



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2022

1:00-3:00pm EST

Attendees:

- Statewide Rehabilitation Council Members: Inez Canada, Ronaldo Fujii, Doug Mason (ex-officio), Rosanna Woodmansee, Rebecca Davis, Naomi Goldberg, Joe Bellil, Cheryl Scott, Heather Wood, Barbara Cipriani, Katie Queally
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) Staff: Sahara Defensor, Esq. and Bill Noone

Please Note: This meeting was held remotely.

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by the Chair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Canada asked whether there were any corrections to the July 2022 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Ms. Canada called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bellil motioned to approve the June 2022 minutes. Mr. LaMaster seconded. The July 2022 minutes were approved with no corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Delayed Quorum Votes - Open Meeting Law Complaint; FY23 SRC Budget; FY23 Recommendations** - Item was tabled for later in the meeting to reach quorum.
- **Membership Policies**
 - Ms. Canada recapped the discussion from July meeting regarding developing a warning system for non-compliance and asked for additional thoughts.
 - Mr. Fujii recommended some language around attendance and active participation in SRC meetings
 - Discussed that the requirement exists in the bylaws, but only counts during the four quarterly meetings
 - Expected to join at least one committee
 - Actively tracking attendance in meetings but the SRC lacks the bandwidth to follow-up at this time.
 - Changed meeting to evenings were more member can come but still a conflict for others
 - Looking to ask stagnant members whether they plan to continue serving so they can be replaced if they are no longer interested or no longer have the capacity in their schedule
 - **Question re: recruitment for open SRC seats from Mr. LaMaster – is there a quick resource to have the information available to public?**
 - Chair Canada recalled recommendation to recruit people with diverse backgrounds and disabilities
 - lengthy application and appointment process is a makes it harder to filling seats. Two candidates withdrew their names from consideration



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- Committee members asked to think about what the warning system for noncompliance with member policies could look like and bring examples to September Exec Comm meeting

NEW BUSINESS

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Satisfaction and Needs Assessment Committee – Ronaldo Fujii**
 - No meeting was carried between the former executive meeting and the current. Participation at the AQA meeting with MRC was mentioned and feedback from counselors were submitted to relevant committees. One particular complaint from the VR counselors was that procurement had several vendors who no longer exist in the vendor database and that generates a lot of re-working for counselors (for both new and senior counselors).
 - **State Plan Committee – Joe Bellil**
 - Recommendations sent to MRC and responses currently being reviewed and preparing the counter-response for MRC/ adjusting recommendations. Meeting set for August 17th for Committee review
 - August meeting will also include a discussion on starting the SRC FY22 Annual Report and developing a standard operation procedure for collecting SRC Recommendations
 - **Policy Committee – Naomi Goldberg**
 - Acknowledged feedback Mr. Fujii presented from VR counselors re: procurement and will have a discussion with Mr. Fujii to get the details.
 - Orientation materials under development – Explanation about VR and SRC basics.
 - 8/4 meeting the Committee reviewed and discussed some VR language
 - Format is still undecided, but will work with MRC Comm Teams on this once the content is done

Delayed Quorum Votes - Open Meeting Law Complaint; FY23 SRC Budget; FY23 Recommendations

- The Chair recognized that the meeting had reached a quorum of the voting members and took up the previous tabled agenda item re: Delayed Quorum Votes - Open Meeting Law Complaint; FY23 SRC Budget; FY23 Recommendations.
 - With the assistance of Ms. Goldberg who called names and recorded the roll call votes, the Chair presided over roll call votes on three business items. All business items were approved unanimously with the roll call votes recorded as follows:

	Open Meeting Law Response Approval	FY23 SRC Budget Approval	FY23 Recommendation Approval
Inez Canada	YES	YES	YES
Joe Bellil	YES	YES	YES
Ronaldo Fujii	YES	YES	YES



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Steve LaMaster	YES	YES	YES
Olympia Stroud	YES	YES	YES
Rebecca Davis	YES	YES	YES
Naomi Goldberg	YES	YES	YES
Cheryl Scott	YES	YES	YES
Rosanna Woodmansee	YES	YES	YES
Heather Wood	YES	YES	YES
Barbara Cipriani	YES	YES	YES
Katie Queally	YES	YES	YES

Chair Canada thanked everyone for their efforts to make the meeting and vote on these important business items.

