



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson
Alan Greene

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

State Rehabilitation Council

225 Turnpike Road, Southborough MA 01772

September 11, 2018

Attendance:

The following gubernatorial members were in attendance of the meeting:

- Ms. Rosanna Woodmansee, Ms. Ellie Starr, Ms. Barbara Cipriani, Mr. Stephen Aalto, Ms. Lisa Chiango, Mr. Youcef J. Bellil, Mr. Richard Colantonio, Ms. Dawn E. Clark, Ms. Heather A. Wood, Ms. Heather Watkins, Ms. Bonnie M. Jones, Mr. Jim Riley,

The following MRC staff were in attendance of the meeting:

- Toni Wolf, Commissioner; Kate Biebel, Deputy Commissioner; Josh Boardman Communications and Strategic Programs, William Noone, R&D Director; Garaham Porell, R&D Coordinator, Lola Akinlapa, R&D Coordinator.

The following Ex Officio Members were in attendance of the meeting:

- Kevin Goodwin and Anne Marie Paulson

The following individuals participated remotely:

- Rosanna Woodmansee, Alex Scaris, Inez Canada, Lisa Chicango, Bonnie Jones, Heather Wood

Introduction:

- Chairperson Dawn Clark opened the meeting with introductions of those in attendance of the meeting at 1:00pm.

Meeting Minutes:

- The council reviewed the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. The only discussion item was by James Riley who asked for Assistant Commissioner Phillips to provide an update on an action item from the previous meeting. This item regarding internships and will be discussed at the December Council Meeting. The council agreed to this comment. Joe Bellil provided a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written, with a second motion provided by Steve Aalto. The council agreed by consensus vote.

MRC updates:

- Jennifer Stewart, MRC Statewide Transition Director, provided a presentation on the new model of MRC's pre-employment transition services. MRC has been working with a technical assistance program to ensure compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and state laws. The major changes to the Pre-Employment Transition Services will include the providing services to students 14-22 years of age (two years younger than previous) and that students do not have to be part of the vocational program to receive pre-employment transition services. MRC recommends that students receive pre-employment services prior to entering the vocation rehabilitation program. All five pre-employment services will provide students a natural and organic way of moving into employment.
- Several questions were asked regarding this implementation. They included:
 - o Does MRC work with private schools in MA?
 - MRC works with all schools in MA, and will work with private schools if the school reaches out to discuss options with MRC. Many private schools have specialized staff that provide direct referrals to MRC.
 - o How are we making sure we reach out to schools?
 - MRC ensures that a vocational rehabilitation counselor are assigned to spend time in each high school in MA.
- Order of Selection Presentation:
 - o Doug Mason, SRC Member, provided an overview of order of selection process at MRC. During the presentation Doug provided details of the work completed during the four Order of Selection Work Group meetings that took place during the Summer 2018.
 - o Order of selection is a process of opening and closing services for categories for people with more significant disabilities in order to control spending within vocational rehabilitation. According to federal regulations (Rehabilitation Services Administration) in order to effectively manage the flow and cost for services, an Order of Selection process must be put into effect. The presentation provided the rationale for why MRC should move into the Order of Selection and the provided a recommendation to MRC.
 - o After reviewing the PowerPoint presentation, MRC provided the response to the following questions:
 - Does a consumer has to meet all seven categories of functional limitations in order to be eligible?
 - Kate Biebel, Deputy Commissioner, provided a response that a consumer has to meet a determined number of functional limitation to be determine eligible for services. The final number has not yet been decided, but will be reviewed with the SRC upon completion.
 - When MRC was in OOS previously, the council was not communicated any details, even when MRC stopped using OOS.
 - Commissioner Wolf advised that she plans to make sure the SRC received.
 - o The recommendation was voted on as amended and results to proceed with the recommendation below: Rich Colantonio provided a motion to accept the recommendation with revision of specific fiscal year, and was seconded by Steven Aalto.
 - Whereas federal regulations require an Order of Selection policy be implemented when the VR Program does not have sufficient funds to serve all eligible consumers, and whereas the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission is projecting a deficit in the VR Program for the 2019, it is recommended that the State Rehabilitation Council hereby grant authority to the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to develop and implement an Order of Selection policy and procedures for use in the VR Program ~~for the upcoming fiscal year~~ and until such time as the process is no longer needed.

- A roll call vote was completed with all members in attendance. As council was one member shy of quorum, the vote was suspended until the members absent were able to provide a mailed vote.

