

Draft
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2022

Members Present

Lisa Livesay
Linda Fischer

Members Absent

Paula Seanez

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Abel Young
Debra Warrick
Marisela

Call to Order and Introductions

Lisa Livesay called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Lisa Livesay moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 SRC Program Review meeting. Linda Fischer seconded the motion. Linda Fischer noted that her name was misspelled in some of the meeting minutes. The amended meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Activities Discussion

Lisa Livesay stated the committee had discussed potential items to focus on and had discussed some questions regarding the Pre-Employment Transition Program (Pre-ETS). Ms. Livesay stated the committee had sent some questions to Abel Young, Statewide Transition Coordinator, who had responded. Linda Fischer inquired whether Abel Young could briefly discuss the Transition Program. Abel Young stated that he managed the Transition Program, which offered services to individuals 24 years and younger. Mr. Young stated that he worked with the counselors that served the youth, the

32 schools districts with Transition contracts, and approximately 200 school districts without official contracts. Abel Young noted the Transition Program provided outreach to the schools and there were Transition counselors assigned to work with schools. He noted the Transition Program was required to spend 15% on Pre-ETS services. Linda Fischer inquired whether some schools did not work with the Transition Program and did not send referrals for service. Abel Young stated that some small school districts and public charter schools did not communicate with the Transition Program or did not know the services existed. Lisa Livesay stated the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) provided technical assistance to schools and the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program was one of the resources shared. Linda Fischer agreed that families would benefit from knowing that VR services were available.

Lisa Livesay stated the committee had questions regarding service delivery, the number of students that received Pre-ETS services, the number of workshops, and how many students had become eligible for VR services. Abel Young stated that some of the data could not be obtained from the case management system. He noted there was not a good way to track the number of students that became eligible for VR services, for example, once their cases were transferred from the Central Office case load. Abel Young stated the new Pre-ETS contract had been awarded in August, and from September – November, there were about 420 requests for services. Linda Fischer inquired regarding the most requested Pre-ETS service. Abel Young stated that job exploration was most requested and work-based employment was the least. Lisa Livesay inquired whether there were any gaps in service delivery. Abel Young stated he had not reviewed the requests by region, although Pima County typically had the majority of requests and Apache, and Navajo Counties had the least. He noted that each county was covered by a provider, although the smaller and more rural counties did have lower numbers of requests. Lisa Livesay inquired why Maricopa County would not have more service requests. Abel Young stated that Maricopa County had many large school districts, and more rules regarding when a service provider could offer services during a school day. Lisa Livesay stated the ADE could consider working with the schools to dispel any myths regarding service delivery during the school day. Linda Fischer inquired regarding the number of Transition counselors and whether they had large caseloads. Abel Young stated all 32 school districts with contracts had a dedicated Transition counselor, although the larger school districts would have several counselors. Mr. Young stated the smaller school districts would have a counselor that had a split case load. Abel Young stated there were currently approximately 50 Full-Time and Part-Time Transition counselors, as well as some counselors that would serve primarily youth or would serve adults as well. Lisa Livesay inquired whether there was a standard training for

counselors that served youth. Abel Young stated there was a Pre-ETS training for counselors and the Transition Team would provide technical assistance as well. Linda Fischer inquired whether the Pre-ETS program was able to expend the required 15% of Pre-ETS services. Abel Young stated the Transition Program was able to expend the 15% on Pre-ETS services, as well as through agreements and partnerships that provided services to students.

Lisa Livesay stated that Abel Young had provided answers to most of the committee's questions previously and thanked Mr. Young for that. Linda Fischer inquired whether the committee could do anything to support outreach regarding the Transition Program. Abel Young stated the Leadership Team would be discussing potential outreach methods and how to reach out to schools and families virtually. Lisa Livesay stated the committee was also interested in supporting staff navigate the Transition Program and VR. Abel Young stated that staff were trying to offer services to students, although many students preferred to meet in person, which had been difficult throughout the pandemic. Debra Warrick stated that she could help and that she was interested in potential opportunities. Lisa Livesay stated the committee had also discussed reviewing Section 105, and whether the language was consistent with the services offered. Ms. Livesay stated she did not notice any language that would limit counselors and it did not indicate how services should be provided. Lisa Livesay stated the committee could continue to receive suggestions and feedback from other council members on any areas to focus on. Lisa Livesay stated the council received data regarding the Fair Hearings and could potentially explore any data trends.

Lisa Livesay stated the committee could also discuss ways to limit barriers to counselors providing services and for clients receiving the services. Linda Fischer agreed and noted that new counselors would benefit from training and that it would be beneficial to know what information the counselors were given. Abel Young stated the Office of Professional Development offered training to all of the Department of Economic Security (DES) staff, and the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services (DERS) had their own trainers as well. Mr. Young noted the training had been updated recently, which included live training, and then staff would complete experiential training with a colleague. Lisa Livesay inquired whether the Transition Program was focusing on any specific populations or groups. Abel Young stated the Transition Program was trying to target behavioral health youth. He noted the program had focused on foster care youth, which had been difficult, and youth with intellectual disabilities in the past and had seen an increase in those services. Linda Fischer stated that Mathew Nevarez, Ombudsman, had provided the Fair Hearing Fact Sheet to the council, which was great information. Ms. Fischer stated the Client Assistance Program

(CAP) had also received more detailed information regarding appeals and the issues that were being brought forward. Lisa Livesay stated the committee could review that information prior to the next Full Council meeting and discuss it with the council members. Lisa Livesay stated the committee could also inquire whether other council members would be interested in joining the committee to assist with the committee's activities.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Program Review Committee was scheduled for April 6, 2022.

- Committee Activities Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting stood adjourned at 10:58 am.