



MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION STATEWIDE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Chairperson
Dawn Clark

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Members at Large
Steve Aalto

State Plan Committee

600 Washington Street, Boston, MA, 20111

March 28, 2019

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Introductions

Present: Theresa Casey (MRC), Bill Noone (MRC)

Remotely: Joe Bellil (SRC), Dawn Clark (SRC), Naomi Goldberg (SRC), Inez Canada (SRC)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Dawn Clark made a motion to accept the minutes as written
- Naomi Goldberg seconded the motion
- All members in favor

Old Business

- Timeline:

The committee reviewed the Annual Report Recommendation Timeline.

- Progress on the FY2019 Recommendation:

The SRC and Sub Committees are working together to address recommendations for FY19. Below are the responses and/or progress.

Recommendation One:

The Business and Employment Opportunity Committee will continue to work with the MRC on GIG Economy job across our Commonwealth.

Recommendation Two:

The Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Committee will continue to work with MRC to increase consumer awareness of transportation options and explore other options for consumers who reside in areas that lack transportation options. MRC has accomplished the following services.

- MRC has worked with the Regional Transportation Authorities to offer reduced fare rates with proof of MRC eligibility.

- Good New Garage has received funding to extend the vehicle donation program.

Recommendation Three:

The Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee will continue to work with MRC to promote On the Job (OTJ) and job driven trainings to increase employment for persons with disabilities.

- MRC continues their partnership with CVS and Home Depot to provide On the Job training to MRC consumers. Verizon has recently shown interest in forming a partnership with MRC to offer similar OJT trainings.

Recommendation Four:

The Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee will continue to work with MRC to add additional focus groups to connect with the underserved populations of MA, specifically the Asian Communities.

- An outreach to the Asian and Cambodian Community took place in Lowell on August 11, 2018 to learn how MRC can meet their needs when seeking services.
- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) plan to hold similar outreach focus groups in Braintree and Downtown Boston.

Recommendation Five:

The Business and Employment Opportunity Committee will continue to work with MRC to create a partnership with other New England states' State Rehabilitation Councils for ideas on Vocational Rehabilitation best practices.

Recommendation Six:

Develop a document in Braille, video, as needed on how to use the College Disability Services Programs for use by VR consumers that are or will be attending college.

- The Unserved Underserved Committee has not met to address the recommendation.

Recommendation Seven:

The SRC would like for the MRC to make an internal VR Peer Mentoring program. The program will be made up of successful consumers who will be trained to mentor new or existing VR consumers to provide resources, a helping hand and to encouragement.

- Dawn reported to the committee that this program already exists therefore further action does not need to be taken.

Recommendation Eight:

Business and Employment Opportunities Committee will continue to work with MRC in taking a proactive approach and offer to assist Massachusetts Office of Disabilities (MOD) and Supplier Diversity Office (SDO) with establishing goals for participation of individuals with disabilities in all areas of state procurement contracting.

Recommendation Nine:

The Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee will continue to work with MRC to seek funding in order to provide computer, technology and/or web-based trainings and assessments for consumers to assist in obtaining employment.

Recommendation Ten:

The Business and Employment Opportunity Committee will continue to work with MRC to increase their usage of their social media accounts for consumers use. This would include revising the MRC mass.gov website, so that it is user-friendly and accessible to all disabilities.

- Dawn brought attention to the Committee that the Policy Committee is not currently working on any recommendations.

Committee Discussion:

At the next State Plan meeting there will be discussion on:

- Do the subcommittees understand the recommendations assigned to them?
- What are they currently working on?
- What actions have they taken to achieve results?
- What approach are they taking to work with MRC's responses from the FY2019 recommendations to achieve the best outcome for the consumer?

A recommendation was made to make it a priority to work on getting the Policy Committee involved with addressing recommendations. With OOS's involvement, consumers will receive better service by using the resources that are available throughout the Commonwealth.

Dawn made a motion to except the recommendation.

Naomi seconded the motion.

All in favor.

New Business:

Prioritizing the FY2020 Recommendations

The committee members reviewed and discussed the FY2020 recommendations that were submitted to the State Plan Committee. The committee members have agreed on six recommendations that will be presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members will review and discuss the recommendations in order to assign the appropriate subcommittee who will best address the recommendation. The Executive Committee will present the six recommendations to the SRC for approval. The SRC will present the approved recommendations to the MRC who either except to work with the committees or to deny the recommendations.

The top six recommendations list below in order of priority:

- 1) Increase and improve the quality of employment outcome for MRC consumers.
- 2) Continue to increase consumer awareness of transportation options and explore efforts to assist consumers with transportation.

- 3) Continue to promote job driven trainings to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- 4) Expand staff training for QVRC working with people on the Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- 5) Procure other services on the state contract to avoid consumers paying upfront for services.
- 6) Continue outreach to communities of ethnic and diverse backgrounds on vocation rehabilitation and other services that MRC offers.

Naomi made a motion that the Unserved/Underserve Committee meet to assist with the FY2020 recommendations.

Dawn seconded the motion

All were in favor of the recommendation.

Action Item

- Present the six recommendation to the Executive Committee.
- Work with the Executive Committee member to assign recommendations to the appropriate subcommittees.

Adjourned: 3:00 PM

Next Meeting: TBD