

**NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (N.S.R.C.)
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Department of Employment Training & Rehabilitation
500 E. Third Street, Carson City, NV 89713
&
Vocational Rehabilitation
3016 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 200, Las Vegas, NV 89102

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shelley Hendren
Todd McCullough
Ernest Hall
William Heavilin
Joshua Baker
Matthew Cox
Kacy Curry
Mark Hinson
Robin Kincaid
Jean Peyton
Faith Wilson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maxie Miller-Hooks

GUESTS:

Kraig Stephens, member of the public
Michael Hutchins, member of the public
Robert Reuss, member of the public

STAFF:

Rosalie Bordelove, Deputy Attorney General
Janice John, Rehab. Div. Deputy Administrator
Javier Fernandez, V.R. Staff Liaison to N.S.R.C.
Mechelle Merrill, Bureau Chief for Vocational
Rehabilitation
Laurel Kaneshiro, Administrative Assistant III
Steven McDonald, Deputy Administrator of Operations

1. **ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Ernest Hall called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Javier Fernandez, V.R. Staff Liaison to the N.S.R.C. did the roll call and was able to determine a quorum was present.

2. **CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, AND VERIFY TIMELY POSTING OF AGENDA**

Mr. Fernandez verified that the posting was completed on time and per Open Meeting Law requirements.

Mr. Hall asked for all board members to introduce themselves as to their role on the council. Ms. Hendron introduced Steven McDonald, the new Rehabilitation Deputy Administrator of Operations.

3. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Mr. Hall opened the floor to public comment. No public comment. Mr. Hutchins a member of the deaf community was expecting than an ASL interpreter would be present at the meeting but none had been requested. Mr. Hall wrote a not to Mr. Hutchins indicating for him to request for the next meeting.

4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Hall opened with the discussion of approving the October 17, 2016 meeting minutes. There was a correction of the word "Counsel" to Council". The same correction was proposed on the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes. No other corrections were noted. Motion to approve with the corrections by Jean Peyton, seconded by Josh Baker. Motion carried.

5. **NSRC COUNCIL ORIENTATION**

Janice John, Rehabilitation Division Deputy Administrator of Programs presented over an overview of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs, including its partnerships with Nevada employers. A power point presentation was used, along with the printed materials.

Key points:

- Vocational Rehabilitation's mission is to assist in removing barriers for people with disabilities to provide them access to opportunities for quality work and self-sufficiency.
- The goal is competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities that meets the needs of Nevada's employers.
- 13 offices statewide, most co-located within JobConnect and One-Stop offices, 128 employees statewide, 47 master's degree rehabilitation counselors statewide and majority are certified Rehabilitation Counselors.
- Eligibility: The individual has a physical or mental impairment, diagnosed by qualified medical professional. The impairment results in a substantial impediment to employment. The individual requires VR services to secure employment.
- Orientation begins the process, questions answered and scheduled for intake appointment to meet with a counselor. 60 days to determine eligibility from application. Assessments to determine abilities. An individualized plan for employment (IPE) will be created. 90 days to complete the IPE once eligibility is established.
- Services provided can range from Assistive Technology for the workplace, training, interpreters, job coaches, job development & job retention services, college assistance, certificate programs, uniforms, tools, transportation, hearing aids, home & vehicle modifications.
- Top 5 industries/jobs for VR consumers: Sales & Service Workers, Food Service Workers, Clerical/Administrative Support, Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Health Care/Medical Industry.
- Work Readiness Training Program: Focus on creating career opportunities for people with disabilities while meeting employers' unique needs, on-site training programs, 2 to 6 weeks of pre-training; 4 days/week, many candidates have limited or no work experience, Nevada among first States to roll out this model.

Shelley Hendren, Rehabilitation Division Administrator spoke about The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and its effects VR.

WIOA Common Performance Measures:

- % in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit.
- % in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit.
- Median earnings during the second quarter after exit.
- % who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or diploma or equivalent within one year of program exit.
- % that are in an education or training program that leads to postsecondary credential and who achieve measurable skill gains.
- Effectiveness in serving employers.

