

ARIZONA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Mission and Responsibilities of the Governor's State Rehabilitation Council

The Governor's State Rehabilitation Council mission also encompasses the Council's vision, operating principles, and goals:

Mission

Serving all citizens of Arizona, the mission of the Arizona Governor's State Rehabilitation Council is to advise, evaluate and partner with the public vocational rehabilitation program in support of improving access to employment and promoting a diverse workforce statewide.

Vision

The Arizona Governor's State Rehabilitation Council envisions a statewide workforce that values disability and diversity and is committed to full participation of its citizens.

Operating Principles

- Serve as an ally to the public vocational rehabilitation program in structuring and conducting business in ways that reflect the social, political, historical, and economical experiences of individuals with disabilities.
- Collaborate with state and other non-government agencies to promote meaningful and sustainable employment for everyone.
- Foster a broad definition of diversity that honors and appreciates disability alongside race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and religion as an integral part of human experience.
- Promote disability discourse, awareness and involvement, honor disability culture and pride.

Goals

- Advise the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in the development, implementation, evaluation and review of innovative rehabilitation services and programs.
- Support the development of public policy that improves opportunity for full participation for all citizens in the economic life of Arizona.
- Engage business and industry statewide in the creation of inclusive environments guided by the principles of universal design.
- Increase access and employment opportunities for people with disabilities through collaboration with outside agencies, councils, and community partners.
- Strengthen the VR Program through collaboration on the development of human resource infrastructure.

The Governor's State Rehabilitation Council functions, as defined in the Title I, Part A, Section 105 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, are as follows:

Review, analyze and advise the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) regarding the performance of its responsibilities, particularly those related to eligibility (including order of selection); the extent and scope and effectiveness of services provided; and the functions performed by State agencies that affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.

Partner with RSA to develop, review and agree to State goals and priorities in accordance with the VR State Plan. The Council and RSA evaluate the effectiveness of the VR program and submit reports of progress to the RSA Commissioner.

Advise the RSA on activities authorized to be carried out under the Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan. Assist in the preparation of the VR State Plan, and Amendments to the plan, applications, reports, Needs Assessments, and evaluations.

Conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of Vocational Rehabilitation services and consumer satisfaction regarding functions performed, VR services provided, and employment outcomes achieved.

Prepare and submit an Annual Report to the Governor and the Federal U.S. Department of Education Commissioner of RSA on the status of Vocational Rehabilitation programs operated with the State of Arizona.

Coordinate activities with other disability related Councils with the State of Arizona. Establish working relationships between RSA, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and Arizona Centers for Independent Living.

Perform other functions consistent with VR services deemed appropriate by the Council.

Dear Constituents,

The mission of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), in partnership with the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and in collaboration with disability groups, is to ensure quality vocational rehabilitation services for eligible individuals as they make informed choices to achieve employment. This mission is accomplished by reviewing programs, analyzing service delivery processes, and advising on policies and procedures.

As the 2022 elected Chair of the Arizona State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), Lisa Livesay is honored to present this year's Annual Report. This past year, council members worked to support RSA leadership in identifying critical need areas related to building agency-wide capacity for timely and effective service delivery. Council members continued to evaluate and provide recommendations for specific programmatic outcomes associated with client access and use of available services like Pre-Employment Transition Services and prioritized navigation of agency policies and procedures. Efforts continue towards adjusting how council members interact with one another in response to the COVID-19 health crisis and its unique and significant impact on Arizonans. The Council remains dedicated to providing collaborative effectiveness as RSA works to provide quality services to vocational rehabilitation clients. Within the last year, the Council dedicated efforts to membership recruitment and retention. Work in preserving high member engagement will continue for 2023. All council members are eager and prepared to tackle new challenges and opportunities to support the efforts of RSA staff and leadership in the new year.

Lísa Lívesay

Council Committees

Employment and Community Partnerships Committee

The goal of the **Employment and Community Partnerships Committee** is to focus on the competitive integrated employment of individuals with disabilities and the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation Program (AZRSA/VR). This committee advises RSA on the marketing of the VR program, and develops collaborative relationships with the community, advocacy groups, employers, and other councils as related to employment activities and initiatives.

