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NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025

Roll Call

Members Present: Terry Peterson, Mercedes Drechsel, Jacey Enget, Jim Flemming, Misty Bouilly, Trampes Brown, Lea Kugel, Amy Arenz, Angie Dubovoy, Josh Villbrandt, Robyn Soiseth, Chaz Brobst

Others Present: Alicia Halle, Cheryl Anderson, Barb Burghart, Robyn Throlson

Members Absent: Shannon Cook, Landis Larson, Renee Wetzsteon, Gillian Plenty Chief

Call to Order: Amy Arenz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. There was a quorum.

Action: A motion to accept the January agenda was made by Lea Kugel and seconded by Jacey Enget. Motion carried.

Action: A motion to approve the October 2024 minutes was made by Angie Dubovoy and seconded by Josh Villbrandt. Motion carried.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Region II (Minot) Update - Tanya Ide

Goals: (25% through the year)

Applicants

2025- 78 of 300- 26%

2024- 296/300- 99%

VR Plans/Service

2025- 50 of 250- 20%

2024- 238 of 250- 95%

Employed

2025- 28 of 110- 25%

2024- 116/115- 101%

Business Services

2025- 140 of 625- 22%

2024- 652/625- 104%

Transition Services:

Serving 33 High Schools, Minot Adult Learning Center, and Job Corps.

VR Interim Director Update - Jim Fleming

Training was given from Child Support to Vocational Rehabilitation staff to better integrate the process for suspended drivers' licenses for nonpayment of child support.

The Legislature has convened. A change of Governors makes program budgets more complicated.

The VR Interim Director, Jim Fleming, will present testimony for VR in early February. He will be presenting on HB1012, which includes the VR budget and HB 1066, which relates to the minimum wage paid by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is under VR.

The federal government is being funded by a continuing resolution – no new money, including no inflationary adjustments to the VR grant.

The budget assumes a three percent increase in federal grant dollars and the corresponding increase in state funds to draw down the full grant.

Compression of program funding creates a heightened need for savings in all aspects of program operations. Exploration of outside revenue or additional reimbursements and the possibility for remote staff in Region III (Devils Lake).

Appeals Report - Robyn Throlson – VR is waiting on one report from the Supreme Court. The time to get that back is unknown at this time.

Statewide Independent Living Council - Robyn Soiseth - No report.

Tribal Update - No report.

National SRC update - Tabled.

Bylaws - Amy Arenz – Discussion on potential changes to the bylaws. Changes will be presented at the next meeting.

Elections

Amy Arenz called for nominations for Chair. Lea Kugel nominated Amy Arenz. No other nominations were made. All voting members present were in favor. No one opposed.

Amy called for nominations for the Chair Elect. Chaz Brobst nominated Jacey Enget. No other nominations were made. All voting members present were in favor. No one opposed.

October 2025 meeting - Rescheduled to Oct 21.

Planning and Evaluation Committee - Robyn Throlson gave a report on the Client purchase policy and the Maintenance transportation vehicle repair policy. Other committees tabled with Chair approval.

Action: The Council supported the change in the Client purchase policy and the Maintenance transportation vehicle repair policy.

Public Comment - no one present.

Jacey Enget made a motion to adjourn, and Angie Dubovoy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm. Motion carried.