRC and SILC meetings are included with the SRC meeting minutes.

### **Committee Reports**

**Internal Affairs:** The External Affairs Committee reviewed the eight nominations received for the Roy J. Ward State Rehabilitation Council Employee Leadership Award. The following four individuals were recommended for the award: Kim Shepard, Susan Gaillard, Russ Neyman, and Barbie Ostrander. A motion was made by Charlie Downs, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept these four recommended award recipients. The awards will be presented at the June SRC meeting.

Dr. Barbara Burkett provided an update on the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Dr. Burkett and Liz Smith have met with the GWU TACE to discuss viable methodologies for inclusion in the needs assessment. A decision was made to go above and beyond the parameters provided by RSA in order to address the needs of the agency. The next step is to meet with DRS leadership to determine the questions that the agency would like addressed and will also reach out to existing advisory stakeholder groups to gain information. The Steering Committee will meet after the April Regional Directors' Meeting (April 10, 2013) to review the literature review portion of the needs assessment plan.

Due to the absence of Romy Mohta, the Committee tabled discussion on the SRC Website.

**External Affairs:** Elizabeth Smith presented an overview of the timeline and requirements for the 2014 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation. It is due to RSA by June 30. Liz will be communicating with the SRC members by E:mail on the drafts of the State Plan Attachments and final approval will occur at the June SRC meeting.

Charlie Downs and Mabel Fleming presented an update on the development of a new model for the consumer satisfaction survey. The new model includes contacting clients throughout the vocational rehabilitation process as well as at case closure. In addition, clients will also be asked to comment on their satisfaction regarding DRS vendors that provided services.

Toney Lineberry presented the next proposed Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Blueprint for Direction. A motion was made by Mr. Downs, seconded, and unanimously approved for the SRC to endorse the Blueprint.

Scott Fraley presented information on the SRC's 2014 budget. Total expenses will be budgeted at \$25,535; the same amount 2013. Council members were asked to consider whether reducing their annual meetings from five to four. The Rehabilitation Act only requires quarterly meetings and the reduction would be a cost savings if it would be advantageous to the operation of the SRC.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2013 at the DARS Headquarters in Henrico, Virginia.

### **ATTACHMENT: ROUNDTABLE REPORTS**

Department for Blind and Vision Impaired  
**State Rehabilitation Council**  
March 9, 2013

#### **Commissioner's Report**

- Janet LaBrec, former Commissioner of the Massachusetts services for the blind has been nominated by the President as the new RSA Commissioner; however, her appointment hearing has not yet been conducted.
- The DBVI Deputy Commissioner for Services position was filled by Dr. Rick Mitchell. Rick was the regional manager for DBVI in Bristol.

#### **Budget Updates:**

All grants from the U.S. Department of Education are subject to a 5.1% reduction for federal fiscal year 2013 beginning March 1. Congress is expected to pass a continuing resolution to fund government for the remainder of the fiscal year. In the Vocational Rehabilitation program the

law includes a mandated cost of living (COLA) increase. When the COLA is applied, the actual reduction for VR will be more like a 1.8% reduction when compared to FFY 12.

State Budget: The state budget for DBVI remains level funded with the exception of education services which is decreased by 500,000. These funds will be applied to DOE to provide for the public education of blind children through DOE. This is the result of the change to the Standards of Quality to include special education of children who are blind and vision impaired.

### **Other Business**

The annual retreat for the SRC was held on March 8. Highlights of public meeting comment and the CNA were reviewed. The group also began work on the SRC recommendations for the FY 2014 State Plan. During the working lunch Pam Beckner from the Office of the Attorney General answered questions and provided information about FOIA.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2014.

### **Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council Report to State Rehabilitation Council March 14, 2013**

- Council welcomed new member, Sandra Cook.
- Ward-Solomon reported on behalf of DBVI Commissioner, Ray Hopkins. Topics included campus renovations, job vacancies, vocational rehabilitation services (which currently has no Order of Selection in place), Older Blind Grant funding, and Special Services Provider (SSP) project for individuals who are deaf-blind, a long-term effort that would enhance independence. Lanier shared information about the iCanConnect Project, a joint collaboration between DBVI and the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) to assist with the telecommunications support and equipment for individuals who are deaf-blind with low income.
- Commissioner Jim Rothrock provided the update. Mr. Rothrock covered these pertinent topics: the Life Span Respite Voucher program, Executive Order Number 55 (enhancing employment for Virginians with disabilities), Smart House demonstration project at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC), efforts to bring information about assistive technology to the elderly population, and the agency bill (Senate Bill 1071) which extends the sunset of the Community Integration Advisory Commission until 2016. Discussion ensued about the number of SILC member vacancies, the threat of a federal sequestration, and the filing of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) by July 1, which will require the DSU Commissioners' signatures.
- Catherine Harrison, Director of Community Integration, and Heidi Dix, Assistant Commissioner of Developmental Services, provided updates about the Olmstead initiatives and Virginia Settlement with the Department of Justice, respectively. PowerPoint presentation materials were available

- At the meeting on January 30, topics covered were the directive by the Department of Education concerning disability equity in academic sports and youth recruitment for the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) memberships. So far, fourteen youth with disabilities have been enrolled as NCIL members, paid for by the SILC.
- SILC is going to continue following House Joint Resolution 648, the building code regulatory process, and hopefully have a member that can attend planning meetings.
- Part B activities and Money Follows the Person (MFP) marketing efforts, were reported on by Maureen Hollowell. The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) have been working with Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to add preferences to the Section 8 voucher programs for individuals with disabilities. Also, the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL) has developed a brochure to market the MFP program and submitted this to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Pending DMAS approval, it will be ready for distribution to consumers who desire to transition from institutions to the community. Copies of the brochures were provided to the SILC. Reaction and cooperation from nursing facilities will be very individualized and effective strategies for implementing the brochure will vary among the CILs.
- Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living (VACIL) - Michalski-Karney reported. Independent Living (IL) Day at the General Assembly on January 31 was a success with 170 people from across the state participating. Some of the CILs have changed databases to IL On-Line – Enhanced. VACIL has been actively participating with the efforts of DBHDS on the Virginia- DOJ Settlement agreement. VACIL has also been working with DMAS on the dual eligibility project (applies to individuals who qualify for both Medicaid and Medicare). A statewide consumer-directed personal assistance directory (PAS) is up and running, made possible by the grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. The directory provides match-up services.
- Next meeting date: April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in Charlottesville

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lauren Snyder Roche  
VASILC Member & Treasurer