



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION
STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Dawn Clark

Secretary

Members at Large

Steve Aalto

Business and Employment Opportunity Committee

600 Washington Street, Boston MA 02111

May 9, 2019

1:00 PM -3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

Attendees: Dawn Clark (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Steve Aalto (SRC), Alex Scarlis (MOD/CAP), Paul Metelka (Consumer), Theresa Casey (Staff), Erik Nordahl (Staff)

Remote: Chris Callahan (ADD), Inez Canada (SRC), Joe Bellil (SRC)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dawn C. made a motion to except the minutes with the amendment made to the next steps, Naomi G. Seconded All in favor

New Business

- **Membership/Recruit**

The committee discussed how they can increase the number of members to the attend committee meetings, focusing on members who will be committed to working with the committee.

- **Suggestions:**

- Reach out to the VR Councilors within MRC.
- Reach out to Worksite of UMASS Boston.
- Contact the Greater Boston Advisory Councils.
- Invite businesses and companies to join committee.
- Get updates on what the Collative are doing.
- Request that the assistant Commissioner of VR Joan Phillips attend meetings.

- **FY2019 Recommendations**

- **Amend/ Redesign**

Amendments a reassignment to committee have been made to the committees that can best address the recommendation.

When goals are developed?

Goals are developed at the Business and Employment Opportunity Committee meetings. Committee members will be responsible to address the Recommendations assigned to them. Each Committee member should take a role in addressing the recommendation before submitting to the SRC. The committee will develop goals to achieve with the meeting their recommendations.

- Inquire about the recommendation processed before bringing them to the SRC.
- MRC must agree with the recommendation.
- Request must follow under Federal Regulations.
- Combine plans to meet VR goals.

Other topics

Paul M. is a consumer who attended the meeting to speak about his experience with MRC.

Consumers who understand the process of MRC services are 3-4 times more likely to have success with finding/maintain employment. VR counselors should make sure that the consumer understands what steps need to be taken and what MRC has to offer to assist with success.

- VR Services combine with Policy Committee, assessment tools, Specialize, discovery.
- Provide life-work-progressive-explore-customize.
- Counselors connect with consumers.
- Increase number of target living wager employers, quality control wages, skill set and in demand employment.

“State as a Model Employer”

How can the committee get data on State as a Model Employer?

- MRC should be assisting so that the consumer is successful with meeting their goals.
- Employer out reach.
- Vendor out reach.
- Compare progress from 30 days, 60 days, and 90 days.
- Quality control.
- Contact management with CEO’s.
- Reach out to HR departments.
- Use information that is already available.

Action Items

- Reach out to Bill Allen/ Assistant Commissioner of VR Services Joan Phillips for data that he may have available that would assist the committee when preparing their recommendation for the SRC.
- Gather information on how many-trainings-college-job-guidance for freshman has MRC served.

- Dropout rates
- Stay on with the job
- Number of filled by MRC consumers
- Successful rate
- Small business success
- Theresa will have the completed membership to be presented at the Executive Committee meeting on June 6, 2019.
- Theresa will gather information on Beverly Pierce from the Educational Opportunity Center located at the Boston Public Library.
- Follow up from the FY2019 Recommendations

Rep Cutler has been charged with establishing a Sub-committee on Workforce Development for persons with disabilities under the preview of the Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities Committee wherein Rep. Cutler is house Vice Chair.

Adjourn 3:15

Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2019