



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL



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

SRC Meeting October 3, 2017
Office of Rehabilitation Services
40 Fountain Street, Providence
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 PM.

Present: Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Lea Colardo, Linda Deschenes (ORS), Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Kathleen Grygiel (ORS), Gail Lawson PhD, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine (ORS), Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti, Willa Truelove, John Valentine, Christine Yankee

Guest: Sergio Lopez-Ruiz

Absent: Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Maryellen T. Hagerty and Diana Kriner, Diana Marcotte (ORS), Jane Slade. Vincent Rossi,

1. Establish Quorum/Introductions Guests, ORS, SRC - Dr. Gail Lawson

Agenda Review/Additions or Deletions -None

Acceptance of Minutes from May 9, 2017

Motion--Jack Ringland made a motion seconded by Joan Fino and unanimously approved to accept the May 9, 2017 Minutes. (Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Lea Colardo, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Gail Lawson PhD, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti, Willa Truelove, Christine Yankee)

2. State Rehabilitation Council Chair's Report – Gail Lawson

Executive Leadership identified accomplishments and additional challenges ranking them for moving forward

Accomplishments

1. Increased active partnership with ORS, accountability, opening dialogue,
2. Increased participation of policy committee with state plan
3. Training committee organization, curriculum, and participation
4. Reduction in number of committees for efficiency in effectiveness
5. Increased participation and collaboration on Annual Report
6. Improved attendance
7. Easier access with technology – google drive, conference participation (calls)
8. Increased participation with NCSRC, calls and conferences
9. Clarifying the role of the SRC as it relates to ORS, in the engagement in Comprehensive Needs Assessment CNA process and State Plan Development
10. Increased member recommendations for advocacy role

Priorities and Continuing Challenges

1. Ad-hoc committee to look at the issues of obtaining the data and improving client outcomes. ORS has to give the Council any information asked for on this. Mandated data collection. How can the Council work with this? (Ideas)

Discussion - ORS has been considering looking at a satisfaction survey that targets current clients. The current survey is somewhat dated and needs updating and it would be beneficial for the SRC to help revise it and help and assist in better distribution practiced for higher returns. How do we (ORS) reach clients?

2. Leadership Succession and Membership Recruitment

Discussion - Top priority for the upcoming year. The Council is losing four members this year and six in 2018. There is an outreach letter for member to keep with them or send out to those they think might be interested. The Council needs to do more outreach to underserved populations while looking at requirements for the Council and do the recruitment based on needs. ORS will work internally to rework the survey then ask the SRC for feedback.

3. Training Meeting (Completed)

4. Resource Plan SRC (Drafted)

5. Establish timeframes for ORS updates on, CNA outcomes, State Plan updates, and the Consent Decree

6. Annual Report SRC will have the report done by 11/17/2017 **(Completed)**

7. Update Mission and Vision of the Council - Increased focus on Mission and Vision of SRC

8. Need for Co-chairs for the State Plan, Policy and Quality Assurance committee

3. Nominations for Officers

Chairperson / Jack Ringland nominated Dr. Judi Drew

Vice Chairperson / Joan Fino nominated Maryellen Hagerty (did not accept nomination upon later being asked) & Willa Truelove nominated Lea Colardo as Vice Chair (nominated by phone later after meeting)

Secretary / Lea Colardo nominated Jack Ringland

Any nominations can be brought to the floor at the meeting, or before the meeting, you can send them to N. Baker.

Gail Lawson and Joan Fino offered to share the chair position of the policy committee. (Pending confirmation from Joan)

3. Sub-committee Reports

* Membership Training – Lea Colardo

On September 13, 2017, the Training Committee held its first annual training meeting for members of the SRC at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities. Each participant received a binder that included the by-laws and duties of membership, contact information, and how the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)'s mandate relate to the SRC's responsibilities, and state policies and procedures for ORS.

An icebreaker modeled after speed dating was enjoyed by everyone and helped members be better acquainted with each other. A power point presentation reviewed the history of the Rehabilitation Act and the role of the SRC in partnership with ORS. ORS reviewed the application process and eligibility guidelines for services. The meeting closed with a video titled [Employment Can Work for You](#). For members who missed the training, contact N. Baker for information and materials.

Feedback collected will be used to enhance next year's training session.

* State Plan, Policy, and Quality Assurance – No Report at this time.

* By-Laws Report – Dr. Judi drew

The committee will present proposed changes to the by-laws via email to membership. This will give all members the minimum of the 30-day requirement for review. There will be a discussion at the next meeting and depending on the conclusion, the Council will either vote for the changes, or revise them again and set the 30-day notice into motion again. The resource part should be an addendum not an actual part of the by-laws due to possible frequent changes. Council had no objections. Judi drew thanked Lori Norris, Christine Yankee and Gail Lawson for their help.

4. Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) Director's Report – Ronald Racine

* Client Successful Closures this year – 702.

* MIS – Vendor in town this week to go over changes. New vendor is Alliance; the [Aware System](#) has been very good thus far with abilities for us to make numerous data changes easily that are cloud-based so information is immediate. Data sharing agreement signed.

* New Facebook page [ORS Facebook](#)

* Re-allotment Monies - ORS got its re-allotment award of 500 thousand instead of 5 million. There was less allotment money going out to the states, Texas got 33 million because of flooding from the hurricane but most other states got very little of the expected money. In the past we have spent it on DOJ, but this cut has set a funding deficient, combined with 15 percent on pre-employment services, ORS will have to make some hard decisions related to a more restrictive order of selection. Currently, ORS has a limited order of selection for category 2, but may have to have more restrictive service for category 1. ORS and SRC events and travel may be limited as well. The shortfall will come towards the end of the year.

* We may seek SRC active advocacy moving forward.

* Community groups and partners can advocate for ORS at budget hearings.

* Updates on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) [Current MOUs](#)

Developing a MOU with Medicaid as a WIOA requirement, but Medicaid has not appointed a person to work on this with ORS.

MOU current development with One Stops

MOU with RIDE extended for one year.

5. **New Business** – None

6. **Correspondence** – [Letter](#) from [The Rhode Island Independent Living Council](#) (SILC) seating Christina Battista as their representative to the SRC.

7. **Public Comment** – None.

9. **Adjournment** – Council adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Motion--*Jack Ringland* made a motion seconded by *Liz Graves* and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. (*Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Lea Colardo, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Gail Lawson PhD, Lori Norris, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Catherine Sansonetti, Willa Truelove, Christine Yankee*)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy L. Baker, Facilitator
RI State Rehabilitation Council