

State Rehabilitation Council Minutes

Atlanta, GA

DAY 1: January 16, 2018

SRC Members Present: Rossany Rios, Chris Moder, Joy Norman, Brian Mosley, Kayla Wilson, Jennifer Page, Dawn Johnson, Lisa Leiter, Karen Adams, Ruby Kaspers, Wina Low, Justin Pressley, Steve Oldaker

SRC Members Participating via Conference Call: Carl McKinney, Deborah Lovell

SRC Members Who Were Absent: Kip Slade, Peggy Venable, Brenda Bentley-Parrish, Lewis Wheaton, Mike Pryor, Sean Casey

SRC Liaison: Robin Blount **SRC Program Associate:** Jacqueline Gregory

GVRA Staff: Kevin Harris, Crystal Perry, Dale Arnold, John Boan, Angel Bryant

Guests: Paige Tidwell, Hamida Jinnah, Stacey Gardenhire

SRC Chair's Report:

- **Rossany Rios** called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM. Introductions were made.
- She thanked the council members for their trust and assured everyone her commitment to the council.
- She asked for approval of September minutes.
Chris Moder motion to agree to approved the minutes.
Steve Oldaker Second.
All members agreed.
- **SRC Chair Rossany Rios** discussed Onboarding and the need for the council members to understand Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). A short video from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) website was shown to the Council.
 - She discussed the first 4 mandates of the SRC and the first mandates is to review, analyze, and advise. We need to be able to have the information, which is a responsibility of VR to ensure that information with us, but we need to be able to be informed in a timely manner.
 - The 2nd mandate is to develop, agree to, and review state goals for recommendations to the VR section of the Georgia Unified Plan.
 - The 3rd mandate is to evaluate the effectiveness of the VR Program and report progress to the secretary in accordance with our legislation. This is done through the annual customer satisfaction survey.
 - The 4th mandate is to advise the designated state agencies on activities regarding

the preparation of the vocational rehabilitation services. This also refers to advising VR on the Georgia Unified Plan.

Review of Current SRC Committees and their Responsibilities/SRC Committees Report

- **SRC Chair**

Action Item(s)	(1) Create an Onboarding training for SRC members
Responsible	Rossany Rios
Deadline	Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens

- **Membership Committee**

Action Item(s)	(1) Create a one pager flyer to recruit new SRC members. (2) Work with the Communication and Marketing Committee to add an SRC member's recruitment tool in the SRC website.
Responsible	(1) Steve Oldaker (Committee chair), committee members (2) Steve Oldaker, committee members, John Boan and Karen Adams (Comm. & Marketing Committee chair)
Deadline	(1) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens (2) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens

- **Policy Committee**

Action Item(s)	(1) Distribute revised bylaws changes to committee members (2) Review revised bylaws changes and submit comments (3) Approve revised bylaws final draft (4) Committee Report
Responsible	(1) Jennifer Page (Committee Chair) and committee members (2) Council members (3) Council members (4) Jennifer Page
Deadline	(1) January 22, 2018 (2) February 21 st , 2018 (3) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens (4) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens

- **Communication and Marketing Committee**

Action Item(s)	(1) Develop a draft plan for SRC communication and marketing (2) Work in conjunction with GVRA Communication and Marketing office on updating and expanding SRC website. (3) Committee Report
Responsible	(1) Karen Adams (Committee Chair), Lisa Leiter, Joy Norman and GVRA Comm. & Marketing representative. (2) Karen Adams (Committee Chair), Lisa Leiter, Joy Norman and GVRA Comm. & Marketing representative. (3) Karen Adams will give committee report
Deadline	(1) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens (2) Ongoing

- **Legislative Committee**

Action Item(s)	(1) Reach out the GVRA to create a one pager with talking points for SRC member to talk to legislators. (2) Develop a year around legislative plan to approach law makers and advocate for PWD and GVRA.
Responsible	(1) Dawn Johnson (Committee Chair), Justin Pressley, Lisa Leiter, GVRA External Affairs Office representative and GVRA Comm. & Marketing Office representative.
Deadline	(1) Next SRC Meeting April 25 th &26 th in Athens. (2) Ongoing

SRC Website Update from John Boan, GVRA Communications Manager

- Said it has bios and pictures of SRC members.
- Spoke on having information on the website explaining what SRC does and have contact information and maybe a breakdown of different committees
- Spoke on how to make public comments on website.

National SRC Conference Update from Dawn Johnson

- She attended the national meeting of SRC's in Greenville, South Carolina in November
- She said they went over the federal regulation changes and talked a lot about WIOA.
- Spoke on what Order of Selections does.
- She explained category one is a limitation of three (3 or more functional areas. This is the people with the most needs.
- Category two (2) is where you require multiple VR services for a long period of time.
- Category three (3) exists so VR can meet target number and move people through the services.

Customer Satisfaction Survey from Paige Tidwell

- Paige presented a slide presentation of the executive summary of the FY 2017 annual customer satisfaction survey
- She did an in-depth review of survey results for VR clients, counselors and Community Rehabilitation Providers

SRC Public Hearing and VR Proposed Policy Change

- **Rossany Rios** issued handouts of the SRC Public Hearing Protocol and pulled it up on the slide for presentation.
- She went over the handouts in details
- **Crystal Perry** sent the Protocol to Jennifer Howell, Policy Manager for feedback
- Crystal stated that Jennifer had only one change
- **Crystal** discussed policy changes from WIOA and feedback from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
- Crystal stated that the only time the VR Policy Unit will make changes is if they find a pattern of things happening instead of creating exceptions, and if it is the right thing to do.
- She stated they will work on a final draft on the proposed policies this week
- Crystal explained that the timeline was to have the policy changes the policies done and implemented by May 1st.
- **Rossany Rios** suggested tabling the discussion of the location, dates and number of public hearings for the SRC meeting on Day 2.

