



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large

Policy Committee

600 Washington Street, Boston MA, 02111

December 5, 2019

11:00 AM -12:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

Present: Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Inez Canada (SRC), Alex Scarlis (CAP), Theresa Casey (MRC)

Remotely: Michael Stepansky, (DMH), Kevin Goodwin (Ex-Officio)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Inez made a motion to except the minutes

Naomi seconded

Old Business

The committee noted that it had previously committed to focus its work on reviewing MRC policies. Based on the March 7th meeting, the committee understood that MRC was beginning the process of reviewing and revising VR policies and that MRC would follow up with the policy committee to discuss the best approach for offering feedback including prioritizing policies for review that are most applicable to the committee's work. The committee noted that it has no information about the status of this process. It was agreed that an inquiry about the status would be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Inez provided an introduction of what the development of the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) means and importance of this document for both the consumer and the counselor.

The IPE provides a layout of what services the consumer will need to succeed with meeting their Vocational Rehabilitation goals. The client and counselor will discuss the goals for employment once the consumer enters into the VR services. Using the goals chosen by the consumer the IPE is a guide to what services the consumer will need in place to achieve employment. The IPE document should provide all details of VR service that the consumer will receive and be maintained, updated, signed and dated by both the consumer and the councilor when appropriate. The IPE document will allow the consumer to understand what MRC services they will receive, as well as for the counselor to get to know the consumer from a personal perspective and what VR services that will be needed to achieve their goals.

The group reviewed the instructional memorandum, "Development of the Individualized Plan for Employment from January 2, 2017. The group discussed suggested revisions to the document which will ultimately be forwarded to Terry Walsh. Some general recommendations included: creating a one page basic explanation of the IPE to be given to consumers at the time IPE discussion begins, using specific language from the federal regulations where excerpts are the language are referenced, and providing more specific information about how informed choice is explained and a requirement to document how it was explained. There was also discussion about whether it is possible to have more than one vocational goal, particularly for young adults. Naomi agreed to follow up with Terry Walsh about this issue.

Naomi will invite a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to the January 2, 2020 meeting to discuss amendments the committee suggest to be made to the IPE document.

Adjournment: 12:32 PM

Next meeting date: January 2, 2020

600 Washington Street

2nd Floor

Boston MA, 02111