

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 22, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Lisa Livesay
Linda Fischer
Adam Robson

Members Absent

Paula Seanez

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Lisa Livesay called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Linda Fischer moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022 SRC Program Review meeting. Lisa Livesay seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Activities Discussion

Lisa Livesay stated the committee had discussed potential topics such as council membership recruitment efforts. Ms. Livesay stated the committee had previously reviewed Section 105 language and had determined that it was consistent with the services provided by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). She noted the committee had also reviewed policies surrounding Transition and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and had invited Abel Young to provide an update on those services. Lisa Livesay stated the committee could potentially review any new policies or any policies that had been recently updated.

Lisa Livesay stated the committee had also discussed reviewing the statistics from the Ombudsman's Office as far as the number of fair hearings and appeals. Linda Fischer agreed that it would be beneficial to get an update regarding the number of appeals, who was being served, and the outcomes. She noted the information would need to be redacted, but the committee could get an idea of the overall numbers and decisions. Adam Robson inquired whether the committee or the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) would have any authority to question a decision. Linda Fischer stated the council would likely have to contact the Federal RSA about a decision from a judge. Lisa Livesay stated that Mathew Nevarez had indicated an overall decrease in the numbers, although the committee could request more detailed information. Adam Robson inquired how the Client Assistance Program (CAP) had requested appeal and fair hearing data in the past. Linda Fischer stated CAP would request data from the previous year and would review the cases for any trends. Ms. Fischer stated she could make the request as a representative of CAP and of the Program Review Committee. Adam Robson stated the overall decrease in appeals and fair hearings could be due to overall lower Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) numbers. Lisa Livesay stated the committee could work backwards to review the decisions. Adam Robson stated the committee was small, and inquired how many cases each committee member could review. Linda Fischer stated that she would be willing to review more cases as a CAP representative. She noted that she would draft a letter to be sent to Mathew Nevarez and RSA that each committee member could sign. Adam Robson inquired regarding a reasonable timeframe to request the information. Linda Fischer stated she could request the information by May 10th, which would be right before the Full Council meeting, and the Ombudsman's Office could respond if they needed more time. Adam Robson stated the committee could request information from the past couple of years, unless there was too much information for the committee members to handle. Lisa Livesay agreed and noted this project would take some time, and the committee could revisit any other topics at a later date.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Program Review Committee was scheduled for May 24, 2024.

- Ombudsman's Office Data Discussion

Announcements

Linda Fischer stated the African American Conference on Disabilities would take place in June, which would include a presentation on Pre-ETS.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.