

State Rehabilitation Council Minutes

Savannah, GA

DAY 1: August 06, 2018

SRC Members Present: Rossany Rios, Chris Moder, Joy Norman, Brian Mosley, Jennifer Page, Dawn Johnson, Lisa Leiter, Ruby Kaspers, Kip Slade, Brenda Bentley-Parrish, Lewis Wheaton, Deborah Lovell, Wina Low, Steve Oldaker, Mike Pryor, Peggy Venable, Sean Casey

SRC Members Participating via Conference Call: Karen Addams, Carl McKinney

SRC Members Who Were Absent: Kayla Wilson

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

GVRA Staff: Ilias Savakis, Minerva Nixon, Robin Folsom, Lee Bryan, Patrice Meadows, Kelvin Harris, John Boan, Angel Bryant

SRC Chair's Update:

- **Rossany Rios** called the meeting to order at 9:08 and introductions were made.
- **Rossany** made people aware of the passing of SRC member Justin Pressley and asked for a moment of silence to honor him.
- Discussed the combined liaison position.
- Asked for approval of the April SRC minutes from the Athens meeting.
- After review of the draft April minutes by all Council members, **Brian Mosley** made a motion to approve the minutes and Kip Slade seconded.
- **Rossany** stated that the SRC has a new budget of \$247,000 and she is awaiting the hard copy.

SRC Committees Reports:

Membership Committee

- **Steve Oldaker, Chair** discussed new appointments of two nominees and reappointments of four current Council members as well as ongoing recruiting for replacing Council members who term off in 2019.
- He spoke about nominees that were interviewed.
- Deborah Hibben and Kate Brady were forward to Robin Blount for recommendation for new appointments to be sent to the governor's office and Robin confirmed that these six names had been sent to the governor's office and that she will be following up to try and speak with the person in the governor's office to move the process forward.
- Steve stated that he will get with the Communications and Marketing Committee to get a recruitment packet together.
- There was a suggestion that a joint letter to the new governor be written from the Council and members sign. This letter would emphasize the important of the SRC and its membership requirements.

Action Item(s)	(1) Work with the Communication and Marketing Unit to add an SRC member recruitment tool to the SRC webpage. (2) Recruit three (3) business folks, including one to replace Steve for the SILC. (3) Recruit four (4) more individuals with disabilities, including someone to replace Kayla as a former VR client.
Responsible	(1) Steve Oldaker (Committee Chair), Brian Mosley, Deborah Lovell, Chris Moder
Deadline	(1) Report out at the next SRC meeting in October in Valdosta, GA.

Policy Committee:

- **Jennifer Page, Chair** did not have any new business to report.
- She did ask how long someone has to stay off the Council before then can be a member again
- She mentioned getting any changes or proposed changes to VR policy in a timely manner.

Action Item(s)	(1) Schedule a conference call before next meeting in October.
Responsible	(1) Jennifer Page (Committee Chair), Ruby Kaspers, Brian Mosley, Steve Oldaker, Lewis Wheaton
Deadline	(1) Report out at the next SRC meeting in October in Valdosta, GA.

Legislative Committee

- **Dawn Johnson, Chair** mentioned \$20 million in federal funding for individuals with disabilities.
- She also mentioned the Employment First Council and the need to educate the governor's appointees to this Council.
- She stated that she knows a lot of people who are interested in disability issues.
- She mentioned the group Rev Up Georgia.

Action Item(s)	(1) Create a one pager with talking points for SRC members to speak with legislators. (2) Develop a year-round legislative plan to approach lawmakers and advocate for people with disabilities and GVRA. (3) Educate legislature on what GVRA does. (4) Coordinate with other advocacy groups. (5) Build a disability caucus as a long-term goal. (6) Consult with GVRA External Affairs and Communications and Marketing Unit
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Responsible	(1) Dawn Johnson (Committee Chair), Lisa Leiter
Deadline	(1) Give a report at the October SRC Meeting

Communications and Marketing Committee:

- **Karen Addams, Chair** stated that her committee met in June via conference call.
- Council member activities need to be submitted to John Boan by November 1st and Karen stated that she will send out a template for them to use.
- Send activities to Karen and/or John.
- **John Boan** discussed the annual report, the process of how it's done and due date of December 31st.
- **John Boan** asked members to review the current 2017 report and stated that it goes to state legislators so we want to paint the Agency in the best light.
- **Karen Addams** discussed the SRC page on the website and how it needs to be expanded.
- **Steve Oldaker** commented that the SRC needs a URL that's not so buried on the GVRA website.

