



# MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

## STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

**Chairperson**  
Dawn Clark

**Vice Chairperson**

**Secretary**

**Members at Large**

### **Policy Committee**

600 Washington Street, Boston MA, 02111

January 2, 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), Dawn Clark (SRC)
- Remotely: Michael Stepansky, (DMH), Kevin Goodwin (Ex-Officio), James Carnazza (MRC)

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Ms. Clark made a motion to accept the December 2019 meeting minutes
- Kevin Goodwin seconded

#### **Old Business**

The committee noted that it had previously committed to focus its work on reviewing MRC policies. Based on the March 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **IPE discussion with MRC Counselor James Carnazza (Question and Answer)**

As a follow up to the last meeting at which the committee reviewed the IPE policy document, the committee invited James Carnazza to the meeting to provide guidance on the process of developing the IPE and to answer questions.

How and when and with whom is the IPE developed?

- The IPE is developed with the consumer and the counselor, or third party if the consumer wants one present. When this is complete, the consumer will receive a copy of the IPE.

When is informed Choice explained to the consumer, is there a standard explanation offered, and does it happen more than once?

- At the time of application informed choice is explained.

There was discussion about the fact that the explanation of informed choice is marked with a check box and whether this adequately reflects the extent to which informed choice is exercised during the process given that this is a requirement.

There are two different places for signatures, which date is applicable?

- Once the document is entered into MRCIS, dates cannot be changed.

Under VR goals usually job title should be more detailed not just title. Time a consumer can work, what fits in some positions.

- This should be in the IPE

IPE general goal, how does that fall into job search?

- This is up to the consumer, job development and IPE

Comment: CAP runs into situations that varies away from the goal on the IPE. Details should be in the IPE, this is important.

Suggestion: add a check box for customized employment then list specifics.

Realistic and obtainable comes up often on the DMH side what does MRC means by this. It is not in the IPE. Is it talked about with the consumer?

- Clear skills, abilities and interest are considered. The counselor and area director will decide if it is a fit.

Can the IPE reflect status of disability to be sure a consumer does not lose government benefits if he/she can no longer work, or do the work he/she is currently doing?

- Can be discussed with the counselor regarding supports after 90 days with approval from an area director. The case does not need to be closed if consumer still needs support, e.g., post-employment supports.

If a consumer cannot articulate that they need supports like these does the counselor bring up the option?

- The counselor should be able to tell this by talking with the consumer.

Is there a handout once a case goes to closure explaining post-employment supports?

- A letter is sent with information about post-employment supports.

## **FY20 Recommendation Update**

Speak about recommendations about procurement and higher education. Jessica Cimini will attend the next meeting to discuss details or expertise of vendors MRC uses. Should we put things on hold for now to work on FY21 recommendations?

**Adjournment**

- Next meeting date: February 6, 2020, 11am-12:30 pm.

DRAFT