

State Rehabilitation Council

NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Box 398 – Trenton, NJ 08625-0398

P: 609 292.5987 F: 609 292.8347 Toll Free: 1 866 871.7867

Date: 09/17/2025 **Location:** The Law Center – New Brunswick and Virtual

Attendance

Members: Dawn Monaco for Carolyn Hayer, Gwen Orlowski, Janice Oursler, Cyndy Walsh-Rintzler, Pat Tomlinson, Nantanee Koppstein, Rebecca Shulman, Bill Freeman, Karen Alexander, Margaret Gilbride, Christina Gonzalez for Nkechi Okoli, Carmela Slivinski, Jay Mills, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Mohsen Badran, Pat Tomlinson (V), Tom Jennings, Felicia Hopson-Ex Officio

Members Absent Stephen Gruzlovic, Lorna Runkle, Lori Margolin

DVRS: Tina Brand, Deborah Vaughn, Gina Belfiore, Max Korten, Krista-Rae Ortiz, Joseph Prettyman (V), AC Yarbrough (V)

Public: Susan Head, Jacob Caplan, Pat Gerke, Mike Scoczek, Stacey Bussel, Adam Kubler, Kerrie Webster

Notes

Welcome, Invitation for Public Comments and Public Comments if any are to be made.

No comments were forthcoming.

Acceptance of May 14, 2025, meeting notes (sent 9/1/25)

Motion was made to accept the notes as presented and seconded; the notes were unanimously accepted.

SRC Expenditure Report (sent 9/10) and Proposed Budget (possible vote) from Treasurer (sent 9/10/25)

Refer to SRC Expenditure Report 8-31-25 & Proposed Budget to 9-30-26 and SRC Proposed FFY 2026 Budget as of 8-25-25

- Treasurer reviewed highlights of both documents and explained rationale for any changes
- A motion to accept the expenditure report ending 8-31-25 as presented was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted
- A motion to accept the Proposed FFY 2026 budget was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted
- The treasurer was thanked and members expressed appreciation for the time, energy, effort, and research that went into the budget draft and the clarity with which all changes were explained

DVRS Director's Report

Refer to SRC DVRS Directors Report Qtr3, pages 6-19, which was shared at the meeting and reviewed thoroughly

TTD: it was requested that a DVRS org chart be shared at the next meeting

Customer Satisfaction Report

Refer to SRC Executive Summary Consumer Satisfaction Surveys 10.1.24 to 3.31.25

TTD: it was requested that Member the questions (for both employed and not employed at exit) specific to the client's relationship with the counselor, be shared in the future

TTD: it was suggested that we try to tailor this year's Public Forums to these questions

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Public Comment Opportunity

Statement of general appreciation for the increased collaboration between DVRS and stakeholders and a question, directed to the ED of DVRS, about the Innovation Project contracts that were awarded. It was explained that over 30 applications were received (as astounding number!) and there was funding for 5. The popularity of the offering will be taken under consideration as funding allows.

Highlight of CAP Report/Updates

Refer to 2025 3rd quarter CAP report to DVRS SRC

- Executive Director of Disability Rights New Jersey discussed the impact of the current climate on funding and function of CAP and other services (especially employment) in large part due to key staff vacancies that fiscal uncertainty is making difficult to fill
- The Executive Director again forwarded the request that DVRS and CBVI have the same policy regarding Initial Agency Decisions either being *final* or the first step in a two-tier fair hearing process.

Mini-Inservice (if not done in ED – State Match & Maintenance of Effort

Refer to SRC DVRS Directors Report Qtr3, pages 3-5

Committee Work (FY25)

Refer to:

Legislative & Policy Meeting Notes 9.17.27

Transition Committee Meeting Notes for 9-17-25

Evaluation & Consumer Satisfaction Notes 9.17.25

Business/Items

- -Vice Chair vote: Lori Margolin and Tatsiana DaGrosa
 - Motion was made and seconded to elect Lori Margolin and Tasiana DaGrosa Co Vice Chairs for a two-year term. The motion carries unanimously
- -Letter of support (copy sent 9/10)
 - Janice Oursler explained the importance of the SRC's support and voiced appreciation
- Mini Trainings Conversation
 - It was agreed that for the November and May meetings, a longer training (topic decided by survey to be generated by Pat Tomlinson) will be delivered. For the February and September meetings, when there are consumer satisfaction reports, short, trainings may be provided on emerging needs/topics.
- -Dates for next year
 - 11/03/25
 - 02/18/26
 - 05/05/26
 - 08/12/26 PLANNING-closed meeting
 - 09/16/26
- **-Hand-off to Carlmele!!!!!!**

Meetings (10-3:30): 11/3/25, 2/18/26, 9/5/26, 8/12/26 (CLOSED), 9/16/26. **Public Forums:** TBD