- **Mr. Mason – Is there a way to avoid the situation of lack of quorum?**
 - All avenues were evaluated by the Chair and General Counsel, Sahara Defensor. Ms. Defensor explained how the law requires the SRC to count quorum
 - The quorum subject is designated in law and the only way would be to change the law itself.
 - Change in the meeting time to later hours was a measure to try increasing likelihood of reaching quorum, but we gained and lost participants with the schedule changes.
 - Ms. Scott - We could advocate for changing the Executive Order. Current Order is outdated and could be revised as a whole in addition to the quorum.
 - It might be a good time given a new governor coming in January 2023
 - Mr. Fujii volunteered to help in the Executive Order review and speak with the Governor’s office.
 - Chair agreed to add item to September quarterly meeting agenda and expressed that - MRC leadership would need to back this change as well.
- **Mr. Mason – Clarification that quorum demands 51%+ of the number of eligible seats. Does count vacant seats too?**
 - Includes all 21 statutory seats; must count vacant and ex-officio seats, even though ex-officio cannot vote

The Chair resumed the Committee reports.

- **Committee Reports, cont’d**
 - **MRC DEIA Committee Rep – Doug Mason**
 - Most recent meetings have been operating in an informal fashion, but the latest meeting established two co-chairs and a secretary to take minutes, track attendance, and follow up with those who have been missing meetings.
 - Need for more personal interaction (face-to-face) meeting
 - Haven’t received the minutes from the last meeting yet
 - **Business and Employment Committee - Steve LaMaster**



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- Rebranding initiative: Rebranding document was sent to MRC Communications Director, Colleen Casey, for feedback and distributed entire SRC body. 3A few individuals replied with comments: Sarah Wiles – SRC intro language too broad; Rebecca Davis- cautioned re: reviewing to simplify language to between 3rd - 8th grade level. Others agreed with these comments.
- Mr. LaMaster went through other additions and comments in the latest document and discussed.
 - Mr. Fujii: VR eligibility could be mentioned where appropriate as we are not talking about all individuals with disabilities.
 - Mr. Bellil recommended consistency in the terminology in the document and in the field whether “individual with disabilities” or “job seeker” and suggested raising this with MRC so everyone is using the same terms.
 - Ms. Canada – The rebranding initiative does consider the change from consumers to individuals with disability.
 - Agreed that the feedback are recommendations that may or may not be incorporated, SRC has last say
 - specifically referring to the reviewing of mission and vision statements proposed in the document as it was developed during the SRC DEI consultancy
 - Ms. Scott asked if the method for delivering the information will be diverse and whether the contents will have to be adapted.
 - Mr. LaMaster – The MRC Communications department will be responsible for the adaptation of the provided content. The present document is the comprehensive/accurate version. Communications will be responsible to also determine which would be the best media to deliver the messages.
 - MRC Comms will develop a few different “look and feel” recruitment documents for marketing and branding in various forms, e.g., website, social media, flyers, etc. The SRC will be asked to review and offer feedback on those. All content will be sampled from the language in this document.
 - Ms. Goldberg –the document needs to be transparent about the specificity of the work done in SRC so we don’t create false expectations and disappointment for those interested in becoming m
 - Mr. LaMaster went over the process for the reviewing and drafting of the document, which is planned to be delivered in October.
- **Next steps:** Any additional feedback will be considered until **Friday August 5th** end of the day. Mr. LaMaster will send all feedback back to the Committee to review and discuss the contributions at August 11th BEO meeting.
- **MRC Updates**
 - Kate Biebel and Amanda Baczko were not present to provide updates.
- **Open Mic.**



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- Ms. Goldberg shared about navigating VR workshops – one for applicants and consumers and another for parents. [Massachusetts Office on Disability | Mass.gov](#) -at the bottom of the homepage under “Upcoming Events”
- the City of Boston Commission for Disability rescheduled Boston ADA Celebration day, August 31, 12-2PM at City Hall Plaza - the event is a great chance to meet people with disabilities in the community

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.