



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

Executive Committee

600 Washington Street

March 7, 2019

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

- Steve Aalto (SRC), Kate Biebel (MRC), Dawn Clark (SRC), Rich Colantonio (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Robert Jones (EHS), Alex Scarlis (public member),
- Remote participation: Joe Bellil (SRC), Ellie Starr (SRC)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 7, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

- Review 2019 calendar of SRC meeting dates
 - o The calendar will be presented at the SRC meeting on March 21, 2019 for approval.

New Business

- Membership Discussion with Robert Jones

Robert Jones from EOHHS attended the meeting to discuss questions regarding clarification on the SRC and membership. We discussed the following issues:

- The name of the committee per the state statute is the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council. We should technically be using this language when referring to this body.
- MRC should list named members on our SRC page of the MRC website.
- Robert is meeting with the new director of the Advisory Council oversight body, and will discuss redesigning the template language that goes in letters to council members informing them that their term has expired. He will also speak with the Governor's office to ask that the council be notified when they are sending a council member a letter to inform them that their term has expired.
- We discussed the SRC wanting to see council nominees BEFORE they were appointed to the SRC. The current practice is we receive new members without advanced notice, and these

new members know little about MRC, the SRC, or the time committee expected of members. We are concerned that this is not a best practice for recruitment. Robert stated that he would try to make sure we saw a brief bio of applicants and were able to “approve” before membership was offered.

- We discussed the re-appointment process. Often appointments are made for less than three years. A background check needs to be done every three years. Current members continue to hold their seat during the background check. Notification will be sent to the council members when their membership is up. Members need to be sworn in again once the process is completed.
 - We discussed making sure we have information about the SRC and sub-committees on our website, as well as expectations of membership (e.g., meeting attendance), etc.
 - We discussed the challenge of members who are not attending meetings. Missing three meetings is considered non participation. We will discuss a strategy to address this at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.
- Business and Employment Opportunity Committee Report
 - We discussed strategies to revitalize this committee. Perhaps more of a focus on Business Development (maybe rename the committee), which is aligned with the direction of the federal Workforce and Innovations Opportunities Act (WIOA).
 - Steve will move forward to engage with Ellie and Joe to discuss specific strategies and next steps in moving more in the Business Development direction, and a focus of this committee.
 - Need to ensure engagement of Joan Phillips and Bill Allen moving forward.
 - State Plan Committee Report
 - We are in the process of collecting FY20 recommendations – the Committee will review submissions and report back at next Executive Committee.
 - Kate will provide a written MRC of the current FY19 recommendations to Joe by next week.
 - Agenda items for March 21, 2019 SRC Meeting
 - Update on Priority for Services (Order of Selection)
 - Fiscal Update
 - Eligibility Pilot
 - DMH Employment Initiative

Adjournment

- Next meeting date: April 4, 2019