

# State Rehabilitation Council

Quarterly Meeting

March 23, 2023

Virtual Meeting

SRC Meeting 10 am

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## I. Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call

Meeting Called to order at 10:07 A.M.

### Members:

Sarah Michaud, Chair

Tracy Agiovlasis, Vice Chair

Dolores Harden - Joined at 10:11

Bernadine Chavez

Jennifer Gelhardt

Tara Spracklen

TJ Chester

Joseph Cruz- *Absent*

Marlencia Chee

Paula Seanez

Sbicca Brodeur- *Absent*

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova- *Absent, Retired need new DWS representative*

Lisa Jones

### DVR STAFF:

Casey Stone-Romero, Agency Director

Angelina Payan, Executive Secretary & Admin Assist

Jeff Levine, PR Coordinator

Nash Sisneros, RSU Deputy Director

Rudy Grano, Field Operations Director

### DDS STAFF:

Alexandria Vargas

Valerie Block

Natasha Gutierrez

Alan Hamlin -Joined at 10:42

## II. Action Items

### A. Approval of Agenda

Bernadine Chavez Moved to approve the agenda

Paula Seanez Seconds

Roll Call:

- a. Sarah Michaud- approve
  - b. Bernadine Chavez- approve
  - c. Jennifer Gelhardt- approve
  - d. Tara Spracklen- approve
  - e. TJ Chester- approve
  - f. Tracy Agiovlasis- approve
  - g. Marlencia Chee- approve
  - h. Paula Seanez- approve
- Unanimously approved

### B. Approval of Minutes

a. Misspelling Sonora, Chinle, and Kayenta

b. Misspelling on new leadership: Dr. Buu Nygren, Rychelle, Ad Hoc, and Manual of Operations

Jennifer Gelhardt Moved to approve the minutes

Tracy Agiovlasisit Second

Roll Call:

- a. Sarah Michaud- approve
  - b. Dolores Harden- approve
  - c. Bernadine Chavez- approve
  - d. Jennifer Gelhardt- approve
  - e. Tara Spracklen- approve
  - f. TJ Chester- approve
  - g. Tracy Agiovlasisit- approve
  - h. Marlencia Chee- approve
  - i. Paula Seanez- approve
- Unanimously approved

### III. 121 Report – Paula Seanez

- a. Professional development online
  - a. CANAR Conference in Niagara Falls Jun 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Hosted by Seneca Nations
- b. New tribal leadership for Laguna
  - a. Governor Wilford Herrera JR
  - b. Randall Besentee
- c. Vacancy for job Coach Developer
- d. Slowly lifting restrictions on mask mandate at Pueblo Laguna and tracking cases
- e. Issues with transportation for consumers and conducting background checks for the vacant positions
- f. Project HOPE funded under new grant
  - a. Workforce learning transition program
  - b. Collaborating with Juniors and Seniors, 17 Participants
    - i. Walatowa Charter High School
    - ii. Jemez Valley High School
    - iii. Santa Fe Indian School
    - iv. Bernalillo High School
    - v. Rio Rancho High School
    - vi. Cleveland High School
  - c. Yolanda Toya, Program Coordinator
- g. Jemez health and Human Services
  - a. HR director Melissa Stone retired, Interim Director Dr. Raymond Loretto
- h. Jemez Government Officials New Leadership
  - a. Dominic Gachupin, Governor
  - b. Peter Madalena, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Governor
  - c. Daryl Lucero, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor
- i. Vacancies in Jemez
  - a. Two VR vacancies
  - b. New HR Director hired
  - c. Rehab Tech- 1 applicant completed and one partially completed
  - d. No applicants for VR counselor
- j. Navajo Nation
  - a. Participated in a transition online seminar on March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Shared information about Project Search
  - c. Meeting with DVR March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss expansion of Project Search
- k. Navajo Nation Vacancies
  - a. Job Developer
  - b. Councilor in Farmington
  - c. Rehab Tech in Arizona
  - d. Counselor in Chinle
- l. Federal RSA Conference today at 12:00 p.m.
- m. American Indian Summit tomorrow in Phoenix
- n. Jimmy Warren is now working for the Sonoran Center
  - a. March 25<sup>th</sup> American Indian Youth Disability Summit
  - b. Youth Leadership Summit to connect youth across the country

