

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Employment and Community  
Partnerships Committee Meeting Minutes**  
October 13, 2021

**Members Present**

Scott Lindbloom  
Adam Robson  
Judith Castro  
Dave Cheesman  
Ceci Hartke

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Scott Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Adam Robson moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee meeting. Dave Cheesman seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Activities Discussion**

Adam Robson stated he contacted Margaret Corcoran, the Employment Coordinator with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) regarding the working relationship between Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and DDD. Adam Robson stated that Ms. Corcoran expressed her concern that the committee might create confusion if they put more processes in place, to which Adam Robson stated the committee was only interested in potential training. Mr. Robson stated that over the last 2-3 years, over 433 individuals were referred to VR, and they were trying to identify why they were closing out cases. Adam Robson stated Margaret Corcoran would share those results with him. He added that DDD would be providing information sessions with Support Coordinators and VR counselors and Ms. Corcoran would share the

tool used for those sessions. Adam Robson stated that some VR counselors treated DDD clients as typical general clients and did not provide extra support. Adam Robson added that there were currently 6 VR counselors dedicated to working with DDD clients, and there needed to be more. Adam Robson noted that Ms. Corcoran would be retiring at the end of October, and he would inquire about the information training results and the tool prior to her retirement. Dave Cheesman stated his understanding that each region would have a VR counselor dedicated to working with DDD clients. Judith Castro agreed that each office would have a point of contact for DDD clients.

Adam Robson suggested the committee learn more from Fiona Donohoe, Statewide Developmental Disabilities Coordinator, regarding the current efforts between VR and DDD so the committee would not be duplicating efforts. Dave Cheesman stated that VR received Supported Employment training, which was beneficial for staff. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether Margaret Corcoran could provide cross training to VR and DDD staff. Adam Robson noted that Ms. Corcoran would be retiring, although he would follow up with her regarding the DDD information sessions. Dave Cheesman noted the agency also had strict requirements regarding training, which had to go through a subject matter expert. Mr. Robson stated that DDD and VR would both benefit from additional training, although he suggested the focus be on training for VR staff. Judith Castro stated that Margaret Corcoran could potentially appoint someone to attend a committee meeting since she would be retiring. Scott Lindbloom stated he met a student recently who was unable to pass Math and English placement tests at a college and was unable to obtain tutoring. Mr. Lindbloom inquired whether DDD and VR could partner to assist students with college level classes. Adam Robson stated his understanding that the Disability Resource Centers at colleges would assist students with tutoring. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether VR would provide tutoring for students. Dave Cheesman stated VR was required to consider comparable benefits first and could pay for tutoring if necessary for students. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether VR closed client cases after 90 days from employment. Dave Cheesman stated that a case could be closed after an individual was successfully employed for 90 days, unless the individual required additional supports, which would delay that closure.

Ceci Hartke inquired whether VR clients would be more successful if their parents or guardians were involved in the VR plan. Ms. Hartke noted there were so many entities and agencies that clients needed to contact and work with. Dave Cheesman stated that it was helpful for guardians or parents to be involved and to work with the counselor, who would guide the guardian/parent and VR client through the process. Ceci Hartke noted that it would be difficult for a student with a disability to navigate that process. Dave Cheesman agreed that the process could be difficult to navigate, and the counselor would assist the client with that process. Scott Lindbloom

stated the Arizona Center for Disability Law held trainings on guardianship for individuals with disabilities, which could be helpful for individuals trying to navigate the process. Judith Castro stated the committee had discussed several topics and suggested the committee narrow down the focus. Adam Robson agreed and noted the committee would learn more after speaking to Fiona Donohoe regarding the current relationship between VR and DDD.

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

The next meeting of the SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee was scheduled for November 2, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- Committee Activities Discussion

### **Announcements**

Scott Lindbloom announced that he was recently appointed as the Chair of a subcommittee of the DDD Planning Council on Behavioral Health.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Adam Robson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Cheesman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.