

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council
Whispering Pines Conference Center**

**Minutes *October 16, 2006*
8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Present from State Rehabilitation Council: Janice Belasco, Raymond Carroll, Edward Costa, Domenic Di Orio Jr., Susan Donavon, Dr. Judith L. Drew, Linda L. Deschenes, Joseph Ferreira, Steven A. Florio, Jeanne M. Giroux, Margaret Hoye, Anne LeClerc, Gary J. Levine, Lucille Massemينو, Catherine Sansonetti, J. David Sienko

Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero, Sharon DiPinto, Monica Dzialo, Ronald Racine

Guests: Christopher Hass, Jessica Hass, Alexandra LaPlant, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Vincent Rossi

Call to Order and Introductions - The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

1. OLD BUSINESS – D. Sienko

1. Additions or deletions to the Agenda – There were none.
2. Approval of Minutes

Motion

E. Costa made a motion seconded by D. Di Orio Jr. and unanimously accepted, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2006 meeting.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Introductions: the Chair welcomed everyone back from the summer break and introductions were made. He then gave a brief review of the plans for the day and the expectations for the committee breakouts. The primary goal was for the committees to establish strategic work plans with measurable goals for the upcoming year. This will allow the committees to report to the membership throughout the year on how well the work is being accomplished.

Initiatives of the Agency: R. Carroll updated the membership on the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program.

Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) met several weeks ago with (75) seventy-five personnel to review and acknowledge the efforts made in accomplishing last year's goals. It was a time of reflection and also planning for the future because there is always the desire to improve productivity.

The State Plan Update: was approved by our Federal Partner. This year, due to the changes in the Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA), the Plan will require in-depth clarification and details.

There will be an on-site monitoring visit from the RSA every (3) three years and this year Rhode Island is among the (20) twenty states scheduled for the in-depth, comprehensive assessment. With these changes, the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) will have a very meaningful and significant part in the Federal Monitoring.

The 2008 Budget: begins in July of 2007. Every year since 2002, ORS has had to cut staff and resources. Once again we need to reduce, per the Governor's instructions, (38) thirty-eight million dollars. The Department of Human Services (DHS) Director, Ron Lebel, has been working with the agencies to organize a strategic plan focused on working with these cuts while still maintaining the highest quality of services.

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR): is working on the National level to improve the Program.

CSAVR is actively working with business, consumers and VR State agencies to develop a national VR- Business Network. The vision is to create a coordinated approach to serving business customers through a national VR team that specializes in employer development, business consulting and corporate relations.

Employer Honor Roll: Kathy West-Evans, the CSAVR Director of Business Relations, will be coming to talk about the VR- Business Network.

ORS Status Report: S. Brunero reviewed the status of the ORS Program.

Vacancies – (4) four counselors are currently out on maternity leave.

New Hires

Laurie DiOrio - Assistant Administrator of VR
Dale Williams - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Susan Leonard - Senior Word Processing Typist (DDS)
Karen Lowell - Rehabilitation Counselor (DDS)
Dianne Newman - ATAP Program Coordinator
Sandra J. Zawislak - Human Services Business Officer (SBVI)

Program Improvements Plan: handouts were distributed to the attendees showing the cumulative progress towards goals for each region of the VR Program in Rhode Island.

The goals set for 2006 were surpassed in applications (2125), employment plans (1465), and successful closures (736).

Standards and Indicators: ORS has passed all the Standards and Indicators for the last three years.

Business Network of Rhode Island: there was a meeting held at CVS headquarters last week. (16) Sixteen cooperate representative discussed what they are looking for in business personnel and hiring standards.

3. COMMITTEE WORK

Nomination and Leadership Development

Charged with - developing leadership that is fully committed to the Council's mission, proactive in empowering consumers with disabilities, strategic in its thinking, and representing the rich diversity of Rhode Island's populations; recruitment of new members, including assessment of population sectors' representation and skills needed to fill gaps.

Strategic Plan

Nominating

Adhere to the guidelines of the federal regulations. In particular, emphasizing more on minorities, youth, high school and college students, Corporate America and entrepreneurial leadership.

Leadership

Expand membership from the corporate leadership, which will access greater employment opportunities for our population, but will also help, to broadcast and network ORS pool of workers.

By-Laws Article 3 is composition

Law and Regulation, which provides guidance to the composition of the SRC

Articles 2 and 2.1-input from minority membership to further expand outreach to the community (bi-lingual, Native Americans, etc.)

