**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Georgia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

January 25, 2022, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Athens VR Office

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Juliet Hardeman (Chair)

Karen Adams (Vice Chair)

Jerry Haywood

Katie Hearns

Deborah Hibben

Wina Low

Cherise Mlott

Joy Norman

Jennifer Page
Sam Verniero

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Juliet Hardeman**,** SRC Chair, called to approve the minutes from the October meeting and the agenda for today’s meeting. The minutes and agenda were approved unanimously.

**Chair Update – Juliet Hardeman**

The council was reminded to complete their Affidavit of Public Officer. Juliet provided a summary of the January 5th CSNA Forum. The SRC Annual Report has been submitted to RSA. The Council voted on the future upcoming meeting dates; April 26th, July 26th, and October 25th. The locations will be decided at a later date. The results of the election were share with the council for the new year, Juliet Hardeman, Chair and Karen Addams as Co-Chair. A motion was called to approve the election results, the motion was second and passed.

**SRC Committee Reports**

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

Dr. Hamida Jinnah – Dr. Jinnah provided an extensive review of the CSNA. Areas covered were the Purpose, Environmental Scan, Primary Data Collection, and Timeline. The details of the topics have been shared with the council. Dr. Jinnah provided feedback to the council on their questions regarding CSNA.

***Membership***

Carla Murphy, GVRA Public Affairs/Communications Director – Carla shared her background with the Council along with her current role at GVRA, along with how her office will support the needs of the SRC. Carla informed the council of the membership process. She provided the list of nominations to be submitted to the Governor’s office for review/approval. There were group discussions on the makeup of the council and onboarding training for the council members. The council inquired and discussed the status of an online calendar of ongoing and upcoming items related to the SRC. Other items discussed were the possibility of monthly newsletter, public comments and outreach through messenger, Facebook, emails, and face – to – face.

The council held a group discussion on public comments, putting procedures in place to make sure the comments are captured and tracked for follow up and feedback.

**Program Updates**

Director and Policy & Compliance, Jeff Allen provided a general executive GVRA update about:

* ***Agency Spotlight*** – Employee of The Month, Karen McClure, Counselor Assistant.
* ***Counselor Retention and Recruiting*** – As of January 1, 2023, three interns have been promoted to Counselor One. Eight VR Supervisors have been hired. There are an anticipated 20-25 new hires on February 1st, the majority of these are Adjudicators. HR is assisting the VR Program with recruitment for an additional 50 VRC statewide. Key vacancies are VR Statewide Employment Coordinator, Statewide Training and Development Manager and Residential Director.

Key initiatives are the GA Academy for the Blind interviewed and selected a dedicated resource. Twenty-Eight agency employees are participating in the Certificated Public Managers Training from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. GIB has been approved for the Level Three Face Mask Certification, KN95 Mask Machine to produce masks and paper sheeter machine.

GVRA will be participating in the RSA Monitoring, this will be an in person visit from RSA as they review the agency findings. More detailed information on the monitoring visit can be found on the GVRA website. <https://gvs.georgia.gov/publications/rsa-monitoring>

The was group discussion regarding Senate Bill 8 - <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63557>

* ***Transition Services*** – Jeff provided current and historical data on the PTS Cases and Pre-ETS numbers. The current number for Potentially Eligible Students as of January 25th for State Fiscal Year 2023 are

3, 843. The number of Pre-ETS Provided for State Fiscal Year 2023 are:

In House Delivered – 3,059

Contracted Pre-ETS –8,768

Total 11,827

* **SRC Community Spotlight**

***Project Search –*** Jeff updated the council on agency’s partnership with GA Project Search. Key topics were awarded funding to expand Project Search in Georgia, focus on an adult model, partnerships with DBHDD and Work Force, the startup of two pilot sites, and identifying providers along with finalizing a MOU.

* **121 Program Update –** Peggy provided an history of the 121 Program. A recommend read is Indian Removal by Grant Foreman. She discussed the similarities and differences of the 121 Program and VR Program. Since COVID - there has been a lapse in communication with GVRA. Once of the goals is to reestablish the relationship as it is stated in the MOU.

**New Business –** Juliet mention to the council upcoming trainings and the timeline to process to process training.

**Old Business** – None

**Public Comments** – None

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26th, 2023. Location TBD.