

**MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Goodwill Thrift Store and Donation Center
2201 Lawrenceville Hwy, Decatur, GA 30033

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rossany Rios (Chairperson)
Wina Lowe
Brian Mosley
Mike Pryor
Kate Brady
Dawn Johnson
Karen Addams
Lisa Leiter
Tina Aldridge
Deborah Hibben
Austin McDonald
Jennifer Page
Brenda Bentley-Parrish
Deborah Lovell
Cherise Mlott

Chairperson Rios called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

The minutes recorder was asked to leave the room. The minutes recorder returned at 9:30 a.m.

Roll was called.

Conversation was had related to the SRC's annual budget. Ms. Rios said the Council is trying to limit travel expenses in order to stay within budget.

The various SRC committees presented. The membership committee noted that they are waiting on formal approval from the Governor on several potential new members. The transition committee expressed concerns about Pre-ETS implementation. The legislative committee discussed the possibility of the SRC having a day at the Capitol to meet with legislators. The supported self-employment committee requested that GVRA look into policies on self-employment that have already been implemented in Texas. The

communications committee asked if GVRA staff could examine the viability of an SRC intranet or SharePoint.

Ms. Lowe gave an update on the comprehensive needs assessment report. The University of Georgia is conducting the report, and SRC member interviews may be included.

Chairperson Rios recognized GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan to give an update on progress at GVRA. He said that he recently hired individuals to fill the currently-vacant positions of General Counsel and Human Resources Director. They will both begin work on Nov. 1. In addition, he said, he has hired a Provider Relations Director who will speak to the Council later in the meeting. He fielded questions about Accenture--the consulting firm brought on to help GVRA with its transition--and future accountability.

Chairperson Rios recognized Vocational Services Director Christine Fleming. She gave an overview of VR as of July 1, 2019, including the status of performance goals. She briefly went over ongoing initiatives, including the addition of electronic payments to clients, provider applications and routing service agreements/contracts. She discussed efforts made in the field of transition, including pre-ETS and IPSE.

Ms. Fleming recognized Provider Relations Manager Sheila Pierce. Ms. Pierce said she is currently learning about ongoing systems and processes as well as meeting and building relationships with providers. She discussed her goals for the coming months.

The SRC broke into small groups to discuss the Unified State Plan and how the SRC can help Georgians with disabilities moving forward.

Chairperson Rios called the groups back to order. She recognized GVRA Deputy Executive Director Kevin Harris to discuss expenditure reimbursements for qualifying SRC members.

Rossany recognized John Boan who talked about previous SRC reports and explained what he needed for members for the coming SRC report.

Mr. Pryor said he was concerned that the SRC wasn't invited to present at GVRB board meetings, but Ms. Rios clarified, saying she actually presented at every board meeting. Ms. Leiter noted that if the GVRB Board had subcommittees, it would be nice for those to work with the SRC committees. Mr. Pryor suggested that public hearings be held even without official mandate in order to hear from the community. Ms. Brady suggested GVRA implement an order of selection. Ms. Johnson suggested a review of how IPSE programs are funded and how they intend to improve their outcomes for clients. Ms. Lowe said the SRC should be made aware of any areas of the state that are currently underserved.

Ms. Rios explained she will be stepping down as Chairperson due to greater work obligations. Those running for leadership roles in the SRC were given time to explain

why they are running. The group decided to keep Mike Pryor on as member at large. It was also noted that the Council will add a parliamentarian to ensure Robert's Rules are followed. They stated they will formally vote via an online pole in the coming weeks.

The Council solidified tentative meeting dates for the following year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.