

**Governor's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)  
Employment and Community Partnerships Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2017**

**Members Present**

Carol Carr\*  
Adam Robson  
Carlos Paraskevas\*  
Judith Castro\*  
Jennifer Phillips\*  
Rob Crawford\*  
Sheri Carparelli\*

**Members Absent**

Chuck Tiller

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assistant  
\*Teleconferenced

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Carol Carr called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**Approval of January 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Adam Robson moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee meeting. Judith Castro seconded the motion. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

**Employment First Initiative Update**

Carol Carr stated she participated on the Employment First Employer Engagement Subcommittee conference call. Carol Carr stated the subcommittee wanted to ensure that all individuals with disabilities were included and not just certain populations. Ms. Carr stated the subcommittee Chair, Susan Voirol, participated in an Untapped Arizona meeting, an employer based organization, and the Board Members were comprised of employers. Jennifer Phillips inquired whether AHCCCS had reviewed how the minimum wage requirements could affect an individual's benefits. Adam Robson stated AHCCCS was aware of the concern and he noted that he had not received an update from Dara Johnson, AHCCCS, on that thus far. Carol Carr stated there were several minimum wage initiatives occurring, through

entities such as the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Arizona Public Education Department (APED).

### **WIOA/Pre-ETS Review**

Adam Robson stated the Employment First Initiative Infographics would be submitted to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) regarding subminimum wage requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Mr. Robson noted once the Infographic was submitted, AHCCCS had fifteen days to review the document, although Adam Robson did not anticipate any issues with the submission of the Infographic. Adam Robson stated he was waiting for clarification on whether the Infographic would be sent out immediately or as part of the Joint Guidance document, in which the stakeholders described their roles within Section 511 of WIOA. Adam Robson stated both documents would be sent out at the same time to offer guidance to the community stakeholders.

Carol Carr inquired whether WIOA had been approved by Federal government. Adam Robson stated his understanding that WIOA had not been approved yet. Rob Crawford stated his understanding that the Deer Valley School Unified District was delaying collaborative agreements with private school programming until the district received approval from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to the schools. Mr. Crawford stated some students could not begin receiving Transition services until the schools received the language required for the programs to get on an approval list. Carol Carr stated her understanding that some providers were delaying offering services until the requirements had been developed. Rob Crawford stated the schools could not begin offering services as part of their Individualized Employment Plan (IEP), and might only receive three months of services instead of a whole semester or year. Adam Robson suggested Carol Carr inform Kristen Mackey, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Administrator that schools were delaying offering services until they received clarification regarding WIOA requirements. Carol Carr stated she would contact Kristen Mackey and Brandi Coffland, RSA Policy Assistant Manager, regarding the interpretation of WIOA policies.

### **Chamber of Commerce Outreach Discussion**

Carol Carr stated she contacted the Yuma Chamber of Commerce and had not received a response thus far. Ms. Carr stated she intended to reach out to the Chamber in April again. Adam Robson stated if Carol Carr had an update by the next SRC Full Council meeting, Ms. Carr could provide that update at that meeting.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee will be on Monday, March 20, 2017 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- Employment First Initiative Update
- WIOA – Discussion
- Chamber of Commerce Outreach Discussion
- Minimum Wage Effect on Benefits Discussion
- Self-Employment Plan Discussion

Carol Carr noted the committee previously discussed self-employment plans and inquired whether the committee would be interested in discussing self-employment plans again. Adam Robson noted the committee requested information from RSA and received that information regarding self-employment plans. Judith Castro stated she received positive feedback from counselors in Yuma that worked with vendors and Odyssey for assistance in establishing self-employment plans. Adam Robson stated he was pleased that other vendors were able to provide assistance with self-employment plans, as one vendor was not the most patient with behavioral health clients in the past. Ms. Castro stated as the counselors became more familiar with self-employment plans, they were more comfortable assisting clients in developing self-employment plans. Adam Robson stated several counselors were confused regarding the self-employment policies. Judith Castro stated once the counselors received some training and information regarding self-employment plans, she noticed more self-employment plans were written. Rob Crawford inquired whether a certain office was having more success in writing self-employment plans and could offer assistance to other offices. Adam Robson stated the committee could make a recommendation to RSA to create a training or guidance for counselors to become more familiar with self-employment plans. Carol Carr stated the committee was interested in receiving best practices for self-employment plans that could be distributed to counselors. Carol Carr suggested the committee contact Kristen Mackey and request whether RSA had developed self-employment plan training.

### **Announcements**

Rob Crawford announced there would be a statewide conference on Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Mr. Crawford stated the conference would offer professional development credits and continuing education units for attendees.

Jennifer Phillips announced that Gompers Habilitation Center would be acquiring the Blythe Center, which offered respite and day program services, in order to ensure that clients would not experience a disruption in services.

Judith Castro announced that due to WIOA, the One Stop location contracts would be open for bid. Ms. Castro noted the One Stops notified their employees about a possible reduction in staff if the individuals obtaining the bids did not rehire those employees. Judith Castro stated staff were given advance notice in the event that the employees needed to find employment.

### **Public Comment**

A call was made to the public with no comments forthcoming.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting stood adjourned at 2:27 pm.