Executive Committee

The goal of the **Executive Committee** is to provides leadership to the SRC in furthering its mission, vision, and goals. It is composed of all SRC Committee Chairs. This committee monitors the AZRSA achievement related to the Federal Performance Measures, provides feedback and input into Corrective Action Plans, advises AZRSA on strategic plans and initiatives, and focuses on diversity efforts within AZRSA and SRC. This committee will follow up on any membership and/or recruitment efforts on behalf of the council.

Program Review Committee

The goal of the **Program Review Committee** is to focus on the following issues as it relates to the competitive integrated employment of individuals with disabilities and the Rehabilitation Services Administration/Vocational Rehabilitation Program (RSA/VR): Youth and Transition services, the VR section of the Arizona State Workforce Development Plan, Client Satisfaction Survey data, the RSA Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, and RSA employee satisfaction.

2022 Governor's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Membership

Lisa Livesay, Chair ADE Representative, Special Education Term: 2021-2023 City: Phoenix

Melissa Wojtak Business Industry/Labor Representative Term: 2019-2021 (reappointment pending) City: Phoenix

Adam Robson Specific Disability Representative Term: 2021-2024 City: Phoenix

David Carey Statewide Independent Living Council Representative Term: 2022-2023 City: Phoenix

Scott Lindbloom Specific Disability Groups Representative Term: 2020-2023 City: Show Low

Paula Seanez 121 Project Director's Representative Term: 2022-2025 City: Window Rock

Judith Castro Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor Term: No limit City: Yuma

Ceci Hartke Parent Training and Information Center Representative Term: 2021-2024 City: Phoenix Diana Meza Specific Disability Groups Representative Term: 2021-2023 City: Yuma

David Cheesman Program Manager Term: 2018-2021 (reappointment pending) City: Tucson

Kristen Mackey VR State Agency, Ex-Officio Term: No limit City: Phoenix

Arizona Vocational Rehabilitation Program Basics

The mission of the Arizona Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR) is to work with individuals with disabilities to achieve gainful employment through the provision of comprehensive rehabilitative and employment support services in a partnership with all stakeholders. The VR Program provides a variety of specialized services to individuals who have physical, mental, and emotional impairments that create barriers to employment.

Eligibility for the VR program is determined by the following: an individual wants to become or remain economically independent through work; an individual's disability is serious enough to make it hard to get or keep a job; available services can help the individual get or keep a job; the VR Program is the only or best place to provide the individual with the help he or she may need to obtain employment.

The number of Arizonans employed because of VR Services:

FFY 2022 - 1611 FFY 2021 - 3459 FFY 2020 - 2147

The total individuals receiving VR Services by Disability: 1,305 with an Auditory and Communicative impairment for 9% 5,166 with an Intellectual and Learning disability for 37% 1,470 with a Physical impairment for 10% 5,195 with a Psychosocial impairment for 37% 871 with a Visual impairment for 6% Grand total – 14,007

SRC Highlights

Arizona's 2022 IDEA Conference

SRC Chair, Lisa Livesay, was instrumental in the planning for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE)/Exceptional Student Services (ESS) held Arizona's 2022 IDEA Conference from September 7–9, 2022 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge in Phoenix.

This year's theme was Rise Up: Reimagining and Transforming Educational Practices. This cross-stakeholder event included special education administrative staff, youth and young adults with disabilities, family members and caregivers, state agency staff, educators, service providers, and community members who share a commitment to student success. The event featured over 75 professional learning opportunities, including IDEA legal issues, instructional practices, national trends and hot topics, special education compliance, preschool and secondary transition, social/emotional learning, and new this year, a strand for Early Childhood Special Education.

Institution for Human Development Virtual Mini Conference

SRC members participated in the Institute for Human Development Evidence for Success Hybrid Disability Conference in June. The speakers included the Commissioner for the Administration on Disabilities, Jill Jacobs, and disability advocate Emily Ladau. There were over 45 diverse breakout sessions from local and nationally known experts. Conference attendees could also visit vendors of Assistive Technology companies and disability organizations.

SRC Recruitment Document

The SRC Executive Committee developed a SRC recruitment document that can be shared with community stakeholders and council members' contacts and networks. The SRC continues recruitment efforts to develop an inclusive council that represents all disability populations and communities and continues a collaborative partnership with RSA.

