



# Statewide Rehabilitation Council Basics

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

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- ▶ What is an advisory council?
- ▶ What is the role of the SRC as an advisory council?
- ▶ What is the scope of the work the SRC undertakes?
- ▶ How does the membership composition contribute to the improvement and innovation of vocational rehabilitation services?

# What is an Advisory Council?

- ▶ Purpose:
  - ▶ to gain the input and support of key community leaders;
  - ▶ to keep long-time supporters and past board members involved
  - ▶ to assure that decisions have been weighed from as many perspectives as possible
- ▶ Benefit of the council's collective and individual thinking adds to the ultimate decision-making of the governing body
- ▶ Do not have decision-making authority - most advisory groups have an impact through influence and persuasion

Source: [Advisory Volunteers | Energize: Volunteer Management Resources for Directors of Volunteers](#)

# The SRC is an Advisory Council?

- ▶ Under [34 CFR §361.16](#), mandatory part of vocational rehabilitation service delivery framework to ensure that the disability community plays a significant role in how the vocational rehabilitation program operates
- ▶ “shall advise the commissioner in matters of interest relating to the delivery of rehabilitation services.” [Mass.Gen.Laws ch.6 §76](#)
- ▶ “established to advise the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission on the provision of vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, in compliance with the requirements of the [Rehabilitation Act \[of 1973, sect.105\]](#).” [MA Executive Order No. 368](#)

# Basic SRC Functions per 34 CFR §361.17(h)

- ▶ Review, analyze, and advise the VR agency functions that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes, e.g., eligibility, order or selections, service delivery, etc.
- ▶ Jointly
  - ▶ conducts the comprehensive needs assessment of individuals with disabilities in the State,
  - ▶ develops (and agree to) the State's annual goals and priorities in carrying out the vocational rehabilitation program, and
  - ▶ evaluates the State's performance relative to its goals on an annual basis.
- ▶ Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs

# SRC Membership Basics

- ▶ Appointed by the Governor for a 3yr term
  - ▶ can serve two consecutive terms
  - ▶ If term expires before reappointment, member serves in “hold over status” until reappointed, replaced, or the member resigns
- ▶ Members represent the consumer/stakeholder/business voices for the vocational rehabilitation program offering valuable input.
- ▶ Each person brings a unique perspective to an SRC from which the agency benefits, resulting in a more consumer driven system
- ▶ Governing laws require that some seats be filled by specific disability community representatives

# Statewide Independent Living Council Rep.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Parent Training & Information Center Rep.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?



# Client Assistance Program Rep.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Community Rehabilitation Provider



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Business, Industry, & Labor Rep.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Disability Reps. (former VR consumers)



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Disability Reps. (across disability types)



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Education Rep 1 - Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Ed.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Education Rep. 2 - Higher Ed.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?



# Workforce Development Board Rep.



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?

# Commissioner of MRC as an Ex-Officio



What is unique about your voice?



What perspective(s) do you add to the vocational rehabilitation mix?



What are the ways you contribute to improving vocational rehabilitation services?