

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2018**

Members Present

Ana Nunez*
David Cheeseman*
John Gutierrez*
Scott Lindbloom*

Members Absent

Paula Seanez
Sheri Carparelli
Melissa Wojtak

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers, Council Liaison
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Ana Nunez called the meeting to order at 9:15 am in the DERS/FBOA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of March 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Scott Lindbloom moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018 SRC Program Review meeting. John Gutierrez seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

WIOA Presentation Discussion

Ana Nunez stated at the previous Program Review Committee meeting, the committee discussed the importance of understanding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and had asked Susan Voirol and Brandi Coffland to present at the SRC Full Council meeting. Ms. Nunez noted that she was unable to attend that meeting although from the Power Point presentation, Ms. Voirol and Ms. Coffland briefly covered all areas of WIOA. Ana Nunez stated the committee could identify one section of WIOA and compare to the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Policy Manual. Ana Nunez inquired whether the committee members had any preferences regarding which area within WIOA to focus on. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether the committee could provide a WIOA presentation to the rural areas in Arizona. Ana Nunez stated her understanding that the goal of the committee was to review current VR policies and compare to the WIOA regulations to identify whether the policies aligned with WIOA regulations or whether the committee needed to make some recommendations to Rehabilitation

Services Administration (RSA). David Cheeseman stated his understanding that there would be some changes to Section 511 and the committee might want to wait to address that area. Mr. Cheeseman noted that high school students would go to VR for assessments on whether they would benefit from VR or would be eligible for subminimum wage programs. Ana Nunez stated Section 511 changed the requirements for clients to access subminimum wage programs and one of those steps was to apply for VR services. She added that if an individual was determined ineligible for VR, that individual could receive subminimum wages. David Cheeseman stated some families wanted their family members to continue to receive subminimum wages although the goal was to provide competitive integrated employment. Scott Lindbloom inquired how the committee could provide education to individuals receiving minimum wage, which would increase, and require individuals receiving Social Security Insurance (SSI) to reduce their work hours. Ana Nunez stated the concept of subminimum wage services and support required an individual to go through steps to access those support and services. Ana Nunez stated if those individuals completed those steps, they could receive the services. Ms. Nunez stated the client had a choice on whether to pursue subminimum wage. She added that WIOA incorporated those processes to locate clients that could be eligible for competitive integrated employment. Scott Lindbloom stated that WIOA encouraged individuals to obtain education to further their employment goals and noted that individuals in rural areas had difficulties obtaining a wide variety of education. Mr. Lindbloom stated individuals often could not volunteer either due to liability to the employer. Scott Lindbloom inquired how the committee could partner with community colleges to encourage the schools to offer more certificate programs to rural areas. Ana Nunez stated the focus of the committee was to focus on VR policy and WIOA, although she agreed that rural communities did have less supports than metropolitan areas. Ana Nunez suggested the committee address those issues by examining competitive integrated employment which could be connected to some of the issues in the rural areas. Ana Nunez stated the committee could also review the preparation and services that students received to obtain employment.

Ana Nunez suggested the committee focus on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) or Section 511. David Cheeseman stated that Pre-ETS was the beginning of services and would be a good building block for the committee to understand. Scott Lindbloom suggested the committee encourage more businesses to consider offering volunteer programs in rural areas. Ana Nunez stated the committee was not tasked to go throughout the state and develop those relationships, although the committee could research some initiatives that could be brought to rural areas or connect with individuals locally to address those issues. Ana Nunez stated she was

unsure whether the VR Policy Manual had verbiage consistent with the language included in the WIOA regulations. Ana Nunez suggested the committee focus on reviewing the Pre-ETS section of the VR Policy Manual and identify which area the committee would focus on. David Cheeseman stated there was a link to the VR Policy Manual for committee members to review. Lindsey Powers agreed to send the link to the VR Policy Manual to the committee members. Ana Nunez stated the committee members could review the Pre-ETS section of the VR Policy Manual and develop a more focused action plan at the next committee meeting. John Gutierrez inquired whether the committee members should compare the Pre-ETS section to the WIOA Power Point information. Ana Nunez stated the committee could first review the Pre-ETS section of the VR Policy Manual. Ana Nunez stated once the committee was more familiar with the VR Policy Manual, the committee could then compare the language to the WIOA regulations and identify whether the VR Policy Manual aligned with WIOA or whether the committee should make recommendations to RSA. David Cheeseman stated his agreement and noted the spirit of WIOA was to prepare young adults for employment.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Program Review Committee will be on July 26, 2018, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows: Agenda items are as follows:

- VR Policy Manual/Pre-ETS Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

John Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting; David Cheeseman seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned at 9:50 am.