In SFY2013, the RSA Client Satisfaction Survey was revised incorporating input from the SRC to survey clients throughout the vocational rehabilitation process. The same survey instrument was used throughout SFY2019. As part of a larger initiative to evaluate and improve customer service within the VR program, the VR Client Satisfaction survey has undergone revision and a new method of collecting and sharing survey results began on April 1, 2020. Revised survey questions are attached, and highlights of the new methodology are as follows:

• Surveys are distributed via Survey Monkey during the first week of every quarter (survey is sent via email during week 1 of the quarter and will remain open for completion throughout the quarter).

• Surveys will be sent to a randomized sample of individuals with email addresses on file with VR every quarter as follows:

- Clients who, as of the first day of the quarter, have active VR cases in IPE development through job placement (status 10, 13, 20, and 22); and
- Clients who, within 2 weeks prior to the start of the quarter, had their VR case closed with and without employment (status 26 and 28).
- Survey respondents can now provide their name and contact information at the bottom of each survey if they would like to share additional information about their VR experience.

1. I was treated with courtesy and respect by staff in the VR office:

20 individuals responded with Strongly Agree10 individuals responded with Agree3 individuals responded with Disagree6 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree39 individuals responded to this question

2. I am satisfied with the amount of contact I had with my VR counselor:

15 individuals responded with Strongly Agree 10 individuals responded with Agree

4 individuals responded with Disagree

4 individuals responded with Disagree

10 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree

39 individuals responded to this question

3. My counselor provided me with assistance relevant to my situation:

17 individuals responded with Strongly Agree

10 individuals responded with Agree

4 individuals responded with Disagree

8 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree

39 individuals responded to this question

4. I participated in the development of my Individualized Plan for Employment:

19 individuals responded with Strongly Agree

12 individuals responded with Agree

3 individuals responded with Disagree

5 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree

39 individuals responded to this question

5. I received VR services in a timely manner:

14 individuals responded with Strongly Agree

8 individuals responded with Agree

2 individuals responded with Disagree

15 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree

39 individuals responded to this question

6. Based on my experiences, I would recommend the VR program to another person:

18 individuals responded with Strongly Agree

7 individuals responded with Agree

3 individuals responded with Disagree

11 individuals responded with Strongly Disagree

39 individuals responded to this question

7. I am open to being contacted regarding my experiences in the VR program:

53 individuals responded with Yes

13 individuals responded with No

66 individuals responded to this question, and 1 individual skipped it

The average hourly wage of cases closed with employment (Status 26)

SFY 2019 - \$13.31 SFY 2020 - \$13.92 SFY 2021 - \$15.28

RSA Offices Region I Offices

RSA Administration Office 1789 W. Jefferson Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 602-542-3332 AZ Relay 711 Region I Administration Office

3221 N. 16th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, AZ 85016 602-266-9206 AZ Relay 711

19th Avenue Office 11420 N. 19th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85029 602-774-9430 AZ Relay 711

16th Street Office 3221 N. 16th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, AZ 85016 602-266-6752 AZ Relay 711

95th Avenue Office 1850 N. 95th Avenue, Suite 192 Phoenix, AZ 85037 602-771-6680 AZ Relay 711

7th Street Office 2455 S. 7th Street Phoenix, AZ 85034 602-774-5442 AZ Relay 711

Chandler/Mesa Office 125 E. Elliot Road Chandler, AZ 85225 602-771-6500 AZ Relay 711 Chandler/Gilbert 125 E. Elliot Road Chandler, AZ 85225 602-771-5949 AZ Relay 711

Chandler/Tempe 125 E. Elliot Road Chandler, AZ 85225 602-771-6500 AZ Relay 711

Scottsdale Office 3221 N. 16th Street, Suite 200 Phoenix, AZ 85016 480-387-5330 AZ Relay 711

Van Buren Office 3425 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 102 Phoenix, AZ 85008 602-774-9149 AZ Relay 711

