



State of Connecticut

Department of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

March 28, 2018

SRC Meeting Notes

CVH, Paige Hall, Middletown, CT

Attendance:

SRC Members: Thomas Boudreau; Gary Prushko; Kate Travis: Chairperson; Bruce Stovall; Kristen Lippi;

Non-Voting Members: David Doukas, BRS Director;

BRS Staff: Kerri Fradette, Liaison;

Excused:

Volunteers: Vicki Kowaleski; Linda Mizzi;

Absent: Shannon McCann, Patrick Melfi; David Morgana Jr., Beth Reel; Andrea Richardson; Warren Stamp; Melissa Taylor; Joe Wendover;

Visitors:

Brief Introductions – Everyone

Minutes– Kristen Lippi

The January meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Meeting minutes from November previously approved, per Kerri Fredette.

Budget – Gary Prushko

Budge sheet provided in meeting folders. It was noted that in 10/17 – 10/18 there was not a lot of activity. Some money spent in Business Partnership for postcards that were created. He said that this year’s budget is less than last year. The Youth Leadership Project was funded last year, this year SRC can’t fund it. Level Up is going to pay for YLF student services. Budget was approved.

SRC Leadership – Kate Travis, Chairperson

- NCSRC/CSAVR Conference: 4/7/18 – 4/8/18: Kate will be attending with Kerri, Dave, and Kathy Marchione. They will learn about what other states are doing. Following that is the CSAVR, 4/8/18 – 4/10/18: Conference to speak to the Legislatures.
- Public Meeting: SRC had a phone call to review the state plan and a Public Meeting took place on 2/28/18 in the New Haven, BRS office, it was noted that no one attended. It was noted that there isn't typically great attendance for Public Meetings. Another Public Meeting will be coming up. Reviewed ideas to increase attendance.
- Home Mod Policy Update: There are language changes. It was voted on and approved unanimously. Tom talked about Spirit Builders; they provide volunteer work for ramps and accessibility. Possibly other churches/community programs may provide volunteer support.

BRS Update – David Doukas, BRS Director

- Arlene Lugo will be in Washington for Social Security training due to DOL claims weren't going to be reimbursed. She assisted with the process and now the reimbursements will take place for BRS. Dave talked about Social Security reimbursement; it is served exclusively with Vocational Rehab. They can send in the reimbursement claim based on how much an individual earned at a time, it generates program income. Dave noted that Ticket to Work is a reimbursement. BRS expects to receive, \$1.5 – 2 million dollars a year for reimbursement.
- BRS Stats: Information provided in meeting folders. There were substantial closures noted and leading types of employment outcomes. BRS is working on accountability measures for WIOA. BRS will receive this information in June to gather the data.
- Order of Selection Update: Kathy Marchionne and Dave are presenting at the upcoming CSAVR conference. This cleared the Public Meeting component, SRC approved the State Plan. The definition changed for consumers working with BRS that is raising the bar. The functions are communication, self-direction, self-

care, work tolerance, work skills, interpersonal skills and mobility. Applicants for BRS need to have four of the skills to qualify for BRS. They have made the decision that has been allowed by WIOA to assist individuals to maintain employment and be able to obtain BRS through re-apply. This is a category under them that is crisis intervention mode. If they are eligible, consumers can receive the services to assist them with maintaining the job. The federal budget is through September 2018. There is a \$3.5 billion dollar cost of living increase and they got a \$60 million dollar increase for Supported Employment program, which will be restored. For Independent living there was a \$12 million dollar increase and Assistive Technology received a small increase.

