

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

July 26, 2023

## **Attendance**

### **Members Present**

Lisa Livesay  
Linda Fischer  
Adam Robson  
Paula Seanez

### **Members Absent**

### **Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

### **Guests Present**

## **Minutes**

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Lisa Livesay called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

### **Approval of May 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Adam Robson moved to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023 SRC Program Review meeting. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Hearing Decisions Review**

Lisa Livesay stated the committee members had reviewed the hearing decisions from the previous 3 years. Lisa Livesay stated there were a couple of hearing decisions that she had questions on, although most decisions seemed justified. Linda Fischer stated she had questions on some decisions that cited the same Federal regulations or Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) policy and inquired whether the judge understood those regulations or

policies. Lisa Livesay inquired whether the judge would cite the Federal regulations, or whether the justifications would come from VR. Linda Fischer stated her understanding that the justifications would come from the judge.

Lisa Livesay stated one of the hearing decisions was denied due to a multi-level marketing (MLM) business, which was not an allowable business under VR. Linda Fischer stated VR might determine a client's business was a MLM and high risk, although the Client Assistance Program (CAP) might not agree. Lisa Livesay inquired whether VR would then work with the client to identify an alternative employment plan if the original plan was considered high risk. Linda Fischer stated she was unsure whether VR would continue to work with the client once their decision was denied. Lisa Livesay stated another client was denied adaptive transportation because the individual was in high school and not seeking employment, although the student was participating in JTED.

Linda Fischer inquired how the committee planned to present the information to the SRC. Paula Seanez suggested the committee identify any trends in the hearing decisions. Adam Robson noted the committee had only reviewed 26 hearing decisions and only had questions regarding 4-5 cases. Paula Seanez stated the committee could add up the number of cases that were withdrawn and the cases that were denied due to eligibility. Lisa Livesay agreed, and stated the committee could report on the service denials and the case closures. Paula Seanez stated the CFRs were noted as justifications, although they were quite broad and did not specify the language in the regulations.

Adam Robson stated the committee could discuss the 4-5 cases the committee had questions on. Ms. Livesay agreed, and stated the committee could request feedback from the SRC members as well as Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Adam Robson stated RSA might be able to offer input for how the committee could move forward. Adam Robson stated that the 4-5 cases the committee had questions on were all denied by the same judge. Paula Seanez noted that RSA was responsible for training the hearing officers and could recommend additional training for that judge. Lisa Livesay stated that some ALJ decisions were almost a blanket statement, although most clients seemed to understand the hearing decisions. Ms. Livesay stated the committee could summarize their findings and present

them at the next Full Council meeting. Paula Seanez expressed her concern regarding VR returning Federal grant funds and suggested the council request an update regarding the upcoming year. Lisa Livesay agreed and noted that RSA was holding focus groups to request feedback regarding Transition services and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) from stakeholders. Paula Seanez agreed that Pre-ETS services were critical, and the council should continue to advocate for those services. Linda Fischer noted the fiscal year had just started, so it would be a great time to begin advocating for full use of those Federal funds.

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

The next meeting of the Program Review Committee was scheduled for September 6, 2024.

- Hearing Decisions Review

### **Announcements**

Adam Robson announced that one of his staff found 28 expired links from the Employer Handbook and suggested the Employment and Community Partnerships Committee review that information.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Adam Robson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paula Seanez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.