Surprise Office 11526 W. Bell Road Surprise, AZ 85378 602-771-1850 AZ Relay 711

Cottonwood Office 1500 E. Cherry Street, Suite H Cottonwood, AZ 86326 928-649-6873 AZ Relay 711

Washington Office 5328 E. Washington Street, Bldg. C Phoenix, AZ 85034 602-470-1802 AZ Relay 711

Flagstaff Office 1701 N. 4th Street Flagstaff, AZ 86004 928-779-4147 AZ Relay 711 Show Low Office 2500 E. Cooley Street, Suite 410 Show Low, AZ 85901 928-532-4300 AZ Relay 711

Prescott Valley Office 3262 Bob Drive, Suite 12 Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 928-759-1654 AZ Relay 711

Kingman Office 519 E. Beale Street, Suite 130 Kingman, AZ 86401 928-753-5105 AZ Relay 711

Bullhead City Office 2601 Highway 95 Bullhead City, AZ 86442 928-704-7726 AZ Relay 711

Lake Havasu Office 2031 Spawr Circle Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403 928-854-0377 AZ Relay 711

Globe Office 605 S. 7th Street Globe, AZ 85501 928-425-3101 AZ Relay 711

Apache Junction Office 11518 E. Apache Trail, Suite 110 Apache Junction, AZ 85120 480-983-0427 AZ Relay 711 Payson Office 216 E. State Highway Payson, AZ 85541 928-468-9829 AZ Relay 711

Page Office 1057 Vista Ave. Page, AZ 86040 928-645-8103

Pinetop Office 20 E. White Mountain Blvd., Suite C-1 Pinetop, AZ 85929 928-532-4300 AZ Relay 711

Region II Offices

Administration Office 400 W. Congress, Suite 420 Tucson, AZ 85701 520-628-6810 AZ Relay 711

Alvernon TSW Office 1455 S. Alvernon Way, Suite 201 Tucson, AZ 85711 520-872-9120 AZ Relay 711

Alvernon Way 1455 S. Alvernon Way, Suite 201 Tucson, AZ 85711 520-872-9070 AZ Relay 711

East 22nd Street Office 5441 E. 22nd Street, Suite 101 Tucson, AZ 85711 520-790-0787 AZ Relay 711 Mona Lisa Office 7225 N. Mona Lisa, Suite 202 Tucson, AZ 85741 520-544-8618 AZ Relay 711

Wilmot Office 899 N. Wilmot, Suite C7 Tucson, AZ 85711 520-790-0107 AZ Relay 711

Yuma Office 1800 E. Palo Verde Street Yuma, AZ 85364 928-247-8880 AZ Relay 711

Casa Grande Office 401 N. Marshall Street Casa Grande, AZ 85122 520-426-3529 AZ Relay 711

Coolidge Office 1155 N. Arizona Boulevard Coolidge, AZ 85128 520-723-5351 AZ Relay 711

Benson Office 595 S. Dragoon Street Benson, AZ 85602 520-586-8331 AZ Relay 711

Douglas Office 615 E. 2nd Street Douglas, AZ 85607 520-364-4446 AZ Relay 711 Nogales Office 610 N. Morley Avenue Nogales, AZ 85621 520-375-8010 AZ Relay 711

Safford Office 333 N. 8th Avenue Safford, AZ 85261 928-428-3005 AZ Relay 711

Sierra Vista Office 2600 E. Wilcox Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 520-458-9309 AZ Relay 711

Region III Offices

OIB Central 3443 N. Central Avenue, Suite 110 Phoenix, AZ 85012 480-463-3733 AZ Relay 711

OIB Coolidge 1155 N. Arizona Boulevard Coolidge, AZ 85128 520-723-5351 AZ Relay 711

OIB Tucson 5442 E. 22nd Street, Suite 101 Tucson, AZ 85711 520-308-7993 AZ Relay 711

SBVID 19th Avenue 11420 N. 19th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85029 602-542-8210

SBVID Central 3443 N. Central Avenue, Suite 101 Phoenix, AZ 85012 480-364-4588 SBVID Chandler 125 E. Elliot Road Chandler, AZ 85225 602-771-6500 AZ Relay 711

SBVID Flagstaff 1701 N. 4th Street Flagstaff, AZ 86004 928-779-4147 AZ Relay 711

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