



State of Connecticut

Department of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

November 29, 2017

SRC Meeting Notes

The Exchange, UCEDD, Library/ building 4, 270 Farmington Ave,
Farmington, CT

Attendance:

SRC Members: Thomas Boudreau; Kate Travis: Chairperson; Bruce Stovall; Joe Wendover; Kristen Winkle

Non-Voting Members: David Doukas, BRS Director

BRS Staff: Kerri Fradette, Liaison; Warren Stamp

Excused: Shannon McCann, Patrick Melfi, Gary Prushko, Beth Reel, Andrea Richardson

Volunteers: Melissa Taylor, Linda Mizzi, Linda Rammler

Absent: David Morgana Jr.

Visitors: Alan Bergman, Jennifer Jenkins

Brief Introductions – Everyone

Minutes (September 13, 2017) – Kerri Fradette reviewed, Approved

Budget – Gary Prushko

Budge sheet was reviewed. SRC reviewed the idea to no longer track specifically and how this will allow different ideas for spending the money. Tom noted that it is helpful to see the transparency of where the money is spent. Dave confirmed that a report can be generated quarterly. Kerri recommended for members/committees to think about projects to spend the money on.

SRC Leadership – Chairperson Representative
(Elected during this meeting: Kate Travis)

- NCSRC & CSAVR Conferences: Kerri attended. CT presented as in a good place nationally with SRC with SRC Meetings, Director is present, and numbers are presented. She will share national information learned in upcoming meetings.

BRS Update – David Doukas, BRS Director

- CSAVR Update: Dave attended. It was heavy with technical aspects of WIOA. CT is in a common place, some areas ahead, some catching up. For Vision 20/20, there are 32 states that are in an Order of Selection and provided information about implementing it. Information was supplied in packet. At the Annual Meeting, CEO of CSAVR, Steve Wooderson was the keynote speaker and discussed Vision 20/20. BRS needs to be tracking Pre-Employment, states are being monitored. End of Year Stats: Information in packet. BRS surpassed a number of successful outcomes and statistics show decent year. They have lost staff. BRS is trying to position people in their careers and they are not so apt to close their case.
- Home Mod Policy: There is a new policy menu. BRS is trying to use the SRC to be a sounding board to BRS and make it a relative to policy. Information is in packet. In the past 6 years, BRS has had 92 Home Mod cases. Information was provided in packet. Other policies have been researched. CT wants to be alike to other states and limit what they do. Recommendation from SRC Member, if over \$2500.00, it will be reviewed. This topic was discussed and a motion and 2nd motion made, withdrew due to more data requested to determine SRC's voted on the topic. Kerri will email the data for SRC members to vote.
- Order of Selection: In the next year, there will be a move to an increased Order of Selection as BRS can't afford to serve the number of individuals as they do now. There has been a staffing pattern reduction each year; the fringe rate has increased 89%. There is a two prong process to determine if an individual has a disability that will impair employment and how much do

they need the service. BRS will only work with most significant disabled individuals. Legislation is allowing BRS to work with individuals already working to help them retain employment. BRS is determining the definition of most significantly disabled and will look at the area of work tolerance for individuals. New contracts will be known by late spring 2018, July 1, 2018 it will be finalized. It was noted that BRS is redefining everything.

- Agency Update (Staffing, Offices, Other): Contracted down staff, BRS is not refilling positions due to budget. They are refilling Bureau Chief of Independent Living. Danielson Office will close December 15, 2017; one of the counselors will be in Willimantic at Work Force, the other at Adult Ed in Danielson. American Job Center will be closing in 60 days in Enfield; BRS has a lease there for 8 months remaining. BRS worker will be relocated to ACC or a Town of Enfield location. BRS office in Ansonia is closed, BRS is making sure they have a presence in the community; Meriden BRS will house a BRS Worker for a couple of hours a week.

SRC Update – Kerri Fradette, Liaison

- SRC Annual Report: Committees will provide information to Kerri to put in the Annual Report. It is due 12/30, information is needed 2nd week in December. It was determined that if no one is in a committee, Kerri will piece together information for those committees noted.
- SRC 2018 Meeting dates, information in folder. Public Meetings will be in the late spring. She will follow up about date (s). Tom recommended that consumers be invited. Kerri talked about ways to plan the meetings and combine with other similar meetings, and how other SRC's have used incentives for surveys/attendance. Meeting locations from SRC members requested, if possible.
- Election of New Officers: Kate Travis, Chair Person, Tom Boudreau, Vice President, Kristen Winkle (Secretary *Temporary*), Gary Prushko, Treasurer

Committee Reports

- **Business Partnership** – Kate Travis, Chair
The committee is close to finishing the postcard and are hoping to get approval for it shortly. Reviewed the purpose of the committee, what was the original intent, and acknowledged that further discussion will occur.
- **Consumer Satisfaction** – Vacant, Chair is needed.
- **Intercouncil/Nominations** – Vacant, Chair
Kerri reported membership information. Linda Rammler and Vicki Kowaleski submitted an application and Linda Mizzi will be submitting an application soon. SRC hasn't heard about Andrea Richardson's application. Kerri confirmed that she will resubmit applications that are approaching for reinstating 2nd term.
- **Legislation, Policy & Planning** – Tom Boudreau, Chair
Discussed Annual meeting, Order of Selection, this expanded into elements that Dave talked about. Information will be in Annual Report. There are gaps between agencies. Tom noted that we are the voice of the consumer to ensure to bring that to the SRC. We continue to monitor the aspect of the budget, the pieces of the CT and Federal Administration and the impact of with disabilities. Kerri will follow up about policies.

Questions/Comments:

Administration Hearings previously, Kerri will follow up.

Policy Manual is from 2014, Evelyn had previously been working on it prior to her retirement, and any updates will be shared with SRC once the manual has been completed.

2:50 P – Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 17, 2018 – Webinar (details will be sent)
Date TBD: SRC Training and Overview

Submitted by,

Kristen L. Winkle
SRC Secretary (Temporary)