



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION
STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

Policy Committee

600 Washington Street, Boston MA 02111

May 9, 2019

11:00 AM -12:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

Attendees: Dawn Clark (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC) Alex Scarlis (MOD/CAP), Theresa Casey (Staff)

Remote: Chris Callahan (ADD), Inez Canada (SRC)

The meeting minutes of March 7, 2019 were approved.

VR Policy Manual

The committee noted that it had previously committed to focus its work on reviewing MRC policies. Based on the March 7th meeting, the committee understood that MRC was beginning the process of reviewing and revising VR policies and that MRC would follow up with the policy committee to discuss the best approach for offering feedback including prioritizing policies for review that are most applicable to the committee's work. The committee noted that it has no information about the status of this process. It was agreed that an inquiry about the status would be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

New Business

Prepare summary of State Plan Recommendation on Procurement

The policy committee has agreed to take on #5 of the state plan 2020FY recommendation, which had previously been assigned to the State Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee.

The committee revised the text of the recommendation in preparation for submission to the State Plan Committee which will present all committee recommendations at the SRC quarterly meeting in June. In addition to the actual recommendation itself, the text of recommendation #5 included requests to MRC for additional information about the procurement process. The committee maintains that it does not have a detailed understanding of all aspects of the procurement process and can only make proper recommendations and work on the issue if it has a clear understanding of the subject.

The Policy Committee will work to address the needs stated in the recommendation. The committee will report all changes to the State Plan committee, the State Plan committee will then share it at the SRC (Statewide Rehabilitation Council) on June 27, 2019 meeting. The SRC will present it to the MRC for approval.

In the Business and Employment Subcommittee, the Policy Committee asked to take on the 2020FY Recommendation #7 re: a dedicated college liaison at MRC. The B&E Subcommittee agreed and this recommendation has been redirected from the Business and Employment Opportunity Committee to the Policy Committee. The committee discussed slight changes to the language. Alex Scarlis read the revised recommendation aloud.

Dawn Clark made a motion to approve the changes made within the recommendations, the motion was seconded, and the committee approved the recommendation as revised.

Please see attachment to view revised recommendations #5 and #7.

Suggestions from attendees:

It would be helpful to include Action Steps with the FY2020 Recommendations for MRC to be presented to the SRC because MRC's response or lack of response would be on record. It would also help committee understand what is needed in the recommendations.

Questions from attendees:

- What is on the contract for paid services?
 - It would be helpful to understand what happens when services are in flux b/c there is not a state contractor
 - What is the lag time for getting a vendor on the state contract?
 - What is the process for becoming a vendor
 - Is there an MRC staff member who proactively works to get vendors?
 - Committee would like to understand why other state agencies contract with a vendor and MRC doesn't, e.g., Pearson

Dawn motioned to approved changes, Inez C. seconded, so moved.

Old Business:

VR Policy Manual

The Policy Manual is not available at this time as it is in the process of being developed.

Items of concern:

- Are policies aligned with federal VR regs?
- How is transportation paid? How are dollar limits decided?
- How are paid vendors selected? (Committee discussed briefly the MRC posting their recent RFR on Commbuys, the state procurement portal)

Other Discussion:

Question was asked re: SRC getting a copy of MRC Hearing Decisions

- May help identify problems and systemic issues
- May point to areas where Committee should focus efforts
- What are logistics of getting decisions?
- Who should publish? Where? How?
 - Is this an assignment for CSNA?
 - Possible repositories?

Question asked re: VR issues CAP has presented to SRC,

- It was suggested that CAP provide a presentation on types of cases, issues, and outcomes
- CAP responses was that there have been SRC presentations but generally about CAP's role in VR, not specifics of cases
- CAP expressed a willingness to provide SRC with the information

Question re: Fed VR regs re: SRC and MRC jointly developing state VR goals for WIOA Combined State Plan and the SRC having to agree to those goals.

- Who helps with the goals?
- Are the State Plan recommendations tied to the goals?
- Combined State Plan says SRC "agreed"
- Comment that Joe Bellil may be able to answer
- Will ask this question at State Plan Subcommittee meeting

Question re: Communication w/ SRC- Does MRC have a policy for communicating with the SRC?
 Comment made that communication has improved as the SRC has become more engaged

Update from Dawn re: Membership:

- A membership spreadsheet is in the process of being developed.
- When completed the membership list will be shared with the Policy committee.

Action Steps:

- Ask State Plan Committee about federal VR Regulations on how the SRC and MRC develop state goals.
- Submit Policy Committee Piece/recommendations of plan to State Plan Subcommittee for submission to SRC
- Ask MRC for data and policies to understand procurement needs
- Flesh out goals to work towards fulfilling the Recommendations assigned to the committee
- Suggest sending the State Comprehensive Needs Assessment survey to the area offices to get their feedback on consumer needs

Adjourned at 12:15

Next Meeting Date: September 5, 2019