1. Compliance with the federal regulation
2. Expand the customer base
3. Influence the state require-meant to open up the pool by hiring more minority counselors
4. Expand the pool of vendors that area proficient in serving minorities such as Native American, African-American, Haitian, Latino, Brazilian, and Asian populations.

Employment

Charged with - increasing employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities through employer partnerships.

Strategic Plan

Annual Action Step	State Plan Reference	Need Area Reference	Date Source for Impact Measurement	Expected Outcome
Partner with ORS to develop an Agency Marketing Plan	Pg. 5 Relationship with Employers	Pg. 9 (Enough resources for Job Development, 52.4% said "NO") Pg. 10 (How could ORS help, Increase Job Development resources, 21.3)%	ORS/SRC Needs Assessment (2005) Standards & Indicators, 1.1,1.2 & 1.3	By January 2007 draft plan will be presented.

- Business Leadership Network

- Workshops
 - Outreach and Recruitment
- Business Advisory Group
- Interagency Trainings/Partnership
 - ORS, netWORKri's, RI Council of CMHC's (Sue Turner)
- Youth In Transition
- Mentoring Day, Student Workshops, ORS Transition Coordinator to outreach to all school Special Ed Directors, Guidance Counselors and Social Workers

Resource Need identified by the group:

- The World Is Flat (book)
- Rhodes To Independence –investigate resources/materials developed
- ORS current employer information (materials) – present information to Employment Sub Committee

State Plan, Policy & Quality Assurance

Charged with - review and comment on the Office of Rehabilitation Services policies and annual State Plan updates; ORS State Plan development and compliance reviews, including the resource plan; work with ORS regarding policy and implementation of Order of Selection; to review and analyze the scope and effectiveness of consumer satisfaction with the Office of Rehabilitation Services, via a statewide Consumer Satisfaction Survey of individuals with disabilities every three years, Public input at the SRC meetings, CAP reviews, and ORS staff surveys.

Strategic Plan

- 1 Due Diligence Plan (DD Plan) for all State & Fed requirements with benchmarks (monthly/quarterly) modeled after the policy protocol.
- 2 Examine data, data sources & improve connection to the State Plan
 - Examine sources
 - Annually target data request
 - Build into DD Plan
 - Examine data presentation (i.e. at budget hearings, etc.) to support the program
- 3 Designate an ORS staff person to serve on S.P.P. & Q&A Committee.
- 4 Examine/monitor specific ORS indicators (Standards & Indicators) on a scheduled basis (quarterly basis) for progress/slippage & build as needed into DD Plan.
- 5 Review data for un-served/underserved populations. Determine issues, review strategies, review what is happening nationally.

Transportation

Charged with – reducing transportation barriers.

Strategic Plan

Annual Action Step	State Plan Reference	Need Area Reference	Date Source for Impact Measurement	Expected Outcome
Create state-wide model for accessible transportation for all	Page 8 – Issue 4 – transportation is a major concern. Pg. 2, 6,7attachment 4.12 ©(i) 4.12 (d)(i)	Pg. 3 #3- 60% service not readily available. Pg. 4 # 5, 53% # 6, 56% Pg. 6-7 #8 Pg. 13, 14, 15 In comments Pg.17, Summary (...to achieve an employment outcome...)	Rhode Island Combined FFY 2006 Annual Update to State Plan, 2005 Needs Assessment	Creation of models for statewide accessible transportation. 9-30-07

1. Partner with CTAA & Rhodes to Independence: Inventory current services. 12-31-06.
2. Review CTAA date for expenses and resources to determine gaps and opportunities. 2-28-07
3. Capture Money spent by Non-profits (additional survey). 5-31-07
4. Needs Assessment additional questions specific to transportation needs for new assessment. (New Needs Assessment to be done by from ORS date yet not known). 8-30-07
5. Develop advocacy plan to meet the unmet needs. 9-30-07

4. PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominations and Leadership Development committee presented its recommendation for a Slate of Officers to the membership.

Slate of Officers

Chair – David Sienko

Vice-chair – Joseph Ferreira

Secretary - Catherine Sansonetti

Motion

S. Florio made a motion seconded by L. Deschenes and unanimously approved, to accept the recommendation of the Slate of Officers.

At the Annual Meeting in November the membership will vote to accept the Slate of Officers for presentation to the Governor's office for his approval. If at that time, another candidate(s) is desired, the name can be submitted to the floor. If there are no other names submitted the vote will be by show of hands. If another candidate(s) is submitted, the vote will be by paper ballot. Each voting member may only submit one name for each Officer position.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

6. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy L. Baker

Nancy L. Baker, Staff
State Rehabilitation Council