### IV. DVR Directors Reports – Casey Stone-Romero, Agency Director

- a. Update on DVR needs for the State Needs Assessment
  - a. Rudy Grano: The need for a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) and Consumer Satisfaction Survey

- i. CSNA, Required by the Rehabilitation Act
  - ii. NMDVR has been initiating cumbersome process of state plan
  - iii. Provides the basis for the State Plans Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
  - iv. Provides insight and effectiveness of consumer satisfaction to vocational rehab services provided by DVR
  - v. Community and Public awareness
  - vi. Addresses Rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities that may have been underserved also the need for supported employment services
  - vii. The two surveys cannot be conducted at the same time
    - a. SRC and DVR will provide input to questions
    - b. DVR RFP handled finding the contractor
    - c. Needs assessment – every three years
    - d. Training Resources link
  - viii. Casey: We are in phase of the State Plan being rewritten for the next three year period
    - 1. State plan due in October
    - 2. Volunteers to help develop surveys: Rudy, Bernadine, Nash, Lisa, Jennifer, Sarah, and Tracy. Sarah will send out an email to start setting up meetings. Rudy will send out guidance from RSA to get started.
  - ix. Angelina Payan, Executive Secretary taking over all SRC duties
  - x. David Soveranez, DVR Administrative Services Unit Deputy Director
  - xi. Kendra Karp was promoted to DVR CIO
- b. Update on RSA Monitoring**
- i. Jan 30, 2023, DVR submitted 5<sup>th</sup> quarter corrective action plan to RSA
    - 1. Submitted every document that was requested
    - 2. Waiting on comments back on 2 items
- c. Update on Public Hearings**
- i. March 8, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Taos
  - ii. March 15, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Albuquerque
  - iii. March 15, virtually 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - iv. March 22, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Las Cruces
  - v. Public comment still open until through April 7, 2023
  - vi. Public comments may be submitted to [contact@dvr.nm.gov](mailto:contact@dvr.nm.gov)
- d. PreETS audit finding**
- i. RSA notified us of an audit finding regarding spending of our Pre-ETS
    - 1. After research we found that there was a clerical error in our reporting
    - 2. A combined response from CFB and DVR was sent to RSA on February 27, 2023 with a request to reopen FY2020 so that we could correct the DVR portion of the reporting
    - 3. Last year around this time DVR had data issues with FY2020 RSA 9-11 report
    - 4. Data is correct and now waiting on approval from RSA to correct our Funding
    - 5. RSA working on their response to DVR and CFB
- e. Update on Fair Hearings**
- i. One Fair Hearing Decision as a result of two fair hearings that were combined in to one.
    - 1. Having conducted a hearing based on facts there was a gap in services, correction action of timely services
  - ii. Fair Hearing in process that has not yet reached resolution
  - iii. Mediation this week to attempt to resolve a pending Fair Hearing request
- f. Legislative Update**
- i. SB 437 Senate bill scheduled to be heard Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. DVR, CFB, and PED provided a Fiscal Impact Report
    - 2. Bill was to remove DVR out from under PED and to make it a commission
    - 3. This bill was not heard and was not rescheduled to be heard this legislative session
  - ii. NM Public Education Department New Cabinet Secretary
    - 1. Dr. Arsenio Romero, confirmed during the legislative session
  - iii. Vacancy Rates
    - 1. ASU 13%
    - 2. RSU 22%
    - 3. DDS 31%
    - 4. Total combined 24%