Member:	Vote:	Mailed Vote:
Ms. Rosanna Woodmansee	In favor	
Ms. Ellie Starr	In Favor	
Ms. Barbara Cipriani	In Favor	
Mr. Alan H. Greene	Absent	In Favor
Ms. Naomi Goldberg	Absent	In Favor
Mr. Stephen Aalto	In Favor	
Ms. Lisa Chiango	Electronic	
Mr. Youcef J. Bellil	In Favor	
Mr. Richard Colantonio	In Favor	
Mr. Matthew J. Bander	Absent	
Ms. Dawn E. Clark	In Favor	
Ms. Heather A. Wood	In favor	
Ms. Heather Watkins	Absent	
VACANT	n/a	
Toni Wolf, Commissioner	Non-Voting	
VACANT	n/a	
Dr. Lusa Lo	Absent	
Ms. Roxanne Hoke-Chandler	Resigned	
Ms. Bonnie M. Jones	In Favor	
Jim Riley	In Favor	
Ms. Katherine R. Queally	Absent	In Favor
VACANT		

- The final vote for the order of selection recommendations was
 - In Favor – 13 council members
 - Opposed – 0 council members

- Abstention – 0 council members
 - Absent – 5 council members
- Supported Employment Update
- Commissioner Wolf provided an update regarding the status of the supported employment model. During her presentation, she provided an update on how MRC is looking at the Vermont Model of progressive employment. MRC is working with other vendors to determine a new method of funding to support the progressive employment model.
 - The Progressive Employment (PE) model is an employment strategy with an emphasis placed on how VR business relations and job placement personnel interact with employers. PE is predicated on a dual-customer philosophy, making information about business engagement key to better serving VR consumers in finding work experiences while ensuring employer needs are optimally met by the VR program. The PE model is fundamentally based on the premise that businesses should be partners and clients of VR for the process to work most effectively. (explorevr.org)

Committees:

- State Plan Committees
- Joe Bellil provided an update regarding the state plan committee and requested the SRC to continue with the recommendations that were provided to MRC last fiscal year. The committee provided the recommendation that the SRC keep the same recommendations for FY18 annual report. The recommendation is as follows:
 - Recommendation: Continue to monitor the 2018 recommendations as the 2018 recommendation and to prioritize the order of selection as the top recommendation. The motion was provided by Joe Bellil and seconded by Doug Mason.
 - A roll call vote was completed with all members in attendance. As council was one member shy of quorum, the vote was suspended until the members absent were able to provide a mailed vote.

Member:	Vote:	Mailed Vote:
Ms. Rosanna Woodmansee	In favor	
Ms. Ellie Starr	In Favor	
Ms. Barbara Cipriani	In Favor	
Mr. Alan H. Greene	Absent	In Favor
Ms. Naomi Goldberg	Absent	In Favor
Mr. Stephen Aalto	In Favor	
Ms. Lisa Chiango	Electronic	
Mr. Youcef J. Bellil	In Favor	
Mr. Richard Colantonio	In Favor	

Mr. Matthew J. Bander	Absent	
Ms. Dawn E. Clark	In Favor	
Ms. Heather A. Wood	In favor	
Ms. Heather Watkins	Absent	
VACANT	n/a	
Toni Wolf, Commissioner	Non-Voting	
VACANT	n/a	
Dr. Lusa Lo	Absent	
Ms. Roxanne Hoke-Chandler	Resigned	
Ms. Bonnie M. Jones	In Favor	
Jim Riley	In Favor	
Ms. Katherine R. Queally	Absent	In Favor
VACANT		

- The final vote for the order of selection recommendations was
 - In Favor – 13 council members
 - Opposed – 0 council members
 - Abstention – 0 council members
 - Absent – 5 council members

- Nominations
 - Dawn Clark advised that the executive committee recommends that the council disband the nomination committee and have this committee work completed by the executive committee. The council agreed to this request.

- Policy Committee:
 - Due to lack of meeting time, the council decided move to this item to the December meeting.

- Executive Committee:
 - Kate Biebel provided an update regarding the Executive Committee. The following elements would institute:
 - Chairpersons of each committee will be attending executive meetings
 - Meeting are going to change to monthly, rather than quarterly.
 - Executive meetings are open to everyone.
 - Membership will be reviewed by the executive committee.
 - The SRC will begin to stop presenting data to present data, but present data to move the conversation forward.
 - Handout to explain what the SRC is and their responsibilities.

- Open Mic:
 - o Needs Assessment:
 - Graham Porell, MRC Research and Development presented the executive summary of the MRC Needs Assessment Report.
 - The Needs Assessment Committee will conduct a Focus Group working with Lowell Khmer speaking counselor caseload, family members, and community members. This is to take place in late September.
 - o Satisfaction Survey:
 - Lola Akinalapa provided the executive summary of the MRC Satisfaction Survey to the council.
 - o Open Meeting Law:
 - During the December meeting, the MRC Legal department will provide education around the open meeting law and how it effects the SRC.
 - o Survey Meeting Times:
 - MRC will be creating a survey to send out to members to determine when the bet time to hold meetings will take place.

- Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm

Documents Shared:

- PowerPoint – Transition Aged Youth
- PowerPoint – SRC Order of Selection Recommendation
- Fiscal Year 2017 SRC Annual Report
- FY 2018 Comprehensive Need Assessment
- FY17 Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report