



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

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State Rehabilitation Council

Burlington Public Library

June 13, 2017

1:00pm – 3:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions:

The following people participated in the meeting at the Burlington Public Library:

- Dawn Clark, Josh Boardman (MRC), Rosanna Woodmansee, Richard Colantonio, Joe Panciotti, Alan Greene, Katie Queally, Jessica Cimini, Stephan Aalto, Joe Bellil, Roxanne Hoke Chandler, Donna Goodell, Bill Noone (MRC), Graham Porell (MRC), Matthew Bander, Ann Marie Paulson, Kevin Goodwin

Welcome Remarks:

- Jessica Cimini, North District Director, presented updates for the North District and several updates for the Assistant Commissioner Phillips. The following updates were presented:
 - North District is composed of seven area offices stretching from Worcester, to Boston, and to the New Hampshire border.
 - All of the offices currently have area directors who are covering all seven offices and hired many new counselors.
 - The North district serves about 12,000 consumers per year. During the 2017 fiscal year, the north district received 3,000 new application for services. Approximately 2,400 employment plans have been written out of the new applications.

- 1,100 consumers from the North District have been successfully placed in the competitive employment, which results in a 115% of the goal placed for Fiscal Year 2017.
- Jessica Cimini then went on to discuss the transition programming that is currently being done across the agency. The following highlights were given:
 - The MRC has started an internship program with CVS and Big Y Supermarkets to give students, ages 16-22, a paid work experience during the summer.
 - Area offices are also running paid internship programs, and about 300 students are receiving this opportunity throughout the state.

Acting Commissioner Update:

- Kasper Goshgarian was unable to attend the meeting and asked Bill Noone, Director of Research and Development, to provide an update in his absence. The following information was provided:
 - The US Department of Education is currently looking at a 13% budget decrease for this year, but the house and senate are still currently looking at the final budget. Additional details will be given as they become available. The MRC does not know how this might effect the award that is received from the Department of Educations, Rehabilitation Services Administration.
 - The State budget looks as though the state funding that is received by MRC will remain
 - A new commissioner has been named, Toni Wolf. She will be starting with the Agency in July. Additional information will be provided to the Council as it becomes available.
 - An overview of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was provided to the council and MRC's actions towards the pre-employment transition services were described.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes from the Joe Bellil moved to approve the meeting minutes and Steve Aalto seconded the meeting minutes.

Old Business

- State as a Model Employer:
 - Josh Boardman provided an update to the Council that the State as a Model Employer is currently been rehoused from the MA Human Resources Division to the Massachusetts Office on Disability. At this time, Josh Boardman is still waiting on communication back regarding this program from the Massachusetts Office on Disability. An update will be provided once information has been received regarding the status of the program.
- Gubernatorial Updates:
 - Josh Boardman provided a flow chart of the current gubernatorial appointments to all members of the council. Currently MRC and the MA Governor's Office have been in contact regarding appointments. We have appointment in process, and a steady communication has been kept with the Governor's Office.
 - Josh Boardman will be providing an update flow chart which illustrates the ex-officios on the council and also end dates of the terms.

New Business:

- Needs Assessment Report
 - Graham Porell, MRC research and development provided an executive summary update to the Council. The entire report is on file at the MRC Administrative Office and on the MRC Website.
- Response to SRC Fiscal Year 17 Recommendations
 - Due to time constraints, Josh Boardman advised that an email would be following up with the recommendations responses from the MRC after the meeting.
- Update to the MRC/One Stop Career Center Initiatives
 - A brief update was given by Bill Noone and Jessica Cimini with regards to this new initiative. According to the new legislation, a new formal partnership is being created between the MRC and the one stop career centers. The two agencies have always had working connections, but will be lined out formally in an

Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. One part that has been more prevalent, is that counselors have been spending time in the Career Centers around the state. This is part of the new requirements for the legislation.

- SRC Committee Work Review
 - Dawn Clark provided an update to the Council regarding her initiative to reduce the number of print outs at meetings by providing a general statement from each committee regarding the current work of the committees. The Executive Members at Large will be contacting the chairperson of each committee to review the meetings that have taken place and then transcribe that into a one page document for all the committees.

Open Mic:

- No Community members asked questions during the open mic section of the meeting.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm