

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Employment and Community  
Partnerships Committee Meeting Minutes**  
September 9, 2021

**Members Present**

Scott Lindbloom  
Adam Robson  
Judith Castro  
Dave Cheesman

**Members Absent**

Ceci Hartke

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

---

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Scott Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Committee Activities Discussion**

Scott Lindbloom inquired whether the committee members had any ideas for activities or goals. Mr. Lindbloom stated that Las Vegas had an employment training outreach program and inquired whether the committee would like to work with that agency regarding employment efforts. Judith Castro stated that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) worked with Behavioral Health already, and suggested the committee focus on areas that VR needed to work on, such as self-employment. Dave Cheesman agreed that self-employment plans were a challenge for most counselors. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether the committee would like to develop brochures to let businesses and organizations know about VR. Dave Cheesman stated that VR had brochures that could be distributed, although Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) was not able to market the VR program. Judith Castro stated that VR already had a positive relationship with other agencies and used comparable benefits, and the committee could focus on areas where there was a need for improvement. Scott Lindbloom noted that individuals in rural areas struggled to obtain employment due to less employment opportunities. Ms. Castro agreed and noted the committee had reviewed the VR Self-Employment Policy previously and were able to offer suggestions.

She stated that many counselors still struggled to develop self-employment plans and would benefit from additional resources or materials. Adam Robson agreed that noted that individuals in rural areas would benefit from self-employment due to the lack of employment opportunities in those areas. Scott Lindbloom stated he partnered with Change Point to place a Snack Bar in the Show Low airport, which would help individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. Adam Robson stated that Scott Lindbloom was doing great things in Show Low, although not all individuals would be able to develop non-profit organizations. Judith Castro inquired whether any SRC members had their own businesses or experience with businesses. Scott Lindbloom stated that he spoke to individuals from different businesses, and most indicated that their work schedules would not allow them to participate on the committee. Adam Robson stated the committee could potentially develop materials that could be shared with counselors to assist them in creating self-employment plans.

Scott Lindbloom stated the committee could invite Independent Living centers to participate in employment efforts also. Adam Robson inquired whether organizations such as Ability 360 still offered benefit counseling. Dave Cheesman stated that most Independent Living centers offered training on self-advocacy, accessibility, peer-support, and information and referral and did not focus on supported employment as often. Dave Cheesman inquired regarding the last activity of the Employment and Community Partnerships Committee. Judith Castro stated the committee was involved in reviewing the Self-Employment Policy and developing the Employer Toolkit. Dave Cheesman agreed that the committee could partner with other organizations on how self-employment plans are developed and help counselors to become more comfortable in developing the plans with their clients. Adam Robson stated the committee could bring in outside resources and inquired whether RSA still had a Self-Employment Committee. Dave Cheesman stated RSA did have that Committee still and noted that vendors provided some of that information to clients, although counselors would benefit from additional training. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether any of the colleges offered training for individuals interested in self-employment. Dave Cheesman stated that colleges could provide business education, although the client would need to have a self-employment goal and experience in a certain area. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether Tim Stump would be interested in participating on the committee. Dave Cheesman stated that Tim Stump was an Employment Specialist and would not have experience with self-employment plans. Adam Robson agreed, although Mr. Stump could be invited to attend a committee meeting later if that would be beneficial.

Dave Cheesman stated that VR had been working with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), although many counselors did not

understand the process for working with that population. Adam Robson stated his understanding that many VR counselors did not have understand how to work with DDD clients and would send them back DDD. Adam Robson stated that DDD had recently undergone several policy changes aimed to shift the system towards competitive integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Scott Lindbloom stated that he spoke to an individual on the Disability Advisory Council, who might be interested in participating on the committee. Judith Castro stated her understanding that Scott Lindbloom was interested in building relationships, although the committee might benefit from tackling issues such as developing training materials for staff. Scott Lindbloom agreed and inquired regarding the activity that the committee would like to accomplish first. Judith Castro stated the committee had brought up two good ideas and could decide which item to work on first, or whether the committee should recruit additional members. Adam Robson stated that it would be unlikely for new members to be appointed to the SRC soon, and the committee could begin working on one of the activities discussed. Judith Castro stated that both activities were important, and she would be willing to work on either. Dave Cheesman stated his preference to begin working on improving the relationship between VR and DDD, which was a partner of the agency. Scott Lindbloom and Adam Robson agreed to begin working on that activity. Scott Lindbloom inquired whether any committee members knew of a contact within DDD to invite to the next meeting. Dave Cheesman suggested the committee identify a goal before inviting additional individuals to attend meetings. Ms. Castro stated the committee had decided on the overall goal but needed to identify what or how the committee would meet that goal. Adam Robson stated the committee members could draft a list of what the committee wanted to accomplish and organize it at the next meeting. Adam Robson stated the committee could also contact Fiona Donohoe, Statewide Developmental Disabilities Coordinator, regarding what changes she would like to see between VR and DDD. Mr. Robson noted that once the committee had a draft of ideas, the committee could share with other councils for feedback.

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

The next meeting of the SRC Employment and Community Partnerships Committee was scheduled for October 13th. Agenda items are as follows:

- Committee Activities Discussion

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjournment of Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.