

Policy Committee

600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

June 2, 2022

11:00 AM -12:30 PM via Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Inez Canada, Sarah Wiles, Rosanna Woodmansee, Christine Tosti, Kevin Goodwin, William Noone, Olympia Stroud, and Liz Fancher

April Minutes were included in invite and posted on the SRC page. Participants indicated that they received and reviewed them.

Per Recommendation FY23-1, the Policy Committee is tasked with creating orientation materials to be used internally by SRC members and participants to better understand the basics of vocational rehabilitation services and the role of the SRC in providing feedback about MRC's vocational rehabilitation services. This recommendation seeks to enhance members' ability to actively and meaningfully participate on the SRC and offer feedback on the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.

The group brainstormed about what information should be included and described to make a useful orientation on these topics:

Vocational Rehabilitation Materials

- Define the focus of vocational rehabilitation
- Describe the basic steps in the process from setting up a vocational plan, to putting services into place, up to closing a case
- Highlight the basic elements of moving through the process and what should consumers expect
- Explain IPE process and development in detail
- Explain financial obligations/participation
- Explain individualized services in the context of the process, keeping in mind that consumers are not always given the full range of choices and autonomy in what services could help
- Answer how MRC handles barriers to employment like homelessness

SRC Membership Materials

- Why does the SRC exist?
- What is the specific role of the SRC?
- What do you need to know as a member?
- How does SRC ensure that it includes the DEI lens in all of its work and activities?
- What should the SRC focus on and what is outside the scope of the SRC?
- How does the SRC actually take action steps on a recommendation given its advisory role?

General suggestions for all material

- Explain the expectations as VR consumer and as SRC member
- Add a glossary that includes definition and commonly used acronyms
- All materials should offer simple explanations in clear language
- The old consumer handbook should be revisited but not necessarily titled “handbook” (Bill Noone offered that MRC is creating a new database that will be used for both vocational rehabilitation and community living and a new “handbook” could be associated with that system)
- Explain basic of community living services
- Explain what VR and the SRC are and what they are not
- Explain rights and responsibilities under VR and SRC

The group agreed that the Policy Committee should seek feedback from the wider membership. Naomi will reach out to all SRC members via email to solicit feedback on materials. Next steps will include gathering and reviewing existing materials on these subjects. Some materials will be presented at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will take place via Zoom on Thursday August 4, 2022.