



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Department of Human Services

Office of Rehabilitation Services

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

To work with ORS assuring that all Rhode Islanders with disabilities are able to obtain and keep meaningful and satisfying employment.

Full Council Minutes May 15, 2014

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Save the Bay, 100 Save The Bay Drive Providence, RI 02905

Present: Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Domenic DiOrio, Sharon DiPinto, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Linda Deschenes, Laurie DiOrio, Joan Fino, Liz Graves, Kathleen Grygiel, Paul Harden, Dr. Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Diane Marcotte, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine, Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti

Absent: Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Margaret Benz, Dr. Judith Drew, Dorothy Furlong, Maryellen Hagerty, Roger Iannetta, Diane Kriner, Nicole McCarty, Jessica Mowry, Willa Truelove, Mr. Kim Wennermark,

- 1. Call to Order: Jeffrey Machado called the meeting to order at 9 A.M. Quorum met.**
- 2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None.**
- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion

Domenic DiOrio made a motion seconded by Jack Ringland and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from February 11, 2014. (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Domenic DiOrio, Sharon DiPinto, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Linda Deschenes, Laurie DiOrio, Joan Fino, Liz Graves, Kathleen Grygiel, Paul Harden, Dr. Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Diane Marcotte, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine, Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti)

4. Office of Rehabilitation Services Report – Ronald Racine (The ORS report was given as a brief so the Council could move forward with the planning of retreat)

- * Federal - Indications are we will stay with Department of Education however, there is movement to lower the degree standards for Rehabilitation Counselors from master's degree to bachelors plus life experiences. This is a concern for and could greatly impact the quality of service given to clients.
- * DOJ - The investigation is a big focus for our agency: we have had two supervisors and four Counselors working with the population and we are making steady progress. We have signed a consent decree and are coming up with a 6-month plan until the full ten-year agreement is set up. We are strategizing for the influx of the new clients; there could be a possible 3,600 people who will need more extended evaluations because of the levels of disabilities. This will be very time intensive for our staff. Many of the Counselors will need more training for this.

More information on the Olmstead Enforcement, including briefs, complaints, letters of findings, settlement, and agreements. http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_cases_list2.htm

5. SRC Chair Report (Retreat Planning) - Jeff Machado

Based on the survey results and conversation from membership outside of and at this meeting there are 4 items that need to be addressed before we can plan a retreat.

1. Training of Members

- Goals:
- Understanding the role of the SRC and your place on it
 - Understanding the role of the subcommittees

Strategy: **1. Establish a training subcommittee and a strategic annual training program for all new members of the SRC**

2. Leadership

- Goals: a. Strengthen Leadership
- b. Selecting co-chairs for subcommittees

Strategy: 1. Set up a succession strategy of officers so they can be mentored to step into officer roles as needed

3. Council Work

- Goals: a. Reorganization of subcommittees and membership/ as per ORS needs and federal requirements for the SRC
- b. Subcommittees should think about what it is they need from this retreat

Strategy: 1. Make sure all members are on a standing subcommittee and that they understand what that subcommittee does

- 2. Open dialog to better motivate, reenergize the sub committees, to achieve their work outside the full council meetings (Full council meetings should be for reporting out and questions not actual subcommittee work)
- 3. Prioritize timely efforts when working with ORS
- 4. Strategic use of ORS Liaisons on each subcommittee

4. Meetings

- Goals: a. Enhance functionality of time and rule of order at full Council meetings

Strategy: 1. Consolidate functionality of and use of time at full council meetings

- 2. By-laws revisions to further enhance the Council's functionality the ad-hoc by-laws committee will update the by-laws, including revision, which will require Council vote. The revisions will better facilitate the function of the Council, when needs arise to create or disband subcommittees and keep membership accountable, and coordinate subcommittee-meeting requirements

6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned unanimously at 12:00 P.M. Jeff Machado made a motion seconded by Gail Lawson and unanimously approved to adjourn. *(vote – approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Domenic DiOrio, Sharon DiPinto, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Linda Deschenes, Laurie DiOrio, Joan Fino, Liz Graves, Kathleen Grygiel, Paul Harden, Dr. Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Diane Marcotte, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine, Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti)*

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy L. Baker, SRC Facilitator