



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 October 14, 2014

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Christina Battista, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Linda Deschenes, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Roberta Greene, Maryellen Hagerty, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, PhD., Jeffrey Machado, Diana Marcotte, JoAnn Nannig, Dan Pieroni, Ronald Racine, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska

Guest: Barbara Henry, Yohann L. Greaves

Absent: Dr. Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Margaret Benz, Christine Botts, Dorothy Furlong, Paul Harden, Roger Andrew Iannetta, Nicole McCarty, Jessica Mowry, Mr. Kim Wennermark

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

Jack Ringland made a motion seconded by Gail Lawson and unanimously approved to accept the May 15, 2014 minutes. (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Maryellen Hagerty, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, PhD., Jeffrey Machado, Diana Marcotte, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

4. Office of Rehabilitation Services Report – Ronald Racine

- ORS has hired 4 Rehabilitation Counselors and one Assistant Administrator, these new positions will be working with consumer with developmental disabilities. The Department of Justice decision has resulted in approximately 3,000 new referrals that will be entering our scope. Many have already started to come to our office heavily weighted with required assessments. This influx is causing overload of our staff. Last year we spent around 4 million over the previous year's budget for these referrals. There is a need for additional staff but also we may have to restrict our Waiting List. There is a good chance that if this situation continues we will have to put everyone on the Waiting List. However, anyone currently receiving services would not be cut off but new clients needing service will most likely have to wait. The average wait time could be over a year because our capacity to deal with this additional influx is already maxed out.
- Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) took place in May. As a result, the Independent Living Program and ATAP are moving out of the RSA, this means ORS will no longer have oversight of these programs. Additionally, ORS is mandated to spend 15 percent of our funding on Transition activities. We already spend significantly more than this but now we will have to track our spending for those funds differentiating between direct service funds and staff time. We are currently developing a strategy to working on how we will do this.
- Director Powell has approved funds for one of the SRC Officers to attend the NCSRC conference in Miami in November. Jeff may not be able to attend but Gail can. We look forward to the valuable information that will come out of this conference.

There was a discussion of the problematic nature of expanding the Waiting List to all clients. The Council is very concerned about The possible expansion of the Waiting List and wants to actively support increasing funding so enough staff can be available to meet this increasing demand. There may be a need to create an adhoc committee to work on this.

5. SRC Report - Jeffrey Machado

Since our mini-retreat over the summer, we have had discussions going on behind the scenes addressing the meeting conversations and the survey results with the goal of moving forward. The main implications for membership are training, meeting format and facilitation, and what subcommittees we want to keep as permanent. Many of these factors have been effected by the transition of leadership in the past few years, and lack of leadership training. Nancy, Gail and myself met with David Sienko, a former Chair of the Council, and then with Ron to see how we can meet expectations. These meetings were productive in furthering our understanding of what direction the Council needs to move toward. Here are our main goals.

1. Training/Orientation – This meeting needs to be every year. It would be mandatory for all new members and optional for current members. The meeting structure will be determined by the new membership training subcommittee. Nancy is researching

materials for this new committee to work with. (The new committee will first have to be approved by membership). The materials can also be sent out on a regular basis, some materials every month, to keep membership active with training.

2. Meeting Structure and Facilitation – Our meetings need to be issue driven and we need to follow Rules of Order. We will start putting in New Business for our meetings and set up a timeframe for this to be presented to membership.
3. Reviewing Subcommittees – We offer the following ideas / suggestions, have three standing committees, the executive leadership, the state plan, policy and quality assurance, and the membership training. That leaves us free to form adhoc committees as the need arises. All members will be required to sit on one of the two standing subcommittees and all officers (that means co-chairs of subcommittees as well) will sit on the executive leadership committee.
4. Retreat Meeting – We strongly advised on an annual basis to start our year. We should plan for this once we have our training, committee structure and meeting facilitation in order. The initial one might be with an outside facilitator but after that we should be able to hold this event annually to set our strategies.

A discussion of the adhoc committees that might be needed, other than the By-laws, proposed taking a look at the Department of Justice ruling and the effects on ORS and the consumers, to consider reforming the transportation committee, and to establish a committee that would be more data driven reviewing the standards and indicators and other measurable program numbers from the VR (ORS) program. All these suggestions as well as any other ideas for adhoc committees moving forward will need to be considered by the executive leadership.

6. By-laws Revisions – Gail Lawson, PhD.

After the meeting in May, where the first draft of the By-laws revisions were reviewed, the committee has made the changes Suggested at that time. We are presenting them to the Council for a 30-day review then vote at our November meeting. (Documents attached)

Motion

Willa Truelove made a motion seconded by Jack Ringland and unanimously approved to accept the revisions to By-laws presented to the council for a 30 day review. (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Maryellen Hagerty, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, PhD., Jeffrey Machado, Diana Marcotte, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

7. Open Comments

Elizabeth Graves informed the Council that she would be stepping back from presenting the SILC minutes to the SRC and Christina Battista will take her place. She will still sit on the SRC and present the Governor's Advisory Council for the Blind reports.

Dr. Judith Drew wants to establish a partnership with nonprofit community organization and the students in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling from Salve Regina University. Anyone interested in more information please let her know. Nancy can give you her contact information.

Dan Pieroni has a presentation on Transition for a project called Meet Education Project.

<http://meeteducationproject.com/2014/10/09/dan-pieroni/> or @ meeteducationproject.com

Rocco Brunno felt that people with disabilities could be more represented in media. That the more people are exposed to persons with disabilities the better tolerance and understanding people can have.

Diana Kriner presented a 5th annual transition conference pamphlet from Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) and invited membership to attend. <http://www.ripin.org/pdfs/2014%20Parent%20Conference%20Save%20the%20Date.pdf>

Motion

Gail Lawson made a motion seconded by Cynthia M. Cote and unanimously approved to adjourn. (vote – approved - Christina Battista, Rocco Bruno, Lea Colardo, Kelley Conti, Cynthia M. Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Joan Fino, Elizabeth Graves, Maryellen Hagerty, Diana Kriner, Gail Lawson, PhD., Jeffrey Machado, Diana Marcotte, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy L. Baker, SRC Facilitator