Action Item(s)	(1) Develop and send out a template to SRC members to collect their activities for the past fiscal year. (2) Work in conjunction with GVRA Communications and Marketing Office on updating and expanding the SRC website. (3) Committee will report on accomplishments.
Responsible	(1) Karen Adams (Committee Chair), Lisa Leiter, Joy Norman
Deadline	(1) November 1 st deadline to collect Council activities for annual report (2) Report out at next SRC meeting in October in Valdosta (3) December 31 st deadline for annual report to RSA (4) Ongoing activities like SRC website expansion

Georgia Advocacy Office Presentation by Lias Savakis:

- Stated that he is the Program Coordinator at the Georgia Advocacy Office, which is the independent federally mandated program for people with disabilities in Georgia.
- Distributed hand-outs.
- Spoke on his agency's two new initiatives.
- Discussed the 1st initiative which is supported decision making and this is assisting a person with a disability to make decisions with the input from others that they value in their lives.
- Stated that supported decision making really fits into what GVRA and the SRC are doing because it encourages people to move forward and get the resources they need to obtain competitive integrated employment.

- Discussed the 2nd initiative which is the Representative Payee Program and under this program the congress has enacted legislation that will basically give grant funding to all advocacy systems in the country to move forward with investigations.

GVRA Executive Update by Sean Casey:

- Discussed the new member on GVRA board, Craig Camusso, who is Vice-President.
- Talked about interviews being held for Dale Arnold position, which now has new title of Vocational Services Director.
- Spoke on Roosevelt Warm Springs's graduation in June of 54 graduates, which 51 percent already had a job at time of graduation.
- Discussed the agency legislation whereby Employment First was introduced and passed for creating a Council that takes into account every stakeholder supporting people with disabilities in gaining competitive, integrated employment.
- Stated that with the Employment First Council, they will get together and make sure they are all on the same page and discuss how this looks moving forward.

Travel Expense Training by Minerva Nixon:

- Discussed some of the concerns with travel reports and timeliness in getting reimbursements and working through some of the bureaucracy associated with these forms.
- Discussed a new one page form that will be provided for an easier more concise way of
- Pulled up a slide displaying the new one page form.
- Stated the new form will be effective immediately provided no one have any other concerns with the information that is on it, if so, changes will be made before it is finalized.
- Discussed making sure if anything is missing and incorporate it into this form.
- Stated everyone needs to complete the vendor management form again and provide a voided check for direct deposit.

GVRA-VR Programmatic Update by Lee Bryan

- **Lee Bryan** discussed the four major focus areas across the 40 field offices.
- The first focus area is quality and that includes our services, the staff's experience and data management.
- The second focus area is targeted goals. Key performances indicators have been implemented across our residential programs.
- The third area is training which. There will be position-specific training for risk mitigation and data and performance accountability.
- The fourth area is compliance – state and federal expectations.
- She stated they have key performances indicators set for themselves and they report out on.
- She commented that VR field services have set targeted performances goals for all 52 teams, and the target goal areas include goals related to the number of applications for services and the number of applications processed.
- She explained that The Employment Services Team implemented a system called Sales Force that will allow us to track organizations and businesses.

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA):

- **Rossany Rios** stated that there is roughly \$70,000 for a comprehensive statewide needs assessment for VR and that one has not been completely in about 15 years.
- **Rossany** suggest to create an ad-hoc committee to review the information that the University of

Georgia sent to identify the main areas that are more significant out of the comprehensive needs assessment and come back and report.

- Wina Low agreed to Chair the CSNA Committee.
- One main purpose of the comprehensive assessment is to determine consumers and clients that are not receiving services or are under-represented in receiving services

Action Item(s)	(1) Identify main areas other states have covered in their CSNA (2) Get feedback from providers, school systems, etc. (3) Schedule a conference call
Responsible	(2) Wina Low (Committee Chair), Peggy Venable, Lewis Wheaton, Brenda Bentley-Parrish, and Deborah Lovell
Deadline	(2) Give a report at the October SRC Meeting in Valdosta

SRC Training (Topic: Robert’s Rule of Order):

- **Rossany Rios** played a brief introduction video of the Robert’s Rule of Order.

