**Massachusetts State Rehabilitation Council**

**Submitted draft recommendations for consideration-5/2/25 12pm**

**FY26- 1**

**Submitted by Client Assistance Program**

MassAbility will create fact sheets for participants of career services to better understand and orient themselves to the services that they will receive. Fact sheets would be written in plain language, be available in multiple languages, and would be distributed to participants upon engaging in services. Subjects of fact sheet would include basic information on” IPE/employment goal, financial participation, eligibility, general rights and responsibilities, and due process. These materials should also be available on the website.

**FY26- 2**

**Submitted by Christine Tosti**

Similar to MRC’s NextGen program and Family Partnership forums, I recommend MRC reach out to Worcester County House of Corrections to explore outreach to incarcerated individuals with disabilities involved in their shelter dog training program. The purpose of this would be to let the inmates openly share their experiences with shelter dogs in a public forum and what kinds of career aspirations they have thought about as a result of being in the dog program. It would also be an opportunity for MRC to explain vocational rehabilitation and offer guidance on how to access MRC upon release.

**FY26- 3**

**Submitted by Christine Tosti**

Recommend MRC counselors identify if a consumer is financially struggling upon intake and educate the consumer about possible resources and barriers to access these resources. I also recommend that MRC staff and SRC members host publics meetings to discuss the impact of financial privilege to raise awareness and visibility for disabled individuals living below the poverty line.

**FY26- 4**

**Submitted by Client Assistance Program**

Create a process whereby job placement staff connect to staff of state agency employers who are knowledgeable about the details of the agency’s stock of jobs beyond what is included in a written job description. By connecting to such staff, it would be possible to understand the actual day to day work associated with a position, and what makes or doesn't make a good match for the position. This increases the likelihood that MBY can make effective recommendations of MassAbility participants who would be qualified for state agency positions.

**FY26- 5**

**Submitted by Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee**

The Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee will work with MassAbility to generate and distribute instructional tools to MassAbility Consumers and Vendors, for marketing to employers.

**FY26- 6**

**Submitted by Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee**

The Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee will join MassAbility in efforts to identify and implement the effective actions to promote self-employment, based upon best practices from the State VR Programs of ME and VT.

**FY26- 7**

**Submitted by Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee**

The Business Employment and Opportunity (BEO) Committee will advise MassAbility on additional efforts to engage additional employers to support hiring people with disabilities in the commonwealth.

**FY26- 8**

**Submitted by the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Consumer Satisfaction Committee**

The SRC recommends that MassAbility collaborate with relevant community transportation providers to develop and implement a streamlined, unified process for eligibility and access to vehicles, vehicle modifications, and transportation services. This system should prioritize affordability, accessibility, and reliability for individuals with disabilities receiving MassAbility services.

**FY26- 9**

**Submitted by the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Consumer Satisfaction Committee**

To address participant concerns about communication, the SRC recommends forming a working group of MassAbility staff from various roles to identify and implement strategies that improve communication with participants throughout the vocational rehabilitation (VR) process.

**FY26- 10**

**Submitted by the Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Consumer Satisfaction Committee**

The SRC recommends that MassAbility collaborate with the SRC to develop methods that help participants better understand what MassAbility can and cannot do for them, both at the beginning of their vocational rehabilitation process and throughout their engagement with MassAbility.