

Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
State Rehabilitation Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019

A meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on November 19, 2019 at the DARS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico, VA 23229.

Members Present: Aaron Bossard, Tammy Burns, Garrett Brumfield, Daniel Irwin, Angie Leonard, Joliefawn Liddell, Dawn Mosley, Madeline Nunnally, Justin Spurlock, and Jennifer Witteborg.

Members Absent: Linda Garris-Bright, Pamela Cobler, Brian Evans, Kathy Hayfield and Shawn Utt.

Others Present: Dale Batten, DRS Director; James Hall, Career and Workforce Development Division Director WWRC; Catherine Harrison, Policy and Legislative Affairs Director; Leah Mills, VR Policy Analyst; Betsy McElfresh, DARS PR and Marketing Specialist; Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst; Liz Smith, Support Staff; Elizabeth Patacca, Staff Support; and 4 student guests who were observing the interpreters.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introduction of Members: Mr. Brumfield welcomed new and current Council members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 19, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

Matters of Public Comment: There were no public comments. Mr. Brumfield is going to attempt to ensure that there is public comment at upcoming meetings.

Chairperson's Report:

- Mr. Brumfield asked for feedback on the November 18 SRC Planning Retreat. It was agreed that the retreat was very helpful. Suggestions for next year's retreat include a review of the vocational rehabilitation (VR) process and hearing from VR consumers about their experiences.
- Mr. Brumfield reported on the 2019 National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council's Conference, which he attended in Jacksonville, Florida in October. He found the conference extremely informative and encouraged SRC members to attend future conferences. The Council asked to receive the updates provided by Steve Wooderson, Executive Director of the Council of State Administrators of VR, as well as information on upcoming NCSRC conference calls.

WWRC Report: James Hall provided an update on the activities of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, which included a video of a WWRC consumer, Marvin Whitfield, and the status of workforce credentials achieved by WWRC consumers.

Member Reports:

- Daniel Irwin: The Department of Education (DOE) has launched the “Virginia is for Learners” public information campaign that aims to tell Virginia residents about the reforms to the state’s education system. The DOE is working with the Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence on improving the availability and use of assistive technology for school youth. Guidelines and resources may be changed regarding the consideration of the need for assistive technology for school youth with disabilities. Legislation for 2020 is being considered that would require the Individualized Education Plan team to ask questions about relationship development looking to establish resources for the safety of school youth with disabilities.
- Justin Spurlock: The City of Richmond is still hiring individuals in the areas of public works and public utilities. Justin, at the request of the Richmond International Raceway, did an accessibility of the grounds of that venue.
- Dawn Mosley: She is working with high school students on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Last year, Pre-ETS was incorporated at WWRC with students attending WWRC for a 1 ½ days to receive training. She has been taking students on college tours in the Richmond area, including a tour at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College on their manufacturing apprenticeship program. She also has developed card games that she uses with her students to introduce them to questions about working and introducing them to appropriate clothing for work interviews.
- Jennifer Witteborg: The Joint Commission on Health held four stakeholder meetings and came up with 7 options for review regarding their study on SB 1741. The Commission has chosen not to take any action as they were concerned that there was no consensus on the 7 options. There is still research to be done on this issue and looking for General Assembly patrons to sponsor the bill again in 2020.
- Joliefawn Liddell: The disAbility Law Center will be having an open house/expo to inform the public about the activities of the Center. The Center is advertising for a new receptionist and advocate.
- Madeline Nunnally: Attended a vocational evaluation conference last month and in January will begin an internship with DARS on vocational evaluation.
- Aaron Bossard: Works at Randstad which is an employment/recruitment agency for temporary and permanent staffing. The company places its emphasis on the qualifications of employees vs. the perception of ability. It reaches out to DARS offices to identify VR consumers for positions. The Abilities in Motion initiative focuses on sharing best practices in employment.

- Angie Leonard: SVHC just ended its fund raising season with \$100,000 taken in. The emphasis of the Center is on employment, which enhances independent living for individuals with disabilities. Legislation is being considered, with the assistance of Delegate Chris Head, to develop an information sheet of all agencies available to individuals with disabilities and their parents on services and programs and Medicaid waivers.
- Garrett Brumfield: Is working with individuals with disabilities on navigating relationships/friendships and the use of social media. He recently conducted an environmental accessibility audit in Denver. The Ms. Wheelchair Virginia pageant was held last weekend in Roanoke.

Unfinished Business

- **VR Services Portion of Combined State Plan:** Dale Batten reported on the partners and process for the development of Virginia's next Combined State Plan, which will be completed by March, 2020. Ms. Batten will inform the SRC of the availability of the Plan for review and comment. DARS will be submitting the VR Services Portion of the Combined State Plan, most of which the SRC already has reviewed.

Ms. Batten reviewed the content of the State Goals and Priorities (Section L) and the State's Strategies (Section O) of the VR Services Portion. Only technical changes are being made to these sections, which have previously been reviewed by the SRC. Because the State Goals and Priorities must be jointly developed and approved by the SRC and DARS, a motion was made by Joliefawn Liddell, seconded by Jennifer Witteborg, and passed unanimously to approve this section.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Brumfield presented the next draft of the SRC Recommendations for the 2019 SRC Annual Report and the VR Services Portion of the Combined State Plan. A motion was made by Dawn Mosley, seconded by Madeline Nunnally, and unanimously approved to accept these recommendations.

- **2019 SRC Annual Report:** Betsy McElfresh and Liz Smith discussed the content, theme and cover for this year's report, which is due by December 31, 2019 to the Governor and the Rehabilitative Services Administration. The theme focuses on the "changing face of VR" and Ms. McElfresh will work on a cover to reflect that theme and send out to the SRC for comment. Once the report is final, it will be sent electronically to the SRC to share with their legislators. Ms. Smith also will have it distributed throughout DARS and to other state agencies, partners, and stakeholders. Consideration is still being given to develop a printed version for distribution.

New Business and Working Lunch

- **Consumer Satisfaction Memorandum of Agreement:** Mable Fleming explained the purpose and content of the SRC's Consumer Satisfaction Memorandum of Agreement with DARS. Ms. Witteborg suggested exploring the use of video to allow individuals

with hearing impairments to respond to survey question in this mode. A motion was made by Angie Leonard, seconded by Daniel Irwin, and passed unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement.

- **Election of SRC Executive Committee At-Large Members:** A motion was made by Tammy Burns, seconded by Dawn Mosley, and unanimously approved to elect Joliefawn Liddell and Daniel Irwin as the At-Large Members of the SRC Executive Committee for 2020
- **2020 Meeting Dates and Locations:** A motion was made by Madeline Nunnally, seconded by Jennifer Witteborg, and unanimously approved to hold the 2020 SRC meetings in Richmond on March 16, June 15, August 17 and November 17. The SRC Planning Retreat will be held on November 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.