

NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES 10/8/2024
1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. CST

Members Present: Terry Peterson, Mercedes Drechsel, Jim Fleming, Lea Kugel, Amy Arenz, Angie Dubovoy, Josh Villbrandt, Chaz Brobst.

Members Absent, Trampes Brown, Shannon Cook, Jacey Enget, Misty Bouilly, Landis Larson, Renee Wetzsteon, Robyn Soiseth.

Others present: Cheryl Anderson, Robyn Throlson, Alicia Halle, Barb Burghart.

Roll Call

No quorum. Meeting minutes could not be voted on.

The committee members agreed on the agenda and to begin the meeting.

VR Region VII (Bismarck) Update

Summary of Goals this past year:

110 Services

New participants - 536 goal of 475. 446 last year.

Initial plans - 397 with a goal of 365. 323 last year.

Closed Successful - 150 with a goal of 155. 139 last year.

Average caseload - 74 - total of 996 cases last year - this year 1,156.

Vision Services

67 apps with goal of 65

157 home visits with goal of 100

54 VR/Vision clients with goal of 35

100% client satisfaction

Transition for justice-involved - 2 counselors work with persons exiting their residency at one of the four correctional facilities in Bismarck/Mandan. 150 cases between the two counselors.

Summary of transition to FileNet. Over 650 files to digitize.

Staff is stable - no retirements/resignations this past year.

SCSEP – Two participants working for VR. Starting another participant to assist at the reception area. Will also utilize a participant from the Dickinson region to work on a project developing a resource guide for justice involved.

Restarted orientation. Greatly reduced the amount of wait time from initial contact to application.

Transition - Mor Grant Sioux special education submitted Pre-ETS proposal. It is under review.

Rural Services- Elton Lassiter attended an agriculture meeting in Atlanta. Continues to serve our region and assist other regions in our work with farmers and ranchers.

VR Director Update

Explained role as interim director.

Exploring an increase in teleworking and reducing office space.

Started monthly all staff meetings.

VR conference this week.

Business services had a consultant meet with staff and made recommendations.

VR website may see some updates.

VR and Child Support will partner to coordinate services.

Working on a revised higher ed. worksheet and procedures.

Staff Changes:

Warren Granfor retired – Heather Mertz took his position.

Emily Hagemester took Heathers position.

Patty Wanner is retiring-Stacee Keller took her position.

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) - no one available to update

Tribal Updates - no one available to update

Committees

Membership -Trampes Brown, Chair

All positions on the Council are filled. Need one more person with a disability to meet 51%.

Resource - Landis Larson, Chair

No members present to meet.

Planning and Evaluation - Shannon Cook, Chair

Discussion of statewide goals

Lack of direct care staff to serve clients – providers having trouble finding employees. Clients are on wait lists at times.

Transportation for clients around the state continues to be problematic.

Changes may be coming to business services.

Public Comment – No one present for public comment.

The committee members agreed to adjourn at 3:30.