**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Georgia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

January 24th, 1pm – 4pm

Athens, GA

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Juliet Hardeman (Chair)

Karen Addams (Co – Chair)

Matthew Barnes

Jerry Haywood

Katie Hearns

Myndi Kuhlmann

Lisa Leiter

Wina Low

Michele Mason

Cherise Milot

Joy Norman

Jennifer Page

Aarti Sahgal

Peggy Venable

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The role call was done. The minutes from the October 25th meeting and agenda for January 24th were approved unanimously.

**Chair Update – Juliet Hardeman**

The Chair spoke about the onboarding with the new members, the resignation of Deborah Hibben, leading to the need to the need to fill the vacant seat. Juliet also talked about the 2023 SRC Annual Report which has been submitted to RSA, NCSRC and the Governor’s office. She mentioned the elections results would be announced at the end of the meeting.

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) 2023**

Dr. Jinnah provided an update of CSNA. She discussed the outcomes from the four surveys (providers, stakeholders, individuals with disabilities and employer).

**SRC Committee Reports**

***Membership- Karen Addams***

Karen shared with the Council the current SRC roster. There are five names currently pending with the Governor’s Appointment Director. The Council would like to have these five names on the council as replacements when current members role off or not reappointment. The Chair suggested a dedicated time year-round to inform consumers about the SRC and to apply for the vacant member slots. Karen is going to send a reminder email to the council for anyone who is interested in working on the membership committee to contact her.

***Public Outreach – Katie Hearn***

Katie informed the Council the Electronic Public Comment Link is live and currently on the SRC webpage and social media page. The inquiries complied from the webpage will be emailed to Juliet and Katie to address. This link will be used by consumers to submit their public comments before the upcoming SRC meetings. Jennifer Howell informed the Council of community calendars in the districts; the Council can connect with the districts about ongoing community events in their local areas.

***Policy Committee – Juliet Hardeman***

Julie will no longer chair the Policy Committee. She polled the Council for volunteers to chair the Policy Committee and for more Council members to serve. Michele Mason announced her interest in joining the Policy Committee.

Elections Results - For the Parliamentarian Position, there was a tie vote. Jennfier Page will need to follow up with the CAP attorney to confirm if she would be able to serve in this role and follow back up with the Liaison. Juliet will serve as Chair, Karen as Vice-Chair, and Katie as Member at large.



**Program Updates**

Director and Policy & Compliance - Jeff Allen

***Pathways to Partnerships***

* Five-year grant to expand outreach efforts and education to students and their supports
* Expand training opportunities of professionals serving youth with disabilities
* The partnership will include two pilot sites in a unique 10-week program with a residential component, soft skills, and employment skills

***Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE)***

* Holding first informational meeting with Creative in Gwinnett and Forsyth
* Presentations to Forsyth County students, teachers, and parents will be in March
* Forsyth County Schools will participate in Everyone Can Work Training
* Working on development of a webpage

***Getting Ready for Opportunities in Work (GROW)***

* Time to start conversations in your community
* No changes to process
* RWS will also be hosting GROW there as well

**Executive Director Update – Chris Wells**

Director Wells provided an overview of the agency’s five programs (VR, RWS/CSC, DAS, BEP, and GIB). He reviewed the agency’s FY2024 Programs Based Budgets along with House Bill 915 – AFYI 2024 Tracking Document. He provided a chart which showed the number of students and VR clients services from FY2021 – FY2024. Direct also shared an update on the Counselor series pay structure from FY2019-FY2024. He informed the Council of the most recent agency updates from Policy, Contracts, MOUs, Outreach, and the programs (RWS/CWS, GIB, VR).

**Travel Updates – Harriett Young**

Harriett updated the Council on the new travel policies that went into effect on December 1st.

**New Business –** Juliet mentioned the upcoming 2024 conferences and for the Council members to email her and the Liaison. Upcoming meeting dates are Wednesday, April 24 (virtual), Wednesday, July 2024, and Wednesday, October 2024. Locations are TBD.

**Old Business** – None

**Public Comments** – None

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th, the meeting will be virtual.