

# North Dakota State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

## Members Present:

Trevor Vannett, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Terry Peterson, Trampes Brown, Jacey Enget, Tina Bay, Amy Arenz, Damian Schlinger, Kevin Phelps, Shannon Cook, Angie Dubovoy, Lea Kugel, Russ Cusack

**Members Absent:** Jodi Webb, Matthew McCleary, Landis Larson

**Others Present:** Robyn Throlson, Jennifer Moldenhauer, Aimee Easton, Cheryl Anderson Alicia Hall

**Call to Order:** Trevor Vannett called the meeting to order at 1:00. There was quorum.

**Action:** A motion to accept the agenda was made by Jacey Enget and seconded by Shannon Cook. Motion carried.

**Action:** A motion to approve the July 2022 minutes was made by Jacey Enget and seconded by Trampes Brown. Motion carried.

## VR Region VI Update – Jennifer Moldenhauer

110 program covers

- Wells, Foster, Griggs, Stutsman, Barnes, Logan, Lamoure, McIntosh, and Dickey counties for

Vision covers

- Logan, Lamoure, Ransom, McIntosh, Ransom, Stutsman, Barnes, Sargent and Kidder counties

Four Counselors, one Vision Specialist and two support staff. Counselor position was open for seven months and finally full staffed since July.

Met and exceeded our office goals

- In the 110 program
- We had 143 applications, up 47 from last year
- We had 59 individuals achieve competitive gainful employment

Region Transition service

- 26 secondary ed, 3 vocational centers, 2 adult ed and 3 universities. E
- Exceeded Pre-ETS staff time goal with highest year - 2681 hours.

Increased collaboration with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health

- VR will attend Behavioral Health staff meetings to maintain collaboration and staff mutual clients.

Regular monthly meetings with seven Community Rehab Providers

- Staff shortages, including job coaches has been a challenge.

Regular meetings with Corrections

- Vocational planning including application and transition to discharge planning.

## VR Region I Update –Aimee Easton

Counties Served: McKenzie Williams and Divide County

Five employees

- One Vision staff shared with Minot
- One counselor stationed in Watford City-increasing referrals

Met and exceeded goals

All but one school has a Pre-ETS contract and that one is inquiring

**VR Director Update**-Damian Schlinger

2022 great year- staff working together across regions to share ideas

Met all goals and seven out of nine regional stretch goals

Challenges-turnover last year was 23%

Equity raises have occurred

Working on developing Provider and client portal

Have a strategic plan for 2022-2023

VR director will present at CSAVR conference on increasing number of applicants

Change in administrative code re: staff minimum qualifications

**State Independent Living Council (SILC)**-Russ Cusack

NDSILC continues with committee work. Internal and External Affairs work toward achieving the goals and objectives included in the State Plan for Independent Living. The SILC will meet in-person November 3rd and 4th in Minot with an option for virtual attendance. All Centers for Independent Living continue to respond to increased demand for transition and diversion from nursing home placement.

**No Tribal Updates****Membership/Public Relations Committee**-Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon

Need HB 1135 Council representative filled

Need three people with disabilities on the Council

Dining in the Dark Oct 20 in Minot at Sleep Inn-four-course meal \$60.00 per ticket

Email Trampes Brown [trampesbrown@gmail.com](mailto:trampesbrown@gmail.com) for further information.

**Planning and Evaluation Committee**-Terry Peterson

Eligibility standards discussion-improving process for people to apply to increase number of applicants

Push to increase the applicant numbers and with that maintaining enough staff to provide quality service

61 average open cases

38 counselors in the state

Tax credit 61 of 100 slots filled

Summary of the client satisfaction 98% said they would refer a friend to VR

**Resource Committee**- Trevor Vannett

Change in counselor standards -CRC is not required but is still offered. Working on more levels of advancement for staff.

**Employment Committee**

Shannon is now the chair

Planning around goals for the committee

**No public comment**

**Action:** A motion to adjourn was made by Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon and seconded by Jacey Enget. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** January 3