

NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES 7/9/2024 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. CST

Members Present: Mercedes Drechsel, Jacey Enget, Renee Wetzsteon, Misty Bouilly, Lea Kugel, Amy Arenz, Angie Dubovoy, Chaz Brobst.

Others Present: Alicia Halle, Cheryl Anderson, Robyn Throlson, Jennifer Moldenhauer, Cathy Quintane, Jim Fleming, Barb Burghart

Members Absent: Trampes Brown, Shannon Cook, Terry Peterson, Russ Cusack, Landis Larson

Roll Call

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

Motion: A motion to amend the agenda to add Jennifer Moldenhauer and Cathy Quintane as VR presenters, was accepted. Motion to accept was made by Renee Wetzsteon and seconded by Jacey Enget. Motion carried.

Motion: A motion to approve the April 2024 minutes was made by Lea Kugel and seconded by Chaz Brobst. Motion carried.

VR Region VI (Jamestown) Update

The region covers Wells, Foster, Griggs, Stutsman, Barnes, Logan, Lamoure, McIntosh, and Dickey counties. 8 employees in the region.

Growth in partnership with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health. Monthly meetings with Developmental Disabilities staff. Behavioral Health invited VR to their staff meetings for the purpose of increasing successful employment outcomes for mutual clients.

Region serves 24 secondary ed, 3 vocational centers, 2 adult ed and 3 universities. Strong relationship with schools.

Challenges to employment are access to affordable housing, transportation, and childcare.

Last year met and exceeded goals. Have achieved 86% of goals with 154 of 176 applications.

77% of successful closures with 58 of 74.

Average eligibility time is 19 days.

Average 44 days to plan.

VR Region VIII (Dickinson) Update

Serves 8 counties.

One counselor resigned. An intern stayed on to fill that position.

Vision Specialist has resigned.

Hybrid office – staff work from home and the office. They can offer virtual visits to clients.

Average 14 days to eligibility.

Staff meet with clients on a biweekly basis to increase engagement.

Has a Pre-ETS contract with Dickinson High School.

Working to improve referrals for transition students.

They are at 98% for applications.

79% for the year on successful employment closures.

New partnership with Heartview.

Meeting Dates 2025

Action: Keep the Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each quarter from 1-4

Motion: A motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates was made by Renee Wetzsteon and seconded by Angie Dubovoy.
Motion carried.

VR Assistant Director Update

Introduction of the Interim Director-Jim Flemish

Increase in Successful Closures – the highest recently by 30%

Increase in cases served.

Served more people than in entire FFY 22-23 or prior years. 36% increase from highest recent years

Completed New Provider Onboarding Packet – shared with providers and have received positive feedback.

State Plan has been submitted and approved.

Priorities framework for the Disability Employment Learning Collaborative has been submitted to NGA.

Plan on working with WDC for Accommodations Fund and for establishing a Disability Council.

Implemented Drive notes- a way of formatting the counselor's documentation.

Alicia Halle invited Mercedes Drechsel to present about her attendance at the national SRC and CSAVR.

Opportunity for an SRC member to attend the National Coalition of State Rehab Councils this fall.

<https://www.ncsrc.us/>

Tribal Updates- no one present.

Committee Break Outs

Membership-Trampes Brown

Need a SILC rep and business rep.

Renee Wetzsteon and Jacey Enget will contact a few businesses.

Trevor Vannett has applied to come back to the Council.

Planning & Evaluation Terry Peterson

Reviewed Strategic Plan Data for the quarter.

Reviewed results from the latest Satisfaction Survey

Market Decisions Marketing was awarded the contract for the Survey.

New contract starting – staff will review survey questions for possible revisions.

Resource-Landis Larson

Not receiving the appropriate amount of funds for the parking fees. VR is working with legal to rectify this.

Public Comment-there was no one on the line for public comment.

A motion was made by Jacey Enget to adjourn the meeting and Misty Bouilly seconded.

Motion carried.

Adjourned 4:02 pm