# Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

State Rehabilitation Council

## Teams Meeting – May 15, 2024

**9:30a.m. – 12:00p.m.**

### Attendees: Kate Travis, Kerri Fradette, Andrea Richardson, Beth Reel, Tom Cosker, Jill Larmett, Steph Trelli, Melissa Taylor, Carissa D., Kyle Cyr, Li Li

### Welcome and introductions – Chairperson, Kate T.

* Minutes review, no changes made
* Got extraordinary feedback about Jill’s session because people found it extraordinary helpful as far as assisting those with criminal backgrounds and moving forward with their employment

### **Budget Review** – Carissa D.

* APSE session sponsor - $900
* Promotional items for different SRC events - a little bit over $2000
* Need to make a decision on sponsoring the leadership program this summer
* What amount sponsored at last year – Kerri needs get the invoices
* All in favor of sponsoring the youth leadership forum - maximum $5000

### **Client Assistance Program Updates** – Tom C.

* A lot of our work continues to be a more on systemic level
* Continue to work on a competitive integrated employment initiative which we can do for a couple years now
* Continue to work in collaboration with BRS and DDS and providers
* Continue to work especially for those with more significant disabilities and folks that are in segregated work environments and may or may not be earning some minimum wage
* Work on decision making as we have a lot of funding sources. Supported decision making is an alternative to guardianship and alternative decision-making option.
* Try to work with competitive integrated employment this summer especially for those with most significant facilities is a challenge and a barrier to employment
* For individuals with intellectual disabilities, if we can use the ideas of supported decision-making, even within clients who have guardians, it could be very powerful and beneficial

**Community Rehabilitation Provider Updates**: **Dave Johnson, *BRS Education Consultant***

#### Dave introduced his career experience within BRS

#### The status of CRP

* Evolution - To streamline the process, effective communication, in 2018 BRS decided to rewrite the services and have fewer CRPs
* Try to do assessments internally to determine what the capacity needs and make sure there is sufficient distribution throughout entire state
* Continue to deal with the staffing challenge
* 5 CRPs were added and spread out in different regions and help offset some of the challenges with capacity. Capacity is the biggest problem
* Now BRS has 14 general CRPs
* CRP information can be found on ADS website – VR Publication – handbook of consumer choice guide, break down by region, with information of CRP website, contact person and contact number:

Community Provider Handbook and Consumer Choice Handbook can be found: [Vocational Rehabilitation Publications (ct.gov)](https://portal.ct.gov/aginganddisability/content-pages/main/vocational-rehabilitation-publications) (need some updates)

* Try to bring BRS to negotiate directly with the employers for the on-the-job training program and build supports around the consumers to succeed. Need CRPs help to develop more on-the-job trainings
* Continue to do the basic assessments: work evaluations and trial work experiences
* Continue to offer job coaching as needed to successfully retain the employment
* Have a whole package of work readiness training module
* Provide more virtual service options from the pandemic
* Due to the CRP turnover and staffing challenge, the folks hired might not have that much experience when they are tasked to find a job that requires more skills
* Continue teaming approach – When CRPs are having challenges, they need to come back to team to discuss what we’ve done and what do we do now
* Stephanie – Consumer is the most important person in the process. If consumers are not confident of any part in the process, they can speak up to the counselor what is working for them or schedule more meetings with providers
* Kate – purchase of service this fiscal year vs. previous fiscal year

Dave – a four-year to-date comparison of Payment by Fiscal Category, up to end of March 2024

* Q: Is there any kind of talk about paying CPRs differently so that they can afford and let people get hired
* A: We have a payment that goes out to CRPs, which we have defined as working capital for job development
  + From 2018, we have two rate adjustments across the board to help CRPs deal with some of the staffing challenges and get their program back flow
* Beth – look for previous document called “in the meantime”, Stephanie found the form, Beth will ask Dave if she can revise it.
* One of the higher priorities is development of a training for frontline CRP staff

### SRC Discussion: All

#### Membership updates - Jill

* Recently received membership applications
  + Former BRS consumer
  + Former SRC member
  + Kerri contacted potential new candidate and will forward her information to the membership committee for review.
* SRC interview and score sheet
* Ready to vote - Kate - Motion to accept the nomination

#### Fall Retreat Planning

* All day on Sep 18, 2024- looking to change to the date to **September 24, 2024**
* Priority is to do some strategic planning and set goals for next year, as well as figure out any remaining tasks to be accomplished 2024

### Committee Updates:

#### Legislation and Policy – Melissa

* Recommendations for PIE, Level Up and Adult Services
* Train people – specific training for people with gifts and disabilities
* Make sure to inform the choice to consumers
* Tom – continue the process to go through recommendations
  + Disability Innovation Fund Grant
* Public hearing – SRC hasn’t given their final approval due to concerns and questions regarding the policy change. BRS wants to roll out these changes.
  + **Suggested 10:30-12:00 on June 12**

#### Membership – Jill

* Effort outside – BRS had resource tables at APSE and 9th Annual Secondary Transition Symposium on May 10th
  + Jill presented on both Level Up and adult services at the transition symposium
  + Presented disability awareness

#### Program Review

### Next Meeting: June 12, 2024 via TEAMS – PUBLIC Meeting

**Bureau of Rehabilitation Services**

**State Rehabilitation Council**

**Meeting Dates 2024**

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) to the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) will meet on the following dates in 2024 via TEAMS:

* **January 17, 2024 –virtual**
* **March 20, 2024**
* **May 15, 2024**
* **June 12, 2024**
* **September 18, 2024 – potential new retreat date 9/25/2024**
* **November 20, 2024**