On-boarding Process:

- **Rossany Rios** discussed the onboarding process being developed for new and current Council members.
- Stated that the goal is to have on-boarding training by January of next year. This will happen a day before the regular meeting in January.
- Discussed 70 percent of the training will come out of the Robert’s Rule of Oder book.

Rossany Rios (SRC Chair) wrapped up with an overview of Day 2 of the SRC meeting.

Deborah Lovell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris Moder seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

State Rehabilitation Council Minutes

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DAY 2: August 07, 2018

SRC Members Present: Rossany Rios, Chris Moder, Joy Norman, Brian Mosley, Jennifer Page, Dawn Johnson, Lisa Leiter, Kip Slade, Brenda Bentley-Parrish, Lewis Wheaton, Deborah Lovell, Wina Low, Steve Oldaker, Mike Pryor, Peggy Venable

SRC Members Participating via Conference Call: Karen Addams, Carl McKinney, Kayla Wilson

SRC Members Who Were Absent: Ruby Kaspers, Chris Moder

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

GVRA Staff: Robin Folsom, Patrice Meadows, John Boan, Chuck Stone, Janine Rahming, Angel Bryant

SRC Chair Rossany Rios called the meeting to order to 9:00 AM.

SILC Report by Steve Oldaker

- **Steve Oldaker** invited Council members to attend the Independent Living Celebration on September 25th in Atlanta as they celebrate another year of success.
- The next quarterly meeting for the Statewide Independent Living Center will be on Thursday and Friday, October 18th and 19th in Macon, GA.
- Stated they are looking at the ongoing effort to promote the Enabled Work legislation so working individuals with disabilities will be able to earn income without losing Medicaid and personal care assistance to work and live independently.
- He also stated that they will monitor the expansion of Centers for Independent Living in Georgia and Southwest Georgia.

Native American Vocational Rehabilitation Program (121) Report by Peggy Venable

- **Peggy Venable** stated they are one of 550 Native American tribes throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.
- She said they are promoting programs across America for 86 different tribes because there is not enough money for 550 tribes.
- Talked about assisting their clients with getting jobs and how many of them do self-employment. She mentioned a former VR client who had self-employment as her work goal and now she sells products via a website and is doing really well.
- She said another former client now owns a fence company.
- Peggy said they have a former client who is blind who received a doctor of nursing degree.
- She stated that her program sets very high goals for the clients in terms of education so they can get better jobs and salaries.
- She stated the next conference for Native American VR Directors will be December 8th through the 15th at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale Arizona. She said someone from Georgia used to attend these meetings years ago and hopefully folks from VR and SRC will start attending again.

GVRA-VR Sensory Services Update by Denine Woodson

- **Denine Woodson** discussed going around the state and having listening sessions to see what they were doing and was open to every person in the state whether deaf, blind, or had a child or student.
- She shared a slide presentation.
- Stated they are in the process of ensuring all of their staff have accommodations and also the clients who are blind or deaf as well so they can access the same services as everyone else.
- She explained that her Unit has set a goal to train every staff person on etiquette for serving clients with sensory issues.

- Denine explained that they wanted to decrease the chances of individuals with vision loss not accessing VR services, so they developed a contract with the Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB) to do intake over the phone of potential clients who are blind or have vision loss.
- She discussed staff training.
- She talked about universal design.
- Stated sensory services is included in new employee orientation.
- Talked about the three (3) sensory camps they had for students over the summer and multiple jobs fairs for students who are blind and visually impaired.
- Stated they are in the process of hiring staff interpreters for GVRA.

Committee Breakout Session:

- Committees broke out in groups for discussions.

Public Comments:

- No one made public comment.

SRC Training:

- Second part of the Robert's Rule of Order Video was played.

SRC Chair, Rossany Rios wrapped up the meeting by discussing upcoming activities.

Rossany Rios adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.