

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: 11/13/2024 **Location:** The Law Center – New Brunswick and Virtual

Attendance

Members: Dawn Monaco for Carolyn Hayer, Gwen Orlowski, Janice Oursler, Lorna Runkle (V), Karen Alexander, Cyndy Walsh-Rintzler, Pat Tomlinson, LaTasha Brown, Nantanee Koppstein, Rebecca Shulman, Bill Freeman, , Margaret Gilbride, Jay Mills, Lori Margolin (V), Tom Jennings, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Carmela Slivinski, Mohsen Badran, Charyl Yarbrough-Ex Officio

Members Absent Stephen Gruzlovic , Nkechi Okoli

DVRS: Felicia Hopson, Gladys Cruz, Joseph Prettyman

Public: Susan Head, Haley Carney, Pat Gerke (V), Jacob Caplan, Janna Sheiman, Mike Scoczek

Notes

Welcome, Invitation for Public Comments and Public Comments if any are to be made: Margaret Gilbride

The meeting was opened, the public informed that they would have a second opportunity to make remarks at the end of the morning business session, and the public had no remarks to make at this time.

Acceptance of September 18, 2024, meeting notes (sent 10/17/24): Margaret Gilbride

A motion was made and seconded and the notes were unanimously accepted as written.

SRC Expenditure Report 9-30-24 from Treasurer (sent 10/31/24): Nantanee Koppstein

- Refer to NJ DVRS Grantee Expenditure Report period ending 9/30/2024
- There were no questions or concerns regarding the expenditure report and its explanations
- A motion to accept the expenditure report as presented was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted.

DVRS Director's Report: AC Charyl Yarbrough

- Refer to SRC Director Report for 11.13.24 with DVRS Staffing Report September 13-November 12, 2024
- **Axn Item:** DVRS will look to report “We have completed” v “We are working on” for Pre-ETS
- **Axn Item:** DVRS will explore the feasibility of including the reasons PE closures
- RSA did approve the customized employment training plan and DVRS meets with G&H 11/14/24
- It is *hoped* there will be a hiring decision by the end of December regarding the ED position

CAP Report: Janna Sheiman for Gwen Orlowski

- Refer to 10-31-24 CAP Report to DVRS SRC
- **Axn Item:** DRNJ would like to see the policy and administrative memorandum that created the CPE for evaluation, including the criteria for how it is recommended, as it has become a recommendation in a large number of their cases.
- **Axn Item:** DRNJ is asked to provide DVRS the complaints BY OFFICE with their numbers so that DVRS can determine if they need a policy change to address the issue(s) or just deal with a person or office specifically
- **Axn Item:** Jenna will forward to Margaret the DRNJ Self Advocacy Guidebook for distribution with the notes

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VR Services for Students to Succeed in Employment (sent 10/31/24): Bill Freeman and Toni Scott

Refer to *Handouts for the Interagency Presentation on Pre-ETS and VR Services 2024-2025*

Public Comment Opportunity

Mike Skockek, President/CEO of CEA-NJ said he appreciated being part of the audience and wanted to make some remark about Pre-ETS on behalf of the providers for the program around the state.

He wanted to thank Dr. Hopson and everyone on Toni's and Maryann's respective teams that have worked so hard to get the program up and running into the second year, and observes it hasn't been an easy six weeks. Mr. Skockek asks DVRS leadership to consider, as they consult with other states on how to better provide these services to students, they also have conversations with the providers around New Jersey who, he observes, know the students in their areas and their service needs well.

Committees Report Out

- Refer to SRC – Evaluation Committee Sep 2024 Meeting Notes
- Refer to Legislative & Policy Committee Report September 2024
- Refer to Transition Committee Meeting Notes for 9-18-24

Business/Items

• Annual Report

Carmela will use the template from 2023 to put together the 2024 report. Margaret will get all of her sections to her (as the Chair) by December 6th. Joe will gather all of the sections from their respective DVRS staff responsible and send all sections at once to Carmela by Dec 6th. If possible both Margaret and AC Yarbrough will do final edits. Margaret will only be available until December 13th.

• New Member Recruitment

No progress to report. The entire year has passed without an appointment or re-appointment. Group discussed the problem system-wide with disability entities (SRC, SILC, CBVI) and asked if DRNJ could craft a letter of concern re: the lack of urgency around disability representation/issues in the state (with a requirement the letter is signed off on when received).

• Forum three 1-hour sessions in spring on what topic(s) – Exec Committee with input

A robust discussion was held that included such topics as:

- We need guiding questions or to request input on specific topic(s). "What do you wish DVRS knew?"
- We need to get the SRC web site content changed and clarify it's a listening session and not a presentation
- Maybe open with explanation of SRC role (again) and share some DVRS stats
- We need to see if we can shorten the gap between registering and the actual event day (less than the week we got last year)
- Again do three different weeks, three different days, three different times
- Maybe

• Other business

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- DDS is making some changes and looking to enroll anybody on PASP onto workability, which may impact peoples' ability to work. SILs are on it and many of the rest of our advocacy groups will want to be to—this could very negatively undermine E1st.
- AC Yarbrough shared lots of great kudos
- At the next August planning meetings, it is suggested the SRC and DVRS leadership again consider if the 3 committees we have are the ones that are still needed or if some changes should occur. . .like a committee for outreach. . .

- **Meetings FY 25 are 10-3:30:** 2/12, 5/14, 8/13 (Members Only), 9/17
- **Forums:** TBD