

**NYSCB State Rehabilitation Council Agenda**  
**Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, New York**  
**June 20<sup>th</sup> & June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Business Enterprise Program (BEP) updates Louise Werner, BEP Director**

During this session, the SRC and Ms. Werner discussed different strategies for outreach throughout New York for BEP.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Call to Order & Roll Call (Continental Breakfast in Meeting Room)**

**Attendees:** Debbie Fiderer, Chris Kchao, Maria Mucaria, David Dodge, Jeremy Hoffman, Carena Collura, Cliff Perez, Theresa Drum, Sandra Cote, Miriam Cajuste

**NYSCB attendees:** Julie Hovey, Brian S. Daniels, Peter Herrig, Lauren Corp, Sharon Flom, Angel Rodriguez, Colleen Ruck & Tracy Breslin

**Introduction of SRC members, NYSCB liaisons & Approval of March 2018 Meeting Minutes- Chair's Comments-Debbie Fiderer, Vice Chair**

Vice Chair, Debbie Fiderer led the meeting today in Meghan Parker's absence. She presented the March 2018 minutes. Jeremy Hoffman motioned to approve the March meeting minutes and Cliff Perez seconded. The SRC voted and the minutes were passed. BEP brochures were given to members after yesterday's discussion with Louise Werner, BEP Director.

**NYSCB updates- Brian S. Daniels, Associate Commissioner of NYSCB**

The Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) monitoring was conducted reviewing the Program and Fiscal units. A final report should be out late summer or early fall.

Commissioner Daniels reported that the Comprehensive Services Contract (CSC) (except for HKNC) will be renewed for a 5-year span. The new contract will begin on 1/1/19. The new Placement contract will begin on 1/1/20. Commissioner Daniels stated that Julie Hovey released the Needs Assessment report and NYSCB is following up on a few issues.

Debbie Fiderer asked about CSC's and new agencies. Commissioner Daniels reports that NYSCB was looking at two new agencies. New agencies need to be staffed with rehabilitation specialists to deliver and fulfill the contract.

Regarding Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC), the latest topics being reviewed are housing, transportation, and employment. Commissioner Daniels encouraged SRC members to attend these meetings and to speak up. David Dodge was recognized by Commissioner Daniels and presented with a citation from Commissioner Poole.

## **Blindness and Emergency Preparedness, Steve Taylor, OCFS Emergency Management Coordinator & Julie Hovey, AVRC**

Steve Taylor introduced himself and discussed his background. He described the many emergency management practices at OCFS including: Emergency Response plans, NY Alert, and tracking anything that can be used in a disaster. He also organized a workplace disturbance group and assessed all offices and developed an active shooter guide. The active shooter video was offered to all offices for review. It helped staff to collaborate on exits, dialogue, and created personal plans. OCFS is a disaster preparedness member. There are currently 29 agencies involved with the American Red Cross. Disaster Assistance Service Centers (DASC) and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are one stop shops for survivors to get the resources they need. Commissioner Daniels and Julie Hovey discussed their experiences at DRC's in the past. Maria Mucaria asked if drills were being encouraged around the state. Julie Hovey reported resources were given to each member and to check their local region.

FEMA's mission is to support the citizens and first responders to promote that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Julie Hovey made the group aware that NYSILC has an emergency preparedness group and they are always encouraging counties to get involved. Normally, everyone affected will come to shelters and then they are sent where they need to be if required. There are Disability Integration tools available at these centers which include pocket magnifiers, ramps, large button phones, canes, walkers etc. Some shelters are considering pet sheltering. Carena Collura suggested there be word boards and/or pictures available for non-verbal individuals. Debbie Fiderer asked if it was possible for NYSCB to offer training. NYSCB does offer training in a non-formal way. Many other ideas to keep documents safe in a disaster included putting important documents on a flash drive and have a written prescription. The following links offer excellent information:

DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/aware-prepare/>

DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK:

[WWW.DRNY.ORG](http://WWW.DRNY.ORG)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: <https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL: [WWW.NYSILC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSILC.ORG)

## **Facilitated Access to Electronic Case Record- Brian S. Daniels Associate Commissioner of NYSCB & Julie Hovey, AVRC**

This is a form that will coincide with the VR handbook at intake. It will be a signed document noting the participant's preferred format and that they have the right to request information from their case file.

