



## MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

**Chairperson**  
Dawn Clark

**Vice Chairperson**  
Alan Greene

**Secretary**

**Members at Large**  
Steve Aalto

### **SRC Full Council Meeting**

Burlington Public Library,  
22 Sears St, Burlington, MA  
June 7, 2018 - 1:00pm to 3:30pm

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

- The following members were in attendance of the June 7, 2018 MA State Rehabilitation Council meeting:
  - Richard Colantonio, Jim Riley, Dawn Clark, Alan Green, Naomi Goldberg, Joe Bellil, Rosanna Woodmansee, Steven Aalto, Mathew Bander
- The following members of the council were absent from the council meeting:
  - Ellie Staff, Barbara Cipriani, Heather Wood, Heather Watkins, Bonnie Joes, Katherine Queally.
- The following MRC staff were in attendance of the council meeting:
  - Graham Porell, Kat Biebel, Josh Boardman, William Noone, Joan Phillips
- The following people were in attendance of the meeting:
  - Anne Marie Paulson, Joseph Russo, Doug Mason, Kevin Goodwin, Alex Scarlis, Inez Canada

#### **Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- The previous meeting minutes were passed with a majority vote from by the council after a motion to approve the minutes as written by Steven Aalto and a second motion given by Naomi Goldberg.

#### **MRC Update:**

- Deputy Commissioner Kate Biebel, Assistant Commissioner Joan Phillips and Research and Development Director Bill Noone were in attendance of the meeting.
  - Deputy Commissioner Kate Biebel provided an update on the status of the agency. The first topic she discussed was regarding the current fiscal situation of the MRC. As MRC did not receive a reduced amount of federal funding from the federal government, MRC is currently working on changing fiscal practices to be able to reduce cost and provide as many services to vocational rehabilitation consumers. In order to ensure equitability of services, the agency has put processes in place to reduce any overspending. The MRC leadership is currently working the total amount of money that can be spent per consumer per case.

In order to be able to provide services and maintain a budget, MRC is looking at revising the Order of Selection policy to prioritize the consumers who are more in need of services. In order to approve a new policy, MRC will need to review the new policy with the State Rehabilitation Council and receive a recommendation to move forward with the process of enactment. MRC would like to start using the updated Order of Selection Policy by January 2019. A timeline has been created for the implementation by the MRC leadership and was shared with the council at the meeting. The order of selection timeline has scheduled public listening sessions, employee listening sessions, stake holders listening session, an SRC workgroup, a public comment period and public communications.

MRC has been reaching out to other state agencies in the United states in order to understand the best practices for implementation of order of selection and has utilized this information to create the timeline.

- Assistant Commissioner Phillips reiterated the comments of Deputy Commissioner Biebel and provided statistical updates for the number of successful employment outcomes for the vocational rehabilitation and specifics for the northern district, where this meeting was located. The updates were as follows:

- *Review notes and put into meeting minutes*

Assistant Commissioner Phillips did not have enough time to review the internship program that was discussed at the March council meeting. Assistant Commissioner Phillips will provide that update in September.

### **Old Business:**

- **Common Measures Presentation:**
  - Research and Development Director Bill Noone and Business Analyst Graham Porell provided a presentation to the council on the common measures that are being used by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to create state goals and provide accountability to vocational rehabilitation organizations. A copy of the presentation is available at the MRC Commissioner's Office.
- **Transportation Coordination at MRC**
  - Terri Koopman, MRC Program Coordinator, provided a presentation on the strategic planning and current success that MRC is completing to assist the transportation issues throughout the Commonwealth. During her presentation, she provided an update that any MRC consumer is now able to access the reduced fair passes at any regional transportation authority throughout the state of MA with proof of participation in programs offered by MRC. A copy of Program Coordinator Koopman's presentation can be found with the MRC Commissioner's Office.
- **Committee RSVP and Attendance:**
  - Josh Boardman, program coordinator in the MRC Commissioner's Office, asked that all participants of the committees RSVP to the save the dates. This is to ensure we have space and technology set up for each of these meetings. If you have questions regarding a meeting, please contact Theresa Casey (617-204-3799).
- **Governor's Appointments:**
  - Josh Boardman provided a brief update that he has continued to work with the Governor's Offices to appoint new members and that we are in the process of adding several people to the council. More

updates will be provided as we are moving forward with appointments.

- Internships:
  - Assistant Commissioner Phillips will provide an update regarding internships at the upcoming September council meeting.

**New Business:**

- Administrative Process:
  - Due to timing conflicts and discussion for other agenda items of the meeting, the council was unable to review this agenda item. This will be added to the agenda for September meeting.
- Website Update:
  - Due to timing conflicts and discussion for other agenda items of the meeting, the council was unable to review this agenda item. This will be added to the agenda for September meeting.
- Order of Selection Timeline:
  - This agenda item was reviewed during Deputy Commissioner's MRC update.
- State Plan Recommendations:
  - Due to timing conflicts and discussion for other agenda items of the meeting, the council was unable to review this agenda item. This will be added to the agenda for September meeting.
- How to utilize the SRC moving forward:
  - Due to timing conflicts and discussion for other agenda items of the meeting, the council was unable to review this agenda item. This will be added to the agenda for September meeting.

**Other:**

- No other topics were discussed during this agenda item.

**Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.