



State of Connecticut

Department of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

September 13, 2017

SRC Meeting Notes

CVH

1000 Silver Street, Merritt Hall/Finkelstein Room
Middletown, CT

Attendance:

SRC Members: Thomas Boudreau; Gary Prushko: Acting-Chairperson; Patrick Melfi, Kate Travis,

Non-Voting Members: David Doukas, BRS Director

BRS Staff: Kerri Fradette, Liaison; Warren Stamp

Excused: Joe Wendover, Kristen Winkle, Shannon, McCann, Bruce Stovall, Beth Reel

Volunteers: Melissa Taylor; Vicki Kowaleski

Absent: Patrick Melfi; Andrea Richardson; Kate Travis; Bruce Stovall; David Morgana Jr., Joe Wendover, Kim Beckett

Visitors: Sean Kennedy, Linda Mizzi, Linda Rammler

Brief Introductions – Everyone

Minutes (June 21, 2017) – Tom Boudreau reviewed, Approved

Budget – Gary Prushko

Budget sheet was reviewed. Budget was the same except for an increase for transportation. The fiscal year ends this month and no funds can be rolled over. Tom commented that CSNA needs to be paid and other committees have money allocated that can be moved to other committees in the SRC to use. NEAT membership should have also been paid and in the SRC budget. Kerri will look into it.

SRC Leadership – Gary Prushko, Acting-Chairperson

- Gary talked about the NCSRC conference in Greenville, S.C. from 11/11-12/17. Gary is unable to attend so if any SRC member would like to attend the conference please contact both Gary/Kerri. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on the conference. There will also be a spring conference in D.C. for SRC member(s) to attend.
- New members were announced: **Shannon McCann** has been appointed as a new SRC member. The following people have submitted SRC applications: **Melissa Taylor** and **Vicki Kowaleski**.
- New member training will be held soon for those interested in learning more about the SRC and for those who need a refreshed on the committee.

BRS Update – David Doukas, BRS Director

- WIOA comment period on regulations- advocate for underlying principles was discussed.
- Level Up Update: 15% of budget goes towards LU and that leaves 85% for the rest of the VR program. A lot of uncertainty on the amount of funds/budget from RSA. CT has been on the decline as to the amount of funding available. CT has rising fringe costs, 15% set aside for L.U. and operating budget is in jeopardy. Because of the funding issue BRS may have to move to an “order of selection” model. This means BRS would have to serve individuals with the most severe disabilities (based on 7 areas of functional limitations) first and this could create a potential waiting list. This could cut out 40% of BRS clients. A public meeting will be set up if this goes forward.
- New positions: posted for Level Up Supervisor & District Director (Southern Region)
- Norwich, New London & Danielson offices could be faced with closing offices and possible consolidation to Uncasville and Willimantic.
- RSA has language out on requiring pre-approval on a lot of expenses. This could create a delay in projects. More information will be made available on this topic.

SRC Update – Kerri Fradette, Liaison

- **Vision 2020** Overview was included in the folders. This information will be shared at the BRS annual meeting on November 1, 2017. The SRC is encouraged to attend and hear from Stephen Wooderson , CEO, CSAVR on this national VR
- **Slate of New Officers:** it’s that time of year to nominate and vote on new officers. Voting will take place at the November meeting.
- **The Future of YLF:** Sean Kennedy, BRS counselor discussed the value, positive aspects and the life changing impact YLF made on his life. YLF is faced with a budget reduction. YLF is

looking for new funding sources and a committee to sustain the forum.

- **Setting up 2018 meetings:** dates have been set and locations will rotate around the state.

Committee Reports

- **Business Partnership** – Kate Travis, Chair
Continuing to work on a pamphlet/post card with a link to BRS and a QR code to have quick access to the website for employers to see how BRS can help them and the return investment.
- **Consumer Satisfaction** – Vacant, Chair is needed.
- **Intercouncil/Nominations** – Vacant, Chair
Several names are in the governor's office, noted that there has been a delay, Kerri is aware. SRC is looking for the new appointments and hoping they will join the consumer satisfaction committee.
- **Legislation, Policy & Planning** – Tom Boudreau, Chair
No other members are in this committee due to they have left the SRC. The committee is waiting for the finalized elements for WIOA, legislation.

Questions/Comments:

Customized employment announcement was discussed by visitor Linda Mizzi from Disability Rights.

2:50 P – Adjourn

Next Meeting – November 29, 2017 – The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Library, bldg. 4 270 Farmington Ave, Farmington CT

Submitted by,

Kerri Fradette