Theresa Drum's suggestion: Signature- parent if under 18 or legal guardian

David Dodge's suggestion: add as well as supporting documents for that establish my eligibility for VR or Children's services which will include.

## **Public Comment**

Commissioner Daniels stated that NYSCB is committed to two town forums in the Fall: American Council of the Blind of New York Convention, Friday, October 5, 2018 10:00AM – 12:00PM and National Federation of the Blind of New York Convention, Friday, October 19, 2018 9:00AM – 11:00AM

## **Pre-Employment Transition Services (ETS) discussion- Lauren Corp, AVRC**

Lauren Corp asked the SRC to review the updated draft Transition policy. If any member has feedback or comments, please contact Lauren Corp. During the RSA monitoring, Pre-ETS was a topic of interest. RSA monitors reviewed the draft of transition policy. A few items the SRC should know is that Pre-ETS services are available to students who are enrolled in an educational setting between the ages of 14-21, up to 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. It is available to all students who are legally blind and who are eligible or potentially eligible. Pre-ETS focuses on building the skills for competitive integrated employment. Information, support, and experiences that facilitate the exploration of vocational strength and abilities are key factors. The five required services are: job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for enrollment, workplace readiness to develop social skills and independent living, and instruction in self-advocacy. NYSCB has several prevocational programs that include these services.

## **Test of Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) Update- Theresa Drum**

There are eight people volunteering to take the TASC. Volunteers were asked to check out the TASC Online Testing Tools site (OTT). Meghan Parker went to the OTT site and found that there was not a screen reader available. A teleconference was held between NYSED, SRC, NYSCB, and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). DRC, who developed the TASC, sent emails regarding the issue and reported that they have a text to speech feature on the TASC. Representatives of DRC did not know what a screen reader like JAWS was. The question of “Who provides the screen reader?” was raised in the conversation. It is NYSED’s responsibility, not the developer’s. Another question was “Is the TASC accessible with JAWS?” A DRC representative reported that overall, the platform is accessible with JAWS. It is unknown if the TASC is accessible with JAWS or other screen readers. An update will be provided in September.

## **Committee Reports**

**Workforce-**Debbie Fiderer stated there were potential members for SRC and they are still “in process” with the Governor’s Office of Appointments. Supported Employment continues to be a topic.

**Quality Assurance-**There were no members present at the meeting.

**Transition-**The committee will submit feedback by 6/28/18 on Pre-ETS. They discussed ways and/or techniques on how to promote BEP, hoping to have a transition counselor present at next meeting, and TASC.

**Policy-**Members were waiting for the entire committee to be present so they can discuss the changes to the VRC handbook and to make sure it will mesh with the latest information presented by Julie Hovey and Mr. Daniels. Next topic will be the Transition Policy and how to make changes related to WIOA work group and changes according to the district offices.

## **WIOA update- Sharon Flom, AVRC & Peter Herrig AVRC**

Sharon Flom reported about the Training and Assistance Workgroup. ACCES-VR developed the first webinar for the introduction to different WIOA programs. The Release and Referral form is close to completion and it cover all areas of confidentiality. It will only include information that is needed. Peter Herrig discussed the accessibility initiative with Career Centers and uniform equipment in all 96 centers. The goal is by October 2018, all 96 centers will have equipment. All 33 workforce development areas have completed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process. They have been approved and signed. NYSCB will not take part in the infrastructure funding. As for Career Center integration, NYSCB has visited about 50% of these centers. Lauren Corp also mentioned that there is now a youth work group made up of different agencies and changes of WIOA.

### **Agency Updates from Members**

Theresa Drum informed the SRC that the Parent Network of WNY has received a grant from the Tower Foundation. The grant serves Erie and Niagara counties. It expanded the grant from a 2 years to 3 years. For more information, go the Parent Network of WNY Facebook page and website. Congrats were given to Cliff Perez for being inducted into the NYSILC Hall of Fame.

### **Action Items, & Deliberation and Discussion, Wrap-up & Agenda planning for September meeting & Adjourn –SRC**

Next meeting is 9/26/18 and 9/27/18. Carrie Laney from New York State Preferred Source Program for People who are Blind (NYSPSP) will be presenting to the group on the first day. Maria Mucaria reminded the group for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair should be sent to her. At the September meeting, she will then present the slate of nominees. Motion to adjourn was presented by Maria Mucaria, with Cliff Perez to second and the SRC voted. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by NYSCB Staff