



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

Statewide Rehabilitation Council

Morse Institute Library

14 E Central Street, Natick MA. 01760

SRC Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2019

1:00 P.M.-3:00P.M.

Attendees:

Richard Colantonio (SRC), Dawn Clark (SRC), Bonnie Jones (SRC), Martha Houghtlin (PCA), Ann Marie Paulson (Ex-Officio), Erik Norahl (MRC), Kevin Goodwin (Ex-Officio), Paula Euber (MRC), Joe Bellil (SRC), Joe Panciotti (Ex-Officio), Doug Mason (Ex-Officio), Bill Noone (MRC), Graham Porell (MRC), Ellie Starr (SRC), Kate Biebel (MRC), Inez Canada (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Christopher Dreher (SRC), Steve LaMaster (General Public), Commissioner Wolf (MRC), Olympia Stroud (Public), Jessica Cimini (MRC), Josh Boardman (MRC)

Remotely: Lisa Chiango (SRC), Barbara Cipriani (SRC)

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The December 19, 2019 State Rehabilitation Commission (SRC) meeting was called to order at 1:05pm. The committee completed introductions and reviewed the previous meeting minutes. SRC Member, Joe Bellil, motioned to approve the minutes and SRC Member, Inez Canada, seconded the motion to approve. One spelling error was noted of Alex Scarlis' name, which was advised to be corrected. The previous meeting minutes passed unanimously without objection.

Update re: SRC Website

The council did not discuss the update to the SRC website.

Review and Vote on SRC By-Laws

Chairperson Dawn Clark requested that all members of the council review the updated by-laws for a vote to move forward. Council member Inez Canada provided an overview of the edits and opened for questions from

the council members, ex-officio members and the general public. The following were the questions discussed during that time.

- Ex-officio member, Joseph Panciotti, asked if an ex officio member was allowed to provide a motion to accept or deny on the council’s agenda. Inez responded that the language was based on Robert’s Rule of Order they would be, except that the SRC Bylaws excluded voting. The following excerpt regarding ex-officio members related to by-laws was read during this question:

“Ex officio” is a Latin term meaning “by virtue of office or position.” Ex-officio members of boards and committees, therefore, are persons who are members by virtue of some other office or position that they hold. For example, if the bylaws of an organization provide for a Committee on Finance consisting of the treasurer and three other members appointed by the president, the treasurer is said to be an ex-officio member of the finance committee, since he or she is automatically a member of that committee by virtue of the fact that he or she holds the office of treasurer.

Without exception, ex-officio members of boards and committees have exactly the same rights and privileges as do all other members, including, of course, the right to vote. There are, however, two instances in which ex-officio members are not counted in determining the number required for a quorum or in determining whether or not a quorum is present. These two instances are:

1. In the case of the president, whenever the bylaws provide that the president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees (or of all committees with certain stated exceptions); and
2. When the ex-officio member of the board or committee is neither an ex-officio officer of the board or committee nor a member, employee, or elected or appointed officer of the society (for example, when the governor of a state is made ex officio a member of a private college board).

Source: RRO- FAQ Question 2 (<https://robertsrules.com/faq.html#2>)

- A point of order was made to determine if the council had quorum to proceed with a vote to accept the new by-laws. A vote was held and the by-laws were approved.

SRC FY20 Recommendations Updates

SRC member/State Plan Committee Chairperson, Joe Bellil, provided an update to where the council is currently at with the Fiscal Year 2020 recommendations. He asked the chairpersons of each committee to provide a brief update.

- State Plan Committee: The committee chairperson, Joe Bellil, suggested to begin the Fiscal Year 2021 recommendations in March 2020, to ensure the committee has time to create and review before submitting to MRC.

- Needs Assessment Committee: The committee chairperson, Rich Colantonio, stated that the committee would be working with MassMobility to address the transportation recommendation from SRC.
- Policy Committee: The policy committee chairperson, Naomi Goldberg, noted the committee will be reviewing MRC's procurement process in order to see if there is a way to potentially fill the gaps in services for consumers of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The second initiative is ensuring a connection is made with the higher education and the MRC offices to increase communication regarding disability services, scholarships/funding.

SRC 2020 Calendar

Deputy Commissioner Kate Biebel provided a copy of a calendar for the SRC Full Council meetings and individual committee meetings for 2020. Outlook calendar invites will be sent for 2020 meetings in the coming months.

Commissioner Update

Commissioner Toni Wolf provided an update regarding the current fiscal situation of the agency. The Commissioner's PowerPoint was sent to the committee prior to the meeting with all specific details listed. The Commissioner and Paula Euber will join the council at the March meeting to discuss the Eligibility Pilot and the future initiatives as the council did not have time to fully discuss this agenda item.

State Plan Update and Process

Director of Analytics and Quality Assurance, Bill Noone, provided a brief update regarding the requirements for the combined state plan for Massachusetts. MRC and the SRC will be working together to ensure all requested recommendations and figures are present and sent to the Governor's Office for review of the completed Vocational Rehabilitation section. This process is completed every five years as a result of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA). The previous combined state plan, with all required MA workforce development agencies' input, can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/wioa-combined-state-plan-for-fy2017-fy2020>.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.