- Agency Update (Staffing, Offices, Other): For staffing, BRS is not refilling most positions. There are a few they have moved towards refilling. The Employment Division is being kept fully staffed at nine people. Regional Management & Supervision is not refilling, they are moving people around. The Montville office will be moving next week, DOL is working on getting the office set up. In Waterbury, the office needed to expend federal money to stay in that location, money was denied. The landlord wanted BRS to follow what he requested for them to remain at the location and they were able to work with him and have it approved. Workforce Investment Boards are running Work Readiness Training Group with the staff with shared consumers. This will occur in April 2018 in Bridgeport and Waterbury in July 2018. Kristen noted that the Enfield location moved to Windsor BRS and that transition has gone well with the move, in regards to the Secretaries and BRS Worker from Enfield. Summer Youth Employment is looking to do fifty experiences with greater New Haven in June. They are working with providers. Level Up expenditures have been low and Life Planning Services are just starting to take route. The counselors are trying to work with the schools. They keep the model that they have adapted. Dave commented that the funding for it is inconsistent each year and it is tough for the community. July 1, 2018 they will have the contract for providers. BRS told all of the providers, the CRP's, before 30 days of the new contract to start with their consumer at the existing model until the contract is approved. They have had shifts in their model that includes different services, different

approaches, and flexibility for community providers, i.e. job coaching. Evaluations for BRS consumers will be minimal. Linda asked for Assessment tools to be looked at because, they present as dated. Dave said that they are shifting at how to look at that situation and look at different ways to evaluate an individual. Also, BRS is making sure community providers have employers where individuals can work for a while to see how they are doing.

SRC Update – Kerri Fradette, Liaison

- SRC Leadership: Kate is the Chairperson, & Tom has been very valuable with helping with information. Kate will continue to be the Chairperson for Business Partnership at this time. Bruce is the Chairperson for Consumer Satisfaction and Patrick is the Chairperson for Intercouncil/Nominations.
- Kerri submitted everyone's packets to the governor's office several months ago; this included new members and those to be re-appointed. She noted that there have been changes in staff at the governor's office and no updates were reported to Kerri. Linda gave information to Kerri about who from the governor's office contacted her for BESB.
- SRC Annual Report: Has been printed. They are electronic but, if people would like copies to contact Kerri.
- Vision 2020 Update: She and Myra Scott have been going out to the staff meetings. The Goal for 2020 is to improve VR reception, highlight it in a positive spin and value. Also, to add it to a national level. A marketing firm has been hired; they have reached out to each state to see if they want to participate in this. Now they are compiling the information for each state to do this on a national level to showcase the positive success stories and best practices. One of the five best practices is Travelers. Mark Henry and the Employment Consultants worked on the ISTPP model and there are twenty plus individuals making \$50,000. a year
- Pat suggested about celebrating successes where a consumer comes to an SRC meeting, he said that this has

occurred for BESB and has gone well. Brainstormed the logistics of doing this. Kerri will follow up about it. Dave talked about how the RSA success stories are important. Due to confidentiality it can be difficult, they have been working on it. This may be implanted into SRC.

- Kerri asked from members about ideas for upcoming meeting locations, Linda offered to host a meeting at her office on Wethersfield Ave. in Hartford. Bruce said that the NEAT Center in Hartford could be a location for the meeting location rotations. Also, Patrick will look into hosting a meeting at his office location on the reservation and follow up with Kerri.

Committee Reports

- Business Partnership: Kate Travis, Chairperson: Postcard has been completed; they were handed out to meeting attendees. These are to be given out to employers, EC's, Counselor's. She will give Kerri postcards to give to Mark Henry and invite him to attend an SRC Meeting to find out what he is seeing with businesses.
- Consumer Satisfaction: Bruce Stovall, Chairperson: Acknowledged that when an individual comes to share their story can be of assistance with this committee.
- Intercouncil/Nominations: Patrick Melfi, Chairperson: One interview has been completed since the last meeting. Kerri mentioned hopefully new recruits will come in. He talked about how BESB had new recruits get to know the current members by having a meeting in the evening with food.
- Legislation, Policy & Planning: Tom Boudreau: Reviewed the House Bill 620 for Employers. A version of this bill passed through the House. It is placing the burden on the individual with disabilities rather than the business. He looked to see what other states are doing. Rhode Island has frequently asked questions on their page online and Washington State on their page had the facts bulleted. Tom noted that Cornell has Policy and Practice

on their page as a resource for a more in depth and understanding. He commented about members need to be active within themselves with subcommittees and the committees need to have more members.

3:00 P – Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 16, 2018 meeting location TBD

Submitted by,

Kristen L. Lippi
SRC Secretary (Temporary)