

Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022

1:00-3:00pm EST

Attendees:

- Statewide Rehabilitation Council Members: Inez Canada, Naomi Goldberg, Joe Bellil, Christine Tosti, Cheryl Scott, Doug Mason, Ronaldo Fujii
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) Staff: Sahara Defensor, Esq., Kate Biebel

Please Note: This meeting was held remotely.

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by the Chair.

Announcement: Olympia Stroud resigned as Chairperson of the Consumer Satisfaction and Needs Assessment Committee. Chair Canada has appointed Mr. Ronaldo Fujii as the new CSNAC committee chair, per Ms. Stroud's recommendation and Mr. Fujii's acceptance. Ms. Canada thanked Ms. Stroud for her service as the CSNAC Committee Chair. She will be working with the CSNAC Committee chair and MRC CSNAC liaisons during until Mr. Fujii fully transitions into the role.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Canada asked whether there were any corrections to the June 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. Mason seconded. The June 2022 minutes were approved with no corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Membership Policies (Inez Canada, Sahara Defensor)**
 - Reviewed items previously addressed in June SRC Ex Com Meeting (see June 2022 SRC Ex Com Meeting Minutes).
 - Discussion of how to approach disagreements and/or incorporating flexibility into board practices – discussed using Robert's Rules of Order to document disagreement – explain dissent. Importance of using proper channels to voice disagreement. Also discussed that this should be followed for issues specific to the SRC as well as for the SRC's advisory capacities to MRC.
 - Discussion of needing to ensure we have our processes documented, so board members can be productive and participate in meetings.
 - Discussion of do we have any documentation of "majority vote?"
 - Discussion of if/how Robert's Rules interface with the DEI work we've done – wasn't this part of the DEI recommendations to revisit this? Chairwoman Canada stated that we're using a hybrid version of Robert's Rules – Ms. Scott stated we should clearly articulate this and describe what this means.
 - Discussed warning systems/consequences for non-compliance regarding meeting practices. Perhaps having the Chair and a second member address

“offline” with the individual. Could also have an MRC liaison present. Can we consult the Commonwealth Boards and Commissions to see if there are existing best-practice processes? This led to a discussion of how we want to handle SRC by-lay attendance/engagement expectations. This will be included on our agenda for next time, that is how to manage non-compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

- **MRC DEIA Council: Mr. Doug Mason**
 - Consumer data and workforce and demographic data will be addressed at forthcoming meetings. Mr. Mason met with Ms. Canada and Ms. Biebel over the last month to discuss issues specific to the DEIA Council. All parties found these meetings helpful.
 - Next MRC DEIA Council meeting scheduled for July 15 and the new DEIA manager is on scheduled to attend
- **Policy Committee: Ms. Naomi Goldberg**
 - Working to draft materials around some elements of what consumers/potential consumers want to know/should know re: basic VR services/processes. Will be engaged with the MRC Communications Department moving forward.
 - Working on SRC Orientation materials and has sent an email to full SRC for input and asked them to share any materials they feel should be a part of member orientation. A couple of members sent items/suggestions. The committee will review and discuss these items/suggestions at the August 4th meeting
- **Consumer Satisfaction & Needs Assessment Committee: Mr. Ronaldo Fujii**
 - Mr. Fujii reported on the most recent meeting and updates from Ms. Baczko on initiatives of the Department of Individual and Family Engagement. This included the MRC Services Experience Survey.
 - The Survey was not sent to full SRC as intended; the feedback deadline has passed. Per Ms. Biebel, the survey is set to go live next week; she suggested Chair Canada reach out to Amanda Baczko re: next steps. Chair Canada agreed.
 - Mr. Fujii will be attending some VR office AQA meetings, where office level data are presented to MRC staff. Mr. Fujii will be attending the Taunton meeting, as well as potentially the Cape/Plymouth office meeting over the summer.
- **The Business & Employment Opportunity (BEO) Committee: Ms. Inez Canada on behalf of Mr. Steve LaMaster**
 - On July 21 the full SRC will get draft language for the draft recruitment materials and an invite to the Aug 4th SRC Ex Comm meeting to provide feedback on branding/marketing work or have the option of sending feedback via email before the Aug 4th meeting.

- **State Planning Committee: Mr. Joe Bellil**
 - At the upcoming August 17th meeting the Committee will review MRC responses to SRC recommendations, will start to discuss the Annual Report, as well as different mechanisms to get community input into next year's SRC recommendations.

MRC Updates: Ms. Kate Biebel

- VR Summer Hybrid Schedules have begun and remain at 2 days a week "in office."
- We will not be hosting a July Individual and Family Engagement Form due to the Consumer Conference taking place in August.
 - August 18th is our MRC Signature Event – Explore Possibility. Target of 450 attendees. We have a set number of dedicated invites for SRC members – Ms. Baczko will share more about this in the coming weeks.
- MRC is gathering data re: how consumers are preferring to meet Counselors (in-person; remotely via phone or Zoom; or in the Community). MRC plans to share that data with the SRC once compiled.
 - MRC is explicitly asking counselors whether the counselors are asking about the consumer's meeting preference and letting the consumer know the options they have.
 - Responding to a question, Ms. Biebel clarified that "community" is broad- the consumer can choose a Dunkin Donuts, library, etc, even the consumer's home if these options are feasible. She noted that MRC is shifting its service delivery to meet the consumers where they are.

Open Mic:

- Announced job openings at the Regional Environmental Council in Worcester- <https://www.recworchester.org/employment>. Ms. Tosti described it as, "the best place I've ever worked. they're very intentional about social justice and is an incredibly special place."
- Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) is having a hybrid summit in the Partners Building at Assembly Row – Accessibility in a Digital World – on Oct 27th. People interested in attending can register here: <https://www.mass.gov/event/disability-summit-accessibility-in-a-digital-world-2022-10-27t100000-0400-2022-10-27t130000-0400>
- MOD also has a series of workshops and resources, e.g., how to disclose, accessibility in the workplace, etc. You can learn more by visiting the [MOD website](#).
- July 11th is the date for SRC appointed members to revote on items from our recent meeting because we lacked a quorum including: a) an Open Meeting Law complaint, b) the proposed FY23 SRC budget, and c) the FY23 Recommendations.

Adjournment: The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Scott. **The meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.**