



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

Executive Committee

600 Washington Street

May 2, 2019

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

Attendees: Steve Aalto (SRC), Joe Bellil (SRC), Kate Biebel (MRC), Inez Canada (SRC), Dawn Clark (SRC-Chair), Alex Scarlis (Public)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The following amendments will be made to the April 4, 2019 meeting minutes:

- The assignments of the State Plan Recommendations are incorrect – these will be amended

Joe B. moved to approve the minutes. Inez C. seconded. Minutes approved

MRC Workforce Membership

- Reviewed list of interested SRC staff for membership on the MRC.
- Agree to have two people from MRC – would be nice to have one more senior person and a junior person.
- Kate will follow up with identifying two new members, and sending State Plan Recommendations to those not selected to see if they are interested in any of the sub-committees.

Appointed Members

- Reviewed most up to date chart of membership
 - Need to confirm term dates (start and end dates) and the number of terms served. Kate will reach out to Robert Jones to get most up to date information.
- Questions of how do we interpret a “vocational rehabilitation counselor” – do they need to be qualified? The regulations say QVRC, but the by-laws say VRC.
- What slot does Inez fill? Inez will connect with Robert Jones to clarify and report back to the committee.

- The “higher-education” repartition – there are two slots. We want to have one focused on post-secondary (Lusa Lo) and one from DESE (this is vacant). Joe B. has been working with DESE on a disability curriculum – will reach out to see about potential membership
- American Indian VR services (Section 12.1 of Rehabilitation Act) – do we get funds for this? If yes, regulations state we should have representation from the SRC. Kate will investigate.
- We have two people recommended from Heather Watkins, a member who has recently left the SRC. Dawn is going to follow up with these people to see if they are interested in membership. As we are particularly interested in having more current MRC consumers as SRC members, Dawn will inquire regarding MRC status.
- Need to follow up with Bill regarding the potentially interested members from the Consumer Satisfaction Survey. Kate needs to draft web material to post online. Once this is done, we can email these individuals.
- Kate will add Sadie Simone to the SRC list, to serve as liaison to the SILC rep.

Commissioner Update

- 8.5M request from the Governor in the base. House Ways and Means Committee was positive.
- Reviewing Max OB dollar amount for Q4. This will be a practice every year – to forecast what we can commit to Max Ob each FY.
- Met with Community Colleges. Discussed about how to best structure Max Ob moving forward
- Competitive Integrated Employment Services (CIES) and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) are both out to bid – new contracts will start July 1, 2019. With CIES we added some new components, to allow increased flexibility.
- Have 18 new Mental Health Specialty QVRCII positions posted to support the MRC/DMH Employment Initiative that begins July 1, 2019
- Discussed SES and the desire to have SES in the community.
- MRC will include an update on Priority for Services on our website.
- MRC is hosting an agency – wide consumer conference the last week in June. Working with Brain Injury Association to organize.
- Commissioner will come to the June 6, 2019 Executive Committee meeting to discuss strategies to have more consumer engagement within MRC.
- CSAVR conference in Bethesda. Very reassuring. Mantra was – if VR agencies don’t change, we’re not going to be relevant. Things need to be quicker, more streamlined, with easier access.

Meeting Schedule

- For now will keep Executive Committee summer schedule as is.

State Plan Recommendations

- The 6 recommendations for FY20 have been sent to committee chairs. Chairs should review and edit recommendations so they are not so lengthy. These are supposed to be back to Joe by May 28, 2019. On May 30, 2019 the State Plan Committee will meet to finalize. Final recommendations will be presented at the June 27, 2019 SRC meeting in Burlington.

- Committees don't need to accept recommendations – they can come back and determine something isn't a priority, and/or needs to be amended.
- Inez will draft the recommendation regarding the autism recommendation (which came to the Executive Committee) and share with Dawn, so we can meet the May 30, 2019 State Plan Committee schedule.

Adjournment

Next meeting date: June 6, 2019, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM, 600 Washington Street, Boston MA 02111