5. 55 of the 86 vacant positions are actively being recruited
  6. 22 VRC vacant
  7. 11 VRT vacant
- b. ASU Deputy Director – David Sovereanez
    - a. Is not present at today's meeting but will be in attendance at next SRC meeting
  - c. RSU Deputy Director – Nash Sisneros
    - a. New Positions
    - b. 4 Transition Counselor positions
      - i. Carlsbad
      - ii. Gallup
      - iii. Las Cruces
      - iv. Santa Fe
    - c. Creating 2 additional Business outreach Positions
      - i. They will establish partnership, business positions, vendor relations, assist employers with recruitment, hiring, and the labor market
    - d. Trainer position
    - e. Training Coordinator
    - f. All managers and supervisors will be participating in the Ongoing Leadership Education (OLE) training starting April 20<sup>th</sup>.
      - i. All managers are getting training on the revised MOP
      - ii. Tech Assist will be providing in person training in April
      - iii. WIOA calls for DVR to work with the AT program
        1. New growth point talk with Tracy to help assist
  - d. DDS Administrator – Alan Hamlin
    - a. Meeting Regular and National workloads for FY23
    - b. 2 Adjudicators in training
    - c. 3 Adjudicators hit their 3-year mark with DDS
    - d. Natasha SORT Liaison
      - i. SORT is an outreach access and recovery program
    - e. Monthly training classes for SORT Caseworkers
    - f. Salt Lake City is a contracting organization that scans documents for SSA
      - i. Scanning facility in SLC documents are uploaded by contractor, automatically uploaded into electronic case processing system. There are no delays, DDS has immediate access to records
    - g. Training and Development
      - i. Expanded opportunity for DDS Operations managers: Natasha, Alexandria, and Valerie will now join us quarterly
    - h. Come up with plan to fill vacancies
      - i. Funding to staff
        1. SSA is only releasing funds a quarter at a time
        2. Want to ensure we have the funding long term to sustain those positions
        3. Adjudicators interviews- weekly
        4. Delays from SSA background check
- V. SRC Chairperson's Report – Sarah Michaud
- a. One manager retired at New Vistas
  - b. Waiting on word for budget approval
  - c. New EI manager hired
- VII. Old Business
- A. Beginning to plan for SRC Needs Assessment/Satisfaction Survey – due this year
    - a. Ad Hoc committee moving forward
    - b. Needs Assessment training tool has been sent to committee
- VIII. New Business
- A. SRC Committee recommendations
    - a. How to restructure existing committee
    - b. Proposed committee structure
      - i. Executive Committee
      - ii. Employment and Community Partnership Committee
      - iii. Program Review Committee

- c. Paula and Bernadine will bring drafted bylaws changes of bylaws of new structure to the June meeting to take a vote
- B. Ad Hoc Needs Assessment/SAT Survey to work with DVR
  - a. Employment and Community Partnership's Committee:
    - i. TJ Chester
    - ii. Jennifer Gelhardt
    - iii. Dolores Harden
    - iv. Jeff Levine (Awards)
    - v. Angelina Payan (Admin support)
  - b. Program Review Committee:
    - i. Tracy Agiovlasis
    - ii. Lisa Jones
    - iii. Bernadine Chavez
    - iv. Nash Sisneros
    - v. Marlencia Chee
    - vi. Sarah Michaud
    - vii. Paula Seanez
    - viii. Angelina Payan (Admin support)
- C. Next Meeting
  - a. June 29, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M. Virtually
  - b. September 21, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M at DVR Santa Fe State Office

IX. Comments from Audience

- a. No Comments from Audience

X. Adjournment

- a. Tracy Agiovlasis motions to adjourn
- b. Jennifer Gelhardt seconds
- c. Adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

*If you need a language translator or you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to participate in this meeting, please contact NM DVR at the telephone number(s) listed below. Public documents, including the agenda or minutes can be provided in various accessible forms. For additional information, contact NM DVR. Telephone numbers: 1-800-224-7005 or 505-954-8500.*

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(Note: the SRC attempts to follow the order of items listed on the agenda; however, it should be noted that the order of specific items is tentative and may vary from the date of the printed agenda.)