



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 February 11, 2014

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Christina Battista, Margaret Benz, Rocco Bruno, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Linda Deschenes, Laurie DiOrio, Joan Fino, Roberta Greene-Whittemore, Kathleen Grygiel, Maryellen Hagerty, Paul Harden, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, JoAnn Nannig, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska, Mr. Kim Wennermark,

Guest: Allison Robinson

Absent: Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Christine Botts, Lea Colardo, Dominic DiOrio, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Dorothy Furlong, Liz Graves, Roger Andrew Iannetta, Nicole McCarty, Jessica Mowry,

1. Call to Order: Jeffrey Machado called the meeting to order at 4 P.M. Quorum met.
2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None.
3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Jeffrey Machado made a motion seconded by Rocco Brunno and approved with the abstention of Catherine Sansonetti to accept the October 8, 2013 minutes. (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Margaret Benz, Rocco Bruno, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Joan Fino, Maryellen Hagerty, Paul Harden, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska, Mr. Kim Wennermark, / vote abstained Catherine Sansonetti)

4. **SRC Report** - Jeffrey Machado

- * Officer Ladder – Jeff spoke about stepping into the role as Chair in Kate’s absence, and not having had training to help with the duties required. This has made the running of the Council difficult so at the last Executive Leadership meeting we discussed setting up a ladder of succession for the officers, including training and mentoring.
- * Retreat Meeting - would be strongly advised at this time for the Council to reenergize the subcommittees, and consolidate functionality of the SRC. This off-site retreat with dialog to better motivate subcommittees and utilize our time at full Council meetings is overdue. We should have an outside facilitator so that all of us can focus on participating.
- * Subcommittee Refocusing/ Reevaluation - subcommittees are in need of more pointed information from the Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) on the actual task(s) that they need to focus on. What are the specific strategies, with particulars from ORS being a better way to manage subcommittee work? We should consolidate the goals to one or two that are achievable. The ORS Liaisons on each subcommittee needs to be more utilized by our membership to learn what is needed by the Agency

Discussion Highlights

- Mr. K. Wennermark asked if the ORS liaisons meet before the Council meetings to discuss what the connection will be; how they (ORS) inform us of the needs they have; a focus on the factors.*
- R. Racine said that the ORS people meet within our agency then plan out our focus and needs. We have specifically matched the individual’s responsibilities with the subcommittee they are on.*
- C. Sansonetti felt there is a prerequisite to understand what ORS needs help with however, the Council’s job is to receive information around the State, what are the needs of populations, and then present this to ORS as to what they are doing or need to place more focus on. Example, the comprehensive needs assessment. One question ORS asked on the assessment was what was successful with the agency in your experience. The SRC felt they should ask, what was not successful, so we could analyze that data and advice ORS on other practices. One successful result that came out of that work was we needed to reach out to Vendors who serve minorities. As much as it is our job to receive information from ORS as to what they are doing, we also need to look more critically in our State as to what is going on. We are not here to do what ORS wants us to do, we are here to evaluate and assist them.*

5. **Office of Rehabilitation Services Report** – Ronald Racine

- * Governor’s Proposed Budget – ORS has been left in good shape. We are getting our job postings put up and filled. We are reallocating resources as the need arises.
- * DDS - has three positions that are posted; the Social Security hiring freeze seems to be over.

* DOJ - this investigation is a big focus for our agency right now. We have had two supervisors and four Counselors working with the population and we are making steady progress. Of the 128 consumers of this population currently in our system, we have 25 placed in integrated employment. There are another 20 we are working with situational assessments. With the closure of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH), there will be much more work for us; we will be looking at another 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

6. Retreat Planning (Preliminary)

1. Training of members
 - a. Understanding the role of the subcommittees
 - b. Setting up a succession of officers so they can be trained to step into officer roles as needed.
2. Refocusing the Council role in the community
 - a. Reorganization of subcommittees/ membership/ as per ORS needs
3. Enhancing functionality of time and rule of order at full council meetings.

We want to make sure all members are on a subcommittee and that they understand what that subcommittee does. We want to make sure the Council is acting in a timely way with its efforts to work with ORS.

We would like to 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). This will consolidate functionality of and use of time at full Council meetings. Subcommittees should think about what it is they need from this retreat.

