

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Full Council**

**Meeting Minutes October 5, 2010
4:00 – 6:00 PM**

Department of Labor and Training ~ 1151 Pontiac Avenue ~ Cranston, RI 02920

Present: *Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Stephen Brunero, Ron Racine, Laurie DiOrio, Wheeler Clemmons, Anne LeClerc, Jeanne Giroux, Vincent Rossi, Margaret Hoye, Lucille Massemينو, Cindy Cote, Rocco Bruno, Catherine Sansonetti, Juan Troncoso, Jeff Machado, Sandy Lupovitz, Jane Slade, Janice Belasco, Lynn Paola, Mary Wambach, Dan Pienoni, Anna Liebenow, Joan Fino, Mona Dorsinville, Paul Harden, Dr. Judi Drew*

1. Call to Order – Kate McCarthy-Barnett Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Introductions were made and a full quorum is met. *Michael Hazzard*

2. Chair's Report – Kate McCarthy-Barnett reports:

- The annual calendar, including the recommendation to meet bi-monthly has been approved by SRC Executive Committee. The membership supported this change in meeting dates (see motion below).
- The Executive Committee is working closely with the Nominating & Leadership Committee to review membership and increase training opportunities for new members.
- A letter to support ORS remaining in the same location will be drafted for review by the Executive Committee.
- Continue to follow updates from the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils; a free service that provides a great deal of information regarding what's going on across the country and offers online training on their website.
- Copies of the American Rehabilitation Special Edition "Celebrating 90 Years: Creating our Vision" were provided to the membership.

Motion

Lucille Massemينو made a motion, seconded by Jeff Machado and unanimously approved that the SRC Executive and Full Council meet on a bi-monthly basis.

3. The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) Administrator's Report - Steve Brunero reports:

- CSCAVR conference is in November.
- Federal September 30th fiscal is complete. States that were unable to match Federal VR Grant as required have returned funds to the RSA. Rhode Island matched the Federal VR funds.
- There will be significant cutbacks in programs and state funds.
- The Office of Rehabilitation Services is 100% federally funded and consists of three divisions; Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) and Disability Determination Services (DDS). ORS is currently seeking approval to negotiate the 40 Fountain Street, Providence, building lease.
- *Order of Selection*, priority classification is in place. Currently category 1 is being served; others are placed on a wait list.

4. Video Presentation

5. Sub-Committee Reports –

- **Nomination & Leadership Development Committee**- The Nominating Committee submitted the following names for membership on the council: Willa Truelove, Aracelis Maria, Kim Wennermark. The individuals were unanimously voted on as members to the Council. The Committee Chairs will follow-up with invitations to attend the next meeting. The SRC Chair will review the next steps for submission of new council members with Stephen Brunero

- **Transportation Committee-** The Transportation Committee provided an overview of the findings from a recent statewide transportation survey, which highlighted the discrepancies in funding availability and transportation options. The findings indicated a significant amount of funding has been spent on transportation; however, the transportation availability for people with disabilities has not increased. The committee will provide an overview of the research findings and the impact on the goals of the committee work at the next SRC meeting.
- **State Plan, Policy, and Quality Assurance Committee-** The State Plan, Policy, and Quality Assurance Committee will be meeting to review new ORS policies within the next two weeks. An update on new policies will be reviewed at the next SRC meeting.
- **Employment Committee –** The Employment Committee continues to work on defining goals for the workgroup by reviewing the current initiatives in the State and identifying strategies to increase the participation of business. One suggestion discussed included outreach to past Employee honor Roll awardees to discuss increasing employer involvement and prioritizing goals to increase the employment opportunities for ORS consumers. In addition, the committee will be reviewing the membership to begin to establish subcommittee meetings.

6. **Public Comment** - There were no public comments.

7. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn M. Paola

Lynn Paola, Assistant Administrative Officer
Office of Rehabilitation Services