

## **NORTH DAKOTA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES April 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., CST

**Members Present:** Angie Dubovoy, Trevor Vannett, Terry Peterson, Russ Cusack, Raena McIntyre, Trampes Brown, Landis Larson, Shannon Cook, Damian Schlinger, Beth Steckler-Larson, Tina Bay, Matthew McCleary, Alicia Halle, Cheryl Anderson, Robyn Throlson Lea Kugel, Amy Arenz, Barb Burghart, Tom Schiwal,  
**Members Absent:** Jodi Webb, Renee Speidel-Wetzsteon, Jacey Enget, Kevin Phelps

**Call to Order:** Amy Arenz called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. There was a quorum.

**Action:** A motion to accept the agenda was made by Trevor Vannett and seconded by Lea Kugel. Motion carried.

**Action:** A motion to approve the January 2023 minutes was made by Matthew McCleary and seconded by Tina Bay. Motion carried.

**VR Region III Update-Devils Lake** - Samantha Reese-out of the office-will present another time

**VR Region VII Update-Bismarck-Tom Schiwal**

Office is moving upstairs-same building- they will be in suite 1b and looking for a permanent place Working with dept of corrections to assist individuals to transition out of facilities

9 counselors

Case load average 67

Individual Plans for employment-ahead of their goals

Closed successful - 44% of the goal

Possibly getting a SCSEP participant for the VR office

Currently have an intern

**VR Director Update-Alicia Halle & Damian Schlinger**

Business Engagement - Created a 5 Step process, have looked at initial contacts and are now focused on Step 2 Negotiation and Investigation Phase; Centralized Processes - Looking at centralizing applications/intakes and various administrative processes-Developing project plan and identifying various roles; I.T. – Moving towards an electronic file system; Looking at Client and Provider Portal options; New Provider Onboarding - Making progress. Focused on steps in place and assignments for each member. To Do List created for accountability and deadlines. Using milestones to stay on task; People/Toolkit - Available as of last Friday.

QRP – HB 1244 – House bill 1244 signing next week so attend if possible

In process of establishing a quarterly VR Performance meeting to gain perspective regarding how VR is doing in meeting mission and will address operational aspects in an organized way.

Double digit increases in closed cases, applications, employer services, and vision services. Slightly behind in goal for closed cases (2%), but ahead in our other areas. At the end of March, almost a 19% increase in clients who have applied this year compared to March 2022. Compared numbers in the same time range for successful closures, we have had over 25% increase (March 2022-2023).

Currently averaging 18 days statewide to reach eligibility, with two regions making eligibility decisions in an average of 12 days and 3 others in an average of 16 days. ND VR was # 1 in the nation for assisting people with disabilities to obtain employment. Vision was # 3 in the nation for keeping people with disabilities in their home.

**State Independent Living Council (SILC)-Russ Cusack** 2022 Annual Report is out

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Vocational%20Rehabilitation/2022%20SILC%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Doing some work around advocating for improved accessible transportation

Had a great presentation on scams from a rep with the attorney general's office.

The centers for independent living are working diligently on getting people out of nursing homes

**Tribal Updates**-no report

**CAP report**- Angie Dubovoy

FY 2022

Nick Murphy & Angie Dubovoy (Advocates)

13 Trainings to 308 people

8 exhibits at conferences, community fairs, etc.

29 individuals served through CAP

P&A and VR have worked collaboratively and mailings explaining CAP services were over 2,330 current VR clients

P & A Services, Confidentiality, and Grievance process in English and Spanish

P&A created three Spanish versions of English language videos; one covering the topic of competitive integrated employment

**Business Awards**-Amy Arenz

Members who would be willing to assist with reviewing and scoring VR business award nominations are:

Russ Cusack

Terry Peterson

Tina Bay

Amy Arenz

Beth Larson-Steckler

**Employment**-Shannon Cook

Legislative report – much talk about transportation- asking for people to testify

Call Becky Hanson 328-2542- to report transportation issues/requests. She will be collecting this feedback for legislative reporting.

**Membership**-Trampes Brown

Need two members with disabilities

We are under 51%

Asking for assistance from the council to give the membership committee their contacts, newsletters, Facebook, etc. to disseminate SRC membership opportunities

**Planning & Evaluation** Terry Peterson

Reviewed the strategic plan data

Currently meeting satisfaction rate and even exceeding

SS benefits planning saw a decline but still at 88%

Terry Peterson recommends SRC members experience a VR employee interview-was educational for him

Approved the VR Counselor Positions Policy

**Resource**-Landis Larson

VR is currently developing training for new staff hired as a VR counselor. There is a team developing the QRP standards, measures, evaluation, etc. of when new counselors have acquired the skills to meet the definition of QRP. The agency plans to have a draft of the QRP training and evaluation by July 2023. Developing training plans for each position. A motion was made by Trevor Vannett to accept the changes in the definition of a QRP and seconded by Matthew McCleary. Motion carried.

**Public comment:** none

At 3:30 p.m. CT a motion was made by Landis Larson to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Matthew McCleary.