

**Governor's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
Employment and Community Partnerships Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2017**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Chuck Tiller
Rob Crawford

SRC Present

Lindsey Powers, Admin. Assistant
*Teleconferenced

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Carol Carr called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of May 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Sheri Carparelli moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2017 SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee meeting. Carlos Paraskevas seconded the motion. The committee approved the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

Employment First Initiative Update

Adam Robson stated Employment First Initiative Committee met on May 23, 2017 and the Employment First Systems Transformation Committee met on May 22, 2017. Mr. Robson stated the Employment First Initiative Committee discussed that there had not been an announcement regarding the new Department of Economic Security Director, Michael Traylor, at that time. Adam Robson noted, however, that he had previous experience working with Mr. Traylor, who was sensitive to individuals with disabilities and was efficient. Adam Robson stated the Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD) performed a national search for the Director position and had an Interim Director until the position was filled. Carol Carr stated her understanding that the DDD Director position had not been filled yet. Adam Robson stated the committee also reviewed the Employment First Lead

Center website, <http://employmentfirst.leadcenter.org/>, which included the rates for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services nationwide. Adam Robson stated Arizona's rates were not specified, and did not show a transparency of services. He noted that he informed Kristen Mackey, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Administrator, who was not familiar with the website. Adam Robson stated Beacon Group signed an agreement with Amazon to fill 100-300 warehouse positions for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Robson stated Amazon was seeking assistance from other providers to fill all of the positions. Adam Robson stated the committee was developing the Executive Order that would be submitted to Governor Ducey, requesting state support for Employment First.

WIOA Discussion

Adam Robson stated the WIOA Leadership Committee approved of the WIOA Section 511 Joint Guidance document, which required minor changes. Adam Robson stated once approved, the document would be presented at the Director's Institute on September 19, 2017 and at the Transition Conference at the end of August. Adam Robson stated RSA distributed new policies to the SRC, the Client Assistance Program (CAP), and the Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment for feedback by June 23, 2017. He noted that the new policies included Pre-Employment Transition Services, General Services, Youth Seeking Subminimum Wage Employment, and Supported Employment and Extended Supported Employment. Mr. Robson stated the Pre-ETS solicitation was distributed on June 15, 2017 and would close on July 10, 2017 and the contracts would be for two years. Adam Robson stated the Pre-ETS contracts referred to the contracts for providers providing services to individuals currently in sub-minimum wage programs or seeking sub-minimum wage programs.

Chamber of Commerce Outreach Discussion

Carol Carr stated she contacted the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and noted that representatives expressed interest in attending a Committee or SRC Full Council meeting and she would continue to reach out to those individuals. Adam Robson suggested the Chamber of Commerce attend a SRC Full Council meeting in September as the July meeting agenda would be full.

Self-Employment Plan Discussion

Carol Carr stated Brandi Coffland, RSA Policy Manager indicated that the RSA Policy Unit was currently updating the Self-Employment Policy and would distribute to the SRC for review upon completion. Adam Robson stated he inquired regarding an update on the Self-Employment Policy, and

RSA indicated the policy should be completed in July. Carol Carr inquired whether there was a Self-Employment Committee. Adam Robson stated there was a Self-Employment Panel, which reviewed the incoming Self-Employment plans. Judith Castro stated she looked forward to reviewing the Self-Employment Policy, which would provide guidance to counselors assisting clients in developing self-employment plans. Adam Robson noted when the SRC reviewed the Self-Employment Policy, that Judith Castro's feedback would be valuable. Judith Castro stated the policy would help counselors to become more comfortable initiating self-employment plans for clients.

Small Business Association Discussion

Carol Carr stated the committee had discussed collaborating with the Small Business Association for guidance on developing client business plans and would keep the agenda item on future committee agendas.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee will be on Monday, August 21, 2017 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- Employment First Initiative Update
- WIOA Discussion
- Chamber of Commerce Outreach Discussion
- Self-Employment Plan Discussion
- Small Business Association Discussion

Announcements

Adam Robson stated the Home and Community Based Services Workgroup scheduled for June 30, 2017, which was a small group to assist the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) in working around the State Plan regarding center-based employment and group-supported employment.

Carol Carr announced planning had started for the DREAM Job Fairs which would occur in September and October. Ms. Carr noted several rural communities in southern Arizona held their own job fairs in October, and had partnered with Yuma and Tucson to hold larger DREAM Job Fairs.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.