

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**  
**QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., CST

**Members Present:** Cynthia Goulet, Trevor Vannett, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Russ Cusack, Jason Sutheimer, Landis Larson, Jacey Enget, Shannon Cook, Damian Schlinger

**Members Absent:** Terry Peterson, Cathy Quintane, Trampes Brown, Jodi Webb, Matthew McCleary, Tina Bay, Bruce Murry

**Call to Order:** Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Action:** A motion to amend/accept the agenda was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Jason Sutheimer. Motion carried.

**Action:** A motion to approve the January 2022 minutes was made by Landis Larson and seconded by Lea Kugel. Motion carried.

**DVR Regional IV Update – David Kvasager**

- Serve 19 high schools in the region
- One Pre-ETS contract with the Grand Forks Transition Academy
- Accomplishing goals with applications, eligibilities, and employment plans
- Networking with businesses to bring in referrals
- Various tours to outside partner agencies and businesses
- Have improved partnerships with schools
- Working closely with VR Business Specialist to bring in referrals

**DVR Region VII Update – Sam Reese**

- Serve six counties and two tribal programs
- Currently have 105 active cases
- Serve 20 schools
- Vision Rehab Specialist has met all goals
- One Pre-ETS contract currently and hope to develop additional contracts with other districts

**VR Director Update - Damian Schlinger**

- Key Performance Indicators /Goals/Performance for our clients - track 11 different key metrics-on pace with all goals and ahead of a majority of goals
- Update on the Unified State Plan 2-year modification. Minor changes regarding changing federal fiscal year to program year in the VR portion. Still waiting for comments regarding the plan in its entirety
- Parking fees/grant solicitation - ready for distribution-beginning distribution next week
- Encouraging VR staff to join community service organizations-network with business decision makers
- Projects
  - Staff Development and Tools – digital resource library; Career Paths for VR staff; working on a compensation proposal to help retain VR staff
  - Provider capacity – defining what referral information goes to providers, increasing formal communication

- Improving access to VR services
- SCSEP - public 2-year state plan modification and budget modification accepted by ACL

### **SILC Update - Russ Cusack**

Next SILC meeting – May 5, 6, Alerus Center – Grand Forks

The meeting agenda includes:

- A discussion and vote on changes to SILC bylaws related to membership terms.
- Presentations at the meeting from stakeholder groups will include North Dakota Vision Service, Veterans Service and Qualified Service Provider

SILC expects to have full membership after the May meeting

SILC members have actively been engaged in meeting of the:

- Olmstead Commission
- State Commission on Aging
- Money Follows the Person Stakeholder meetings

### **Tribal Update**

Pat Walking Eagle is the new Director for Spirit Lake American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation

Joined virtually-introductions of all SRC members. Looking forward to continued collaboration

### **CAP Report-Cynthia**

- CAP numbers are the last fiscal year have been low however back to typical amounts at present. Russ Cusick has given many CAP presentations and trainings to various entities statewide
- CAP/VR rarely have cases go to higher level mitigation due to collaborative nature of the two agencies.

### **Appeals Report**

The appeals report will be changed from the April agenda to January. Discussion on the intent of the Appeals and CAP reports

### **Committee Break Outs**

#### **Membership/Public Relations Committee -Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Chair**

- Reviewed membership
- Mercedes Drechsel new VR counselor representative
- Reviewed recruitment needs

#### **Planning/Evaluation Committee – Terry Peterson, Chair**

Update on the Unified State Plan 2-year modification. Minor changes regarding changing federal fiscal year to program year in the VR portion. Still waiting for comments regarding the plan in its entirety.

- Reviewed the proposed amendments to the Client Purchases Operational Policy. A few suggestions were made to clarify wording. Not voted on due to no quorum.
- Discussed the Client Satisfaction Survey results from Quarter 4. No concerning trends noted.

#### **Resource Committee – Jason Sutheimer, Chair**

Discussion around staff compensation

**Employment Committee** – Bruce Murry, Chair

- Going to elect a vice chair at a future meeting when majority of committee members are present.
- Damian to get in contact with League of Cities and will also utilize government pathways for communication of parking fee requirements. Brainstorming FAQs from municipalities when they become instructed to follow new grant process.
- Need to determine future objectives for the committee

**Public Comment** - There was no one present for public for comment.

**Next meeting – July 20, 2022**

10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. CST via TEAMS and in person

**Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm**