

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 AND 6**

Marriott Riverfront Savannah  
100 General McIntosh Drive  
Savannah, GA

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Aldridge  
Kate Brady  
Deborah Hibben  
Peggy Venable  
Deborah Lovell  
Mike Pryor  
Austin McDonald  
Cherise Mlott  
Brian Mosley  
Jennifer Page  
Lisa Leiter  
Brenda Bentley-Parrish  
Dawn Johnson  
Wina Low  
Karen Addams  
Samuel Verniero

Day 1

Ms. Leiter, acting as Chairman in lieu of Rossany Rios' absence, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. ding. Mr. Wilson called roll.

The minutes from the April 2019 meeting were passed unanimously.

The Council broke into small groups for an ice-breaker exercise that allowed members to share a little bit about themselves and to introduce themselves to all those who were participating in their first SRC meeting.

Ms. Leiter recognized Ms. Low who gave an overview of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. Ms. Low noted that the SRC is working with the University of Georgia in producing the statewide assessment. By law, it must be completed every three years. The goal is for this assessment to be delivered by end of 2020.

Committees reported back on the work they've completed since the Council's last meeting in April and discussed the time required for committee work.

Assistant Director of Blind Services Shirley Robinson explained eligibility and determination processes within VR. Following that, the council broke for lunch. Following lunch, Ms. Robinson continued breaking down the Vocational Rehabilitation process, going into further depth about the order of selection.

Ms. Leiter recognized Ms. Venable to give an update on the Program 121 initiative. She explained that due both to poverty across many Native American reservations and the remote location of said reservations, native populations are especially vulnerable groups and need assistance. She said she hopes to help host a conference for these populations in 2022. She urged all SRC members to visit the reservation in Georgia and see the conditions for themselves.

Ms. Leiter recognized Statewide Independent Living Director Shelley Simmons who gave an overview on the SILC, its mission and its plans for moving forward.

The Council then broke into their respective subcommittees, with subcommittee chairs following this up with explanations of their goals for the coming year.

The council adjourned for the day at 4 p.m.

## **Day 2**

Ms. Leiter called day 2 of the SRC quarterly meeting to order at 9 a.m.

She recognized GVRS Chair Tom Wilson to address the Council. He thanked everyone for attending and said he looks forward to working with members of the SRC to ensure Georgians with disabilities can find and maintain meaningful employment

Due to technical difficulties, the Council was unable to view an informational video on Robert's Rules of Order.

The Council as a whole discussed ways to encourage more public comment, as it was generally agreed that the SRC needed to hear more from the public at large and especially consumers of Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Ms. Leiter recognized Communications Manager John Boan and Marketing and Communications Director Robin Folsom. Ms. Folsom and Mr. Boan gave an overview of recent efforts to update the website. In addition, Ms. Folsom noted, the agency recently rolled out an intranet platform that should improve internal communication across the organization.

Ms. Leiter recognized Vocational Services Director Dr. Christine Fleming. Ms. Fleming reviewed updates to the corrective action plan. She gave a breakdown of staffing in Vocational Rehabilitation, noting that more and more staff members will be transitioning into counselor roles as they pass their respective CRC exams.

Ms. Fleming discussed the six common performance indicators for WIOA, noting that Georgia and other states are still working to capture some of the information related to the indicators outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Ms. Leiter recognized GVRA CFO Minerva Nixon who gave a training on proper reimbursement procedures for SRC members.

Ms. Leiter and Ms. Mason discussed upcoming SRC activities.

The Council adjourned at 11:55 a.m.