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Mr. Hall spoke about what the NSRC members' responsibilities are:

- Apply and receive appointment by the Governor
- Attend quarterly meetings
- Volunteer for subcommittees
- Assist with filling member vacancies
- Refrain from voting on any matter that would be a conflict of interest
- Ensure understanding of Nevada's Open Meeting Law and Robert's Rule for public meetings.
- Ensure understanding of By-Laws
- Ensure understanding of Title 34 CFR 361.16 & 361.17
- Jointly submit an Annual Report
- Jointly develop and review annually VR's program goals and objectives, strategies and performance measures for the State Plan submission.
- Assist with reports & Statewide Needs Assessment
- Review and analyze consumer satisfaction survey results and survey instrument.
- Provide consultation to VR in developing, implementing and revising VR policies & procedures
- Review VR's performance related to eligibility, extent, scope & effectiveness of services; and ability of the VR program to accomplish its mission.

Break for 12 minutes was called by Chair

Roll was re-called as 2 members were not present, Quorum was still present

6. **REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRANSITION CONFERENCE**

Mark Hinson reported on the **Career Education Expo** partnered with the Clark County School District. 30 or 50 businesses bring in students from many areas. Focusing on employment, interviewing, applications preparation for students entering employment.

The Nevada Leadership Transition Summit that took place in November of 2016 to improve graduation outcomes for students with disabilities. School teams from across the State worked together to focus on the positive aspects of their disabilities to promote leadership within their own lives. Most districts were represented 25 to 30 high schools participated, 4 to 6 students. The next Summit will be in Reno in November 2017.

2017 Nevada Transition Conference Highlights:

- Over 250 participants from all over Nevada that included high school educators, families & adult service providers.
- 23 breakout sessions that included 6 national and many state and local presenters that covered topics on assessment, post-secondary education and training, self-advocacy, employment and WIOA and relevant information for parents & families.
- There were 21 vendors along with a Nevada student panel and a Nevada talent show.

7. **NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER ON TRANSITION (NTACT)**

Ms. John reported that the State was awarded the Technical Assistance (TA) grant in 2015. The partnership is with V.R. and the state Dept. of Education. The goal of these TA centers is to assist agencies in developing best practices and service delivery models needed to meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Vocational Rehabilitation Goals:

1. Increase the number of students with disabilities participating in the VR program that provides Pre-Employment Transition Services from 522 students currently accessing services to 600 by June 20, 2017 (15% increase).
2. Increase the number of students with disabilities who are in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs statewide with 8.4% to 10.0% by September 30, 2017.

Accomplishments:

- In Year One, we increased the number of students receiving BVR services with an IPE from 549 to 648, during the time period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.
- In Year One, the NIT attended and presented at the Capacity Building Institute, NACT national conference in Charlotte, NC.
- In Year one, NIT facilitated (2) day-long School/District Self-Assessment trainings, one in the North and one in the South.
- VR has been invited by the Director of the Dept. of Education to attend and present at a number of Special Education District Administrator's meeting over the past two years. During the 2015 & 2016 summer Mountain Madness Administrator's meeting the NIT presented information regarding VR, WIOA, relationship building. We discussed our goals, and we also began our work with the Administrators related to revising and updating our Interlocal Agreements, between VR and Local Education Agencies (LEAs).
- A number of Nevada high school staff and VR staff have come together to participate in a training opportunity called, Transition Coalition Self-Study; IDEA and Secondary Transition Program. Offered in Year One and Year Two.
- VR transition counselors have received training and information regarding Career Technical Education (CTRE) programs and we are working more closely with teachers, transition specialists, coordinators, students and families to encourage students to consider the CTE path.
- In Year Two, NIT is conducting an infrastructure analysis with Dayton High School team (Lyon County). Consisting of a teacher, administrator, VR counselor & Dept. of Education rep on what they can do as a unit, what kind of plan they can develop. The goal is to develop a model to share with other schools. First meeting held on February 16, 2017. Desert Rose has been identified to start later this year in the Clark County.
- The NIT is developing a 2-sided flyer to be distributed to students, and families at EIP meetings. The flyer highlights VR on one side and CTE programs on the other.
- The NIT will continue to increase development of cross agency collaboration, and work to increase awareness of options available to transition-age youth.

8. **STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**

Ms. Curry reported she attended both the Association of Programs for Rural Living (APRIL), Rural Independent Living (IL) Conference, and the National State independent Living Council (SILC) Conference. She has made contacts and received guidance from professionals on both the NSRC and SILC regarding their ongoing efforts.

Nevada's SILC submitted their state plan for independent living and the 704 report is being worked on. She went to the National Independent Living Conference and received training to improve the way the SILC functions.

