



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large

Statewide Rehabilitation Council

Mass Rehab Commission

600 Washington Street, Boston MA, 02111

September 19, 2019

12:00pm-2:00pm

Attendees:

- SRC Members - Rich Colantonio, Inez Canada, Ellie Starr, Joe Belill, Lisa Chiango, Rosanna Woodmansee, Naomi Goldberg, Heather Wood, Lusa Lu (phone), Bonnie Jones, Dawn Clark
- Ex Officio – Doug Mason, Kevin Goodwin, AnnMarie Paulson,
- MRC Staff – Commissioner Toni Wolf, Kate Biebel, Mo Vasquez, Vivian Pham, Paula Euber, Jim Carrazza, Bill Noone, Graham Porell, Cassandra Pierre-Louis
- Other - Steve LaMaster, Alexis Scarlis

Call to Order/Introductions

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Starr made a motion to approve the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Belill seconded the motion. All in favor.

Fiscal Update – Mo Vasquez (CFO)

- Update on VR staffing for 2019. 56 positions posted – 36 (64%) were Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) positions. 27 new hires – 18 (67%) were new hires. 18 promotions – 10 (56%) were promotions.
- FY19 State VR funding - \$10.419M. FY20 State VR funding - \$18.284M. 75% increase in state VR funding.
- VR Overall – Cash flow more manageable. Received \$7.9 M in our base, primarily to support consumer needs. Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) Corrective Action Plan deadline of 9/30/19 is rapidly approaching.

- \$3.0M (one time funding) Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) with Department of Public Health (DPH) to support consumers interested in pursuing employment a licensed substance abuse counselors.
- Questions
 - Question - How do we ensure that any new Deaf/Hard of Hearing specialty positions are known in the community? Answer - We can ask Mark Dore to share with his networks.
 - Question – Did we revert any state VR dollars? Answer – Yes, 90,000. This is under 1% of our total budget, so should not impact FY21 funding base.

WIOA State Plan Update – Bill Noone (Director, Analytics & Quality Assurance) and Graham Porell (Management Analyst)

MRC submits a State Plan every 4 years. MRC’s contribution is one component of a larger plan – today we are reviewing the MRC component of the State Plan. It is ultimately due in April 2020 for the entire Commonwealth.

- Discussion of concern of too many goals. Hard to determine what the priorities are when there are so many. This is much less than some other states who have over 100.
- The SRC will have more opportunity to discuss MRC’s goals before it is finally submitted.
- Discussion that the SRC is responsible for working with MRC – the law indicates that MRC and SRC must confer to develop the State Plan.
- Concern of too many acronyms in the plan – MRC will work to decrease the number of acronyms.
- Discussion of ensuring that Deaf and Hard of Hearing are included in the lists of individuals who we serve, and make sure our list is inclusive of all specialty groups.
- Meeting participants gave a number of clarifications on the draft – Bill and Graham collected all of these, and will include in next version of the State Plan. Will get rid of the watermark draft. Will send out to SRC members again with revisions.

Ms. Goldberg moved to accept State Plan with comments reviewed today. Mr. Belill seconded. Moved to accept.

SRC FY20 Recommendations for MRC

We approved the SRC FY20 Recommendations for MRC at the last SRC meeting. Mr. Belill spoke about how we’re getting more MRC workforce engagement on the committees. We have switched a few of the recommendations and the committees they are attached to. We discussed the upcoming annual report, which reviews what the committee are doing, as well as an overview of MRC statistics, consumers served, etc. This goes to the Governor’s office. Ms. Clark and Mr. Belill noted we are asking SRC members to get involved with a committee. Committee leads introduced themselves and the work of the different committees. Ms.

Goldberg – Policy Committee. Mr. Colantonio – Comprehensive State Needs Assessment, and Consumer Satisfaction. Mr. Belill – State Plan Committee, and Business and Employment Committee.

Orientation materials are being developed for new and existing members of the SRC. This task is being handled by the SRC Executive Committee to allow members to have a perspective of member expectations and responsibilities.

Follow up: Send out the website address for SRC website to ensure members know where to look for dates and times of meetings.

Commissioner Update

Commissioner Toni Wolf provided an update to the council regarding MRC. Her updates included:

- Commissioner Wolf asked for feedback on the CFO's presentation. The council stated that MRC was in a good spot and provided praise to the Commissioner's efforts. Commissioner Wolf commented this effort was part of a team, and not just her. She thanked all staff involved.
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Principles – During MRC regional meetings, MRC's SUD Committee provided an update to the principles. These principles are shifting the paradigm in how MRC looks at how we support an individual regarding substance use.
 - These principles will help us provide a wraparound approach ensure the individual feels supported when they may go in and out of employment.
 - Our current work is to solidify our beliefs – our principles. Once these are agreed upon, we will start work on how to operationalize our principles into our day to day work, both in VR and Community Living. This work will be complex.
 - FOLLOW UP: Send out draft principles to committee to review with date to return.
- DMH/MRC and MRC/DTA Partnerships.
 - The change in the service delivery highlights the engagement phase of each of the partnerships. This is creating a paradigm shift in the way MRC has provided service.

Next Meeting Date: December 19, 2019