We want to set up a ladder for officers with mentoring from current officers to new candidates that are solicited by the leadership.

Ad-hoc By-laws subcommittee – The Council requests that this ad-hoc subcommittee run parallel to the retreat effort to further enhance the Council’s functionality the ad-hoc by-laws subcommittee could work to update the by-laws. Revisions will require the Council’s vote, this may or may not be done at the retreat, and it can be done in the fall. But it would be good to have at least outlines ready for Facilitator before the retreat. Revisions of the by-laws should focus on better facilitation and function of the Council by, enforcement of Rules of Order at meetings; subcommittee creation when needs arise or disband when no longer needed; confirmation of fixed versus ad-hoc subcommittees; membership accountable including, seat on at least one subcommittee, attendance and dismissal; and the coordination of subcommittee and full Council meeting dates.

The following members will sit on this ad-hoc subcommittee, Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Kim Wennermark, Kelley Conti and Nancy Baker the SRC Facilitator.

Motion

Gail Lawson made a motion seconded by Mr. Kim Wennermark and unanimously approved to call to order the By-laws subcommittee with the purpose requested above by the Council (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Margaret Benz, Rocco Bruno, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Joan Fino, Maryellen Hagerty, Paul Harden, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska, Mr. Kim Wennermark, Catherine Sansonetti)

7. State Plan Timeline – Kathleen Grygiel

Plan due on June 30th. The timeline has been sent to the membership. Draft of the Plan will go out on May 2nd. The State Plan, Policy and QA subcommittee, as well as any other members from the SRC are invited to meet with ORS Plan committee on May 7th from 3 to 5 PM to walk through the Plan. And the Public Hearing for the Plan will be on May 22nd at the Warwick Public Library from 3-5 PM. The SRC members can send feedback to Catherine Sansonetti or Nancy Baker.

8. Subcommittee Reports

Nominations and Leadership Development - Rocco Bruno

1. Reappointments

Motion

Cynthia M. Cote made a motion seconded by Jack Ringland and unanimously approved to re-appoint the following members to the Council. Rocco Bruno, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith L. Drew, Daniel C. Pieroni, Jeffrey D. Machado, Dorothy Furlong, Vincent Rossi (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Margaret Benz, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Joan Fino, Maryellen Hagerty, Paul Harden, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, Jack Ringland, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska, Mr. Kim Wennermark, Catherine Sansonetti / vote abstained Rocco Bruno, Dan Pieroni, Jeffrey Machado, Vincent Rossi)

2. Departing Members -The following members are done second terms and are taking a break. We want to thank them for their hard work and invite them to our annual breakfast meeting. Margaret Hoye, Juan Troncoso, Corey J. Allard, and Michael Hazard.
3. Officers - Gail Lawson has accepted the position of Secretary replacing are long-time Secretary Catherine Sansonetti.

State Plan, Policy & Quality Assurance – Catherine Sansonetti

1. The Subcommittee will be working on the State Plan and invites all members to come to the meeting with ORS and give feedback.
2. Also Policy revisions will be done, one on home modifications, the other on eligibility extended evaluations for consumers coming in to ORS system.

Outreach - Jeffrey Machado

1. We have identified that the retreat will be a place to focus a strategic plan to standardize a consistent message for outreach.
2. The two groups we want to target are Hispanic and Youths ages 16- 25. We want to target the centers for youth throughout the State and in the Hispanic community the faith-based arena.
3. We are thinking about recruiting college students to help us with this.

Transition – Jane Slade

This subcommittee has achieved most of our goals.

1. Increasing the presence of ORS at local and State events. Next step is to evaluate the impact on this.
2. Outreach strategies for youth with 504 plans ... identifying the regional coordinator in each region is difficult because they change, so this remains an ongoing need. Perhaps we can talk to other states to see how they reach out to youth on 504 plans.
3. Assisting ORS in identifying barriers for particular subgroups of populations. There are some we strategized already working but different population needs. We may continue but look at unique populations like foster care.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned unanimously at 6 P.M. (*vote – approved - Christina Battista, Margaret Benz, Rocco Bruno, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Joan Fino, Maryellen Hagerty, Paul Harden, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska, Mr. Kim Wennermark, Catherine Sansonetti*)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy L. Baker, SRC Facilitator