9. **CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)**

William Heavilin, Vice-Chairman reported that the (CAP) program. Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) is the Client Assistance Program (CAP) that receives Federal Funding from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide advocacy to people with disabilities regarding Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, and the Older Blind Services Programs. The fiscal year was October 2015 thru September 2016.

Non-Case Services:

1. There were 58 inquiries into the VR program.
2. There were 7 inquiries into the Independent Living Programs.
3. There were 34 inquiries regarding Title I and the ADA.
4. There were 18 other inquiries of information.
5. There were 7 inquiries regarding the CAP Program.
6. There were 2 training sessions presented to community groups and public agencies.
7. There were several Outreach efforts made written and in person.
8. There were 3,541 forms of publications/booklets/brochures disseminated by the agency to the public.

Individual Case Services:

1. There were 10 individuals who are still being served as of October 1, 2016.
2. There were 22 individuals who were served during the year.
3. Problem areas included about 12 conflicts between VR services to be provided.
4. There were 13 short term technical assistance strategies for closed cases.
5. There were 12 resolved issues in individual's favor on closed cases.

10. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Hendren reported on each goal and indicator:

1. **Goal #1 Increase the number of Successful Employment Outcomes:**
259 clients closed after service with no employment, 211 closed with an employment outcome 52% decrease from 56% in 2016.
2. **Goal #2 Increase Enrollment in Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services:**
189 total transition student applications in 2016. The goal was 676. 2017 currently is 803.
A. Transition students with an Application Date in the report timeframe:
71 Transition Student closed after service with no employment, 34 Transition Students closed with an employment outcome, 47% a decrease from 56% in 2016.
189 Total Transition Student Applications, 31 Open Transition Students with Post Secondary Education, 18%, a decrease from 20% in 2016.
3. **Goal #3 Increase Participation of Underserved Disability Groups:**
549 Clients Closed After Service, 375 Clients Closed After Service with Mental Health Disabilities, 70% decrease from 77% in 2016.
4. **Goal #4 Increase Participation of Underserved Ethnic Populations Through Increased Outreach Efforts:**
549 Hispanic Clients Closed After Services.
578 All other Nationalities Clients Closed After Services.
5. **Goal #5 Work with Eligible Government and Community Partners to Maximize the Utilization of Resources and Federal Dollars:**
Will be reported in the November 2017 report
6. **Goal #6 Increase Participation in Supported Employment:**
197 Total Open Supported Employment Clients – Goal to Meet or Exceed the Previous Year 520.
Previous year was 483
44 Supported Employment Clients Closed After Services, 28 Supported Employment Clients Closed with an Employment Outcome, 56% decrease from 57% in 2016.
7. **Services to the Blind & Visually Impaired:**
 - A. Percentage of clients closed with a competitive employment outcome 36.4%.
 - B. Percent of clients with a completed individualized plan for employment 180 days or less from their eligibility date 100%.
 - C. Percent of clients with a completed individualized plan for employment 90 days or less from their eligibility date (Federal Indicator) 92%.
 - D. Average hourly earnings of clients placed in competitive employment \$13.88.
 - E. Percent of all clients served from ethnic minority populations 57%.
 - F. Percent of transition students closed with a competitive employment outcome 0%.

- G. Percent of transition students that are pursuing post-secondary education 14%.
- 8. **Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation:**
 - A. Percent of clients closed with a competitive employment outcome 41.5%.
 - B. Percent of clients with a completed individualized plan for employment 180 days or less from their eligibility date. (State Indicator) 100%.
 - C. Percent of clients with a completed individualized plan for employment 90 days or less from their eligibility date. (Federal Indicator) 96%.
 - D. Average hourly earnings or clients placed in competitive employment \$11.25
 - E. Percent of all clients served from ethnic minority populations 42%.
 - F. Percent of transition students closed with a competitive employment outcome 46%.
 - G. Percent of transition students that are pursuing post-secondary education 16%.
- 9. **Services to the Blind & Visually Impaired – Older Blind:**
 - A. Number of OIB clients determined eligible for services 98.
 - B. Percent of OIB clients with an individualized written independent living plan 45 days or less from their application date 74%.
 - C. Percent of OIB clients reporting satisfaction with services received – satisfaction surveys are conducted annually and the results are reported on that basis.

10. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hall opened the floor to public comment. No public comment.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**


Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Edited By:



Javier Fernandez, N.S.R.C. Liaison

Approved By:



Ernest Hall, Chair