The meeting was adjourned by the SRC Chair at 5:07 pm.

DAY 2: JANUARY 17, 2018

Due to snow the meeting was held by conference call with Robin using her cell phone to open up the lines until they could get the Polycom phone working at the hotel.

SRC Members Present on Phone: Rossany Rios, Chris Moder, Joy Norman, Brian Mosley, Kayla Wilson, Jennifer Page, Dawn Johnson, Lisa Leiter, Karen Adams, Ruby Kaspers, Wina Low, Justin Pressley, Steve Oldaker, Carl McKinney, Deborah Lovell, Sean Casey

SRC Members Who Were Absent: Kip Slade, Peggy Venable, Brenda Bentley-Parrish, Lewis Wheaton, Mike Pryor

SRC Liaison: Robin Blount **SRC Program Associate:** Jacqueline Gregory

GVRA Staff: Sean Casey, Kevin Harris, Crystal Perry, Dale Arnold, Raj Gandy, Angel Bryant
Joycelyn Fowler

SRC Chair, Rossany Rios open the meeting and Introductions were made.

GVRA Executive Update by Sean Casey

- Spoke on the 2018 legislative session.
- Addressed one goal this year is to ask for more money from the legislator for the counselors.
- Spoke on employing more counselors.
- Discussed the return on investment of hiring VR clients from the “Fast Facts” brochure.
- Talked on how the Agency is part of a group whose goal is to introduce legislation making Georgia an Employment First state, so they are in the process of working with legislative council now on the language.
- He mentioned the recent survey on the VR Program and stated the results will be available at the next meeting.
- He discussed the partnership with the Carl Vinson Institute out of UGA to provide leadership training. The reason for this partnership is to address a GVRA weakness, which is turnover.
- He also mentioned the first student graduation at Cave Spring Center.

VR Programmatic Update by Dale Arnold

- Spoke on the Support Services Unit and its different functions.
- Spoke on hiring staff to work with individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Discussed the 2nd Evolution Conference to be held in July.
- Mentioned that Teresa Eggleston, Director of Support Services, is involved in a project at Fort McPherson to increase capacity for accessible, effective, comprehensive and evidence-based recovery support services for veterans.
- Discussed the Sensory Unit which encompasses Blind and Deaf Services.
- Stated they have selected Jared Patton as Assistant Director for Deaf Services and Shirley Robinson as Assistant Director of Blind Services.
- He commented on working with HR to develop training for staff around sensory services and cultural sensitivities related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Blind and Low Vision.
- He stated that this training will also be offered to the Employment Services Unit staff so they understand the complexities of those disabilities and the cultural sensitivity necessary to work with this group.
- He also discussed the Compliance and Policy Unit activities with policy changes.
- He commented on Transition Services.

GVRA Staff Support to the SRC presented by Kevin Harris

- Spoke on how GVRA has made operational changes like separating Communications and Marketing from External Affairs
- He discussed making sure the SRC members, especially SRC Committee Chairs, make sure who to contact as their GVRA staff support person

Public Hearing Discussion

- Locations were discussed and six were agreed on by the SRC.
- The locations were: Savannah, Macon, Augusta, Atlanta, Gainesville, and Albany.
- Justin Pressley made the motion to approve the six (6) locations and Brian Mosley seconded
- All SRC members agreed
- Robin and Jacqueline will set up the public hearings and work with the GVRA Policy unit and Office of Communications and Marketing on the details to make them accessible and get the legal notices in the newspaper for each city where a hearing is being held
- Once Robin receives the final proposed policy change document, it will be emailed to the SRC and provided to the Communications Manager
- Written public comment will also be received online
- Robin and Jacqueline will strive to have the six public hearings end about two weeks before the May 1st deadline

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Update by Steve Oldaker

- He mentioned the SILC quarterly meeting teleconference on a January 25, 2018
- He gave updates on SILC activities, subcommittees, and more
- Steve mentioned that the quarterly meetings are primarily for SILC Board, Staff and Centers for Independent Living (CILs) executive directors
- Contact Becky Ramage-Tuttle at rrtuttle@silcga.org or call 770-270-6860 if you wish to participate
- Steve also mentioned Independent Living Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 8, 2018, 11 AM - 2 PM, Room: CAP 216
 - He said the purpose of this event is to get to know our legislators and have our legislators get to know the SILC & CILs and learn about the life changing work we do! There will be refreshments.
 - Please RSVP at the following website to attend no later than 1/25/18.
 - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/independent-living-day-at-the-capitol-tickets-41767431512>
 - Contact Becky Ramage-Tuttle at rrtuttle@silcga.org if you require an accommodation.
 - NOTE: You will need your photo ID to enter the Capitol.

- Steve also mentioned the legislative agenda:
 - CILs Expansion - Continue seeking funding to expand the CILs coverage to include more than 50 counties without services.
 - Home Access Program - Retain or expand funding assistance for low income individuals with disabilities to retrofit their housing so that they can safely navigate their homes. Funding has been reduced to \$100,000 annually.
 - Waiver Expansion - Seek additional funding for ICWP, CCSP and other waiver programs that enable individuals with disabilities to live in their communities and not institutions.
 - For more information contact SILC Website: www.silcga.org or call phone: 770-270-6860

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Expense Reimbursement:

- The SRC expense reports were discussed for members to get reimbursed for any expenses associated with quarterly meetings or other events
- Details regarding the state mileage rate were mentioned and it was stated that this rate is set each year in January
- Robin explained that the new state mileage rate would be emailed to all SRC members

Next meeting: April 25-26, Athens, GA

The SRC Chair, Rossany Rios, adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.