



# MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

## STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

**Chairperson**

**Vice Chairperson**

Dawn Clark

**Secretary**

**Members at Large**

Steve Aalto

### **Executive Committee**

600 Washington Street, Boston MA 02111

November 15, 2018

1:00 PM -3:00 PM

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order/Introductions**

Dawn Clark (SRC), Jim Riley (SRC), Steve Aalto (SRC), Richard Colantonio (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Joe Bellil (SRC), Kate Biebel (MRC), Theresa Casey (MRC)

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

- Steve recommended a revision to the Oct minutes. This amendment was accepted and October 4<sup>th</sup> minutes will be revised and re-posted.
- Joe Bellil motioned to approve the minutes Steve Aalto seconded all in favor

#### **Old Business**

##### **A. Updates on SRC Administrative support of SRC**

- Cassandra was introduced by webcam – she will be supporting Theresa in the admin support of the SRC.
- MRC is drafting survey to assess what times and day of the week work best. Will also assess who wants to receive what information.
- Dawn and Theresa will clean up the database to determine active members as well as appointed.
- Ex Com members appreciate using calendar invites, and recognize some administrative improvements.
- MRC is drafting a communications expectations job aid that will be vetted with Committee Chairs – goal is to detail expectations of MRC and Chairs re: communication and administrative responsibilities with committees.

##### **B. Update on Order of Selection listening sessions**

- Kate reported on Commissioner Wolf's Order of Selection Listening sessions around the Commonwealth
  - Dawn attended one in Worcester and reported a warm reception and good discussion.

- Jim inquired re: if there was a formal process of incorporating comments from these sessions. (Update: Kate checked with the Commissioner and these activities are happening based on input from sessions. For example, a team from the Center for Living and Working will be reviewing the draft Functional Limitations Checklist used for MRC Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors).
- Additional sessions will be occurring:
  - 11/14 (2-4pm) Whites of Westport – Westport, MA
  - 11/19 (2-4pm) NILP – Salem, MA

### **C. Priority categories**

- Kate discussed MRC workgroup providing recommendations to the Commissioner re: definitions of Priority 1, 2 and 3. Workgroup is recommending changes in priority category definitions of Priority 1=4+ functional limitations; Priority 2=2-3 functional limitations; and Priority 3=1 functional limitation.
- Jim asked if MRC had data re: how many current consumers have which number of limitations – Kate answered that MRC does not currently collect that level of data, but is planning to move forward.
- There was general agreement among Ex Com members supporting the new priority category definitions.
- Kate discussed that trainings re: new priority category definitions will be happening with counselors – idea is to focus training supervisors and Area Directors, who will work with their staff.

### **D. Committee updates**

- State Plan and Interagency Relations Committee
  - Joe presented on timeline for next Annual Report.
  - MRC will do a brief written response to recommendations quarterly – will decide if first time is Dec 2018 or March 2019.
  - Joe will connect with each committee chair re: relevant recommendations.
- Statewide Comprehensive Needs
  - Rich reported on a recent focus group in Lowell targeting the Asian committee – many attendees and a good discussion.
  - VR needs assessment survey is complete.
- Policy Committee update
  - Have not met recently – no update.
- Nominations update
  - Dawn reported Ex Com has taken this over.
  - No update – waiting for OOS implementation to shift focus to addressing by-laws and recruiting members.

## **New Business**

### **E. Pilot Eligibility Unit**

- MRC is piloting an Eligibility Unit in Western MA beginning in 2019. This pilot project will be led by Springfield Area Director Paula Euber.

- MRC is presenting to its workforce on specifics of the pilot on November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- MRC is working closely with union leadership to have ongoing discussions re: the pilot project.

#### **F. Update RSA**

- RSA monitoring report is available on the RSA website. This is the original report from RSA, and does not include MRC responses (which have been submitted and are under review).
- Dawn will send link to volunteer Ex Com members, so they can determine next steps.

#### **G. Other**

- Resignations
  - Announcement of Alan Greene departure
  - Jim Riley announced his resignation. Many Ex Com members thanked him for his lengthy service and commitment to the SRC. His contributions will be missed.
- January retreat
  - Dawn will work with Steve, Rich, and Naomi to determine dates and an agenda. Theresa will support this process.

**Next meeting date TBD**