

NYSCB State Rehabilitation Council

Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, New York

March 20th & March 21st, 2019 Meeting Minutes

SRC attendees: Meghan Parker, Sandra Cote, Cliff Perez, Erica Molina, Theresa Drum, Debbie Fiderer, Alan Gallagher, Chris Kchao, & Maria Mucaria

NYSCB attendees: Julie Hovey, Brian S. Daniels, Peter Herrig, Lauren Corp, Sharon Flom, Darla Miller, Colleen Ruck, Tracy Breslin & Laura Murphy

March 20th National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC)-**Sherry A. Taylor, Executive Director, West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council, Vice President & Treasurer of NCSRC**

Ms. Taylor gave a presentation about the NCSRC and its mission to “advocate for and work in partnership with the national public vocational rehabilitation system’s continual quest for excellence”.

Approval of November 2018 Meeting Minutes & Chair’s Comments-**Meghan Parker, SRC Chair**

The November 2018 minutes were presented. Maria Mucaria made a motion to accept the minutes and Erica Molina seconded the motion. The SRC voted and the minutes were passed. SRC has been invited to attend the NCSRC biannual meeting in April. Chair Parker informed the SRC that she has been in contact with Karen Gourgey from the Executive Board about the topic of E-Scooters in NYS and people who are blind.

New NYSCB SRC representative- **Darla Miller, Buffalo District Office**

Darla Miller has been a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for 14 years out of the NYSCB Buffalo office. She spends two days a week at Career Centers throughout Western New York. The most frequent issues that she deals with are participants transportation and employment in rural areas.

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

Commissioner Daniels introduced new NYSCB staff member, Laura Murphy. She will be working in home office under Julie Hovey. He announced Sharon Flom’s retirement from NYSCB and thanked her for outstanding service and management. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) conducted an on-site review and exit conference in April 2018. NYSCB is still waiting on RSA’s final report. Regarding placement contracts, NYSCB has about 40 active contracts. A new placement contract will be coming out for bidding soon. Commissioner Daniels reported he is focusing on the Southern Tier (Elmira) for growth and employment. Two new comprehensive service contracts have started this year: Alhpointe and Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Northern New York (ABVINNY). Commissioner Daniels attended the opening of the new rehabilitation center at ABVINNY and will be returning on April 30th, for their Vision Loss Conference at Jefferson County Community College.

Ruth Singer, **High School Equivalency Director, NYSED**

Ms. Singer attended the SRC meeting to introduce herself and discuss the TASC project. Commissioner Daniels stated how important communication is between High School Equivalency office and the SRC. Ms. Singer discussed a new procedure for the TASC project, stressed establishing roles more clearly and progress is being made but she needs more clarity. Erica Molina stated that barriers are not being addressed or understood. Ms. Singer reiterated that the office addresses issues as they come up, as steps are being completed.

SRC Committee Restructuring- **Meghan Parker, Chair and SRC**

Erica Molina stated that Quality Assurance is a necessary committee and an Accessibility committee is redundant. Commissioner Daniels stated that NYSCB has specific priorities. Accessibility is a top priority to get the highest form of advice. Accessibility comes up repeatedly, much more than Quality Assurance issues. NYSCB needs for the council is accessibility. Chair Parker suggested dealing with Quality Assurance issues as a body and not a committee. Don McManus suggested that QA & accessibility be a combined committee. Julie Hovey reminded the SRC that the offer still stands that NYSCB will provide the SRC with agency updates and NYSCB's website has agency updates. Also, Julie Hovey stated that agency reviews are done so issues can be identified and addressed. Debbie Fiderer felt that this information would be helpful and a stepping stone. Erica Molina made a motion to create a Policy/Accessibility committee and Maria Mucaria seconded the motion. The SRC voted and the motion was passed. Erica Molina made another motion to have the QA committee be placed as inactive for the next three meetings and Maria Mucaria seconded again. One discussed was that there will be a time slot on future agendas for possible QA issues. The SRC voted with 1 abstention and the motion was passed

TASC updates-**Meghan Parker, Chair and SRC**

Chair Parker had a very productive phone call with the TASC committee. The screen reader has been applied to TASC and will be out in mid-April. Also, there is a NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA) and screen magnification option. Chair Parker will forward the list of questions that were given to the DRC's. Debbie Fiderer suggested Ms. Singer be on the next phone call.

Committee Reports:

Transition: Chris Kchao reported they discussed data from the survey from a year ago. The committee is trying to rebuild and be more successful this year.

Quality Assurance: on hold

Workforce Development: Debbie Fiderer welcomed Darla Miller to the Workforce committee. Debbie Fiderer reported that they discussed Supported Employment and the increase of referrals. Also, Career centers are still in the process of getting technology and have completed training about NYSCB and the requirements under WIOA.

Policy & Accessibility: Cliff Perez reported that the policy handbook is still being updated. Procurement issues were addressed. The committee would like to reach out to Commissioner Daniels or Julie Hovey to discuss their thoughts on accessibility and what their goals and issues are. The committee also wants to ensure all intakes are available on NLS cartridges.

WIOA Updates- **Sharon Flom, AVRC & Peter Herrig, AVRC**

Peter Herrig stated that all equipment should be delivered to all Career Centers by April. An online survey is being developed regarding the feedback of this equipment. One Stop Operating System (OSOS) is the reporting site for Business Engagement and Peter will have these numbers at the next meeting. There will be joint training on Business Engagement from Cornell from April through September. There is a 14C initiative kickoff and close to finalizing Placement Contracts. Sharon informed the group that DOL introduced the universal release form and NYSCB will be receiving it in the next few days. This form must go along with the referral. The Training Assistance Workgroup has webinars set up by agencies regarding the VR process. NYSCB is hoping to make these available on their website along with a survey.

Annual Client Assistance Program Report (RSA-722)- **Erica Molina, Disability Rights NY**

The RSA-722 report is submitted to RSA every year. The report was reviewed and discussed with SRC.

Agency Updates from Members:

Debbie Fiderer informed the SRC that HKNC had a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new location in Brooklyn, downtown Livingston Street.

Chair Parker informed everyone that the ACB National Convention is taking place this summer in Rochester, July 5th-July 12th.

Action Items, & Deliberation and Discussion, Wrap-up & Agenda planning for June meeting & Adjourn –**SRC** Any topics will be sent to Tracy Breslin and Meghan Parker. Maria Mucaria motioned to adjourn the meeting and Cliff Perez seconded. All voted, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by;

NYSCB staff