

April 20, 2022 draft minutes

Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

State Plan and Interagency Relations Committee

The State Plan and Interagency Relations Committee ensures the SRC meets its obligations regarding input from consumers in the development of both the MRC public VR State Plan and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan.

Meeting Minutes

April 20th, 2022 11:00-12:30pm EST

Attendees:

Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Members: Inez Canada, Joe Bellil, Naomi Goldberg, Christine Tosti

SRC Ex Officio Members: Kevin Goodwin

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) Staff: Bill Noone, William Allen

Public: Sarah Wiles (CAP), Stacey Sirois (MA Service Alliance)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review related SRC DEI activities

- Equality, Equity, Reality Image

- depicts power and privilege vs oppression and adversity

3. Approval of the 2/9/22 draft minutes

4. Review the SCR FY23 Recommendation Process and any submitted recommendations

- SRC will develop and vote on recommendations based on input from all committees and participants

- Want to work collaboratively with MRC to provide advice and rationale

- Executive Committee will discuss recommendations and then disperse them to full SRC

- official vote happens June 2022

- MRC will respond within 30 days

- August 2022 MRC and SRC will discuss more specific details
- MRC has asked for fewer recommendations over time stating it is not possible to do so much
- Documents Joe shared:
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Massachusetts Combined State Plan State Plan Modification for the period of July 1, 2020 through June30, 2024
 - Effective: July 1, 2020
 - combines MA Commission for the Blind, WIOA, and VR
- Naomi: indicated 22 items were input from members and ultimately may not be considered

Comments from the Public and Committee:

- Sarah: MA Commission for the Blind does not do their recommendation process the same as MA Rehabilitation Commission
- pros and cons to MCB's system? Suggested possibly looking at it as a model
- Naomi: legal obligation for state programs to jointly develop state plan recommendations
- Client Assistant Program: SRC is supposed to receive info on fair hearing decisions from MRC
- Naomi spoke to General Counsel and learned that the SRC does have the scope to review fair hearings of MRC and find hearing officers
- VR is a complicated process; need for clear materials
- Joe: part of the SRC's role is to analyze and advise MRC
- Kevin: last SRC meeting, there was discussion of MRC working with brain injury forum
- Recommends MRC develop partnership with traumatic brain injury community
- Inez: MRC already works with brain injury; coordinates access to SHIP services (Statewide Head Injury Program)
- Inez: Is there an opportunity to narrow recommendations? Who

makes the decision?

- Listening forums suggestion: Joe recommends planning listening forums with SRC members; reports getting a lot out of MRC's listening forums and getting different perspectives

- Flagged filling an SRC employment position

- In the past, there used to be public hearings for the recommendation process

- o Bill: Dept of Labor is put on public hearings for state plan; this process has already passed and the next one is in 2 years, 2024

- Stacey: Runs a professional development/volunteerism/internship program, MA Service Alliance

- email: ssirois@mass-service.org

- SRC member Christine is a current intern with the program placed at Worcester's Regional Environmental Council which has significantly contributed to her recovery

SRC Committee Roles:

- committees will all come up with their own recommendations

- Naomi: as we go through the process, we should ask weather and what we can do as a group to perform task oriented activities

- Joe: how to incentivize employers to hire more disabled people employed in the state?

- MOD's work experience program

- MRC speed recruiting events

- Sarah: ouch moment! Hiring disabled people should not have to be a thing to incentivize

- Advocated for disability pride culture shift so disabled people do not have to feel like they need to hide who they are

- Christine: Section 503 of Rehab Act calls for affirmative action plans for federal contracts

- 34 CFR § 361.19 - Affirmative action for individuals with disabilities.

- Naomi: Executive order 592 anti-discrimination protection beyond state and fed

protections

- Very firm guidance in place for obtaining reasonable accommodations
- There is no legal duty to disclose disability
- Bill: what is the incentive to disclose? Little safety in disclosure

State Plan Next Steps

-Inez: Committees should aim to have finalized versions of recommendations for May

Executive Committee

- does not want to spend Executive Committee time refining recommendations
- June 16th official SRC vote on recommendations
- Bill Allen: wants to create creative and innovative ways to involve SRC's business and employment committee

Adjournment 12:07PM