

**New Mexico Division
of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**WIOA Combined
State Plan 2024-
2027
Public Meeting**



Agenda

- I. Introduction & Overview of VR Program and Purpose
- II. State Plan Additions and Revisions
- III. Open Comment Period
 - All public comment will be accepted at the end of the presentation
 - Written comments are preferred to ensure accuracy of content and sentiment
 - Written comments can be submitted at contact@dvr.nm.gov through 5 p.m. on February 7, 2024

WIOA Combined State Plan 2024-2027

- Developing the 2024-2027 Combined State Plan
- Partnering with DWS on several public listening sessions in all regions
 - NMDVR staff representation at all sessions
- Strategic alignment of core workforce development programs
 - Title I Workforce Development
 - Title II Adult Education & Literacy
 - Title III Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act
 - **Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation Program**
 - Title V General Provisions



Our Vision:

Every New Mexican with a disability is empowered with the resources to contribute to their quality of life and the economic prosperity of the State.

Our Mission:

We are committed to ensuring that every New Mexican with a disability achieves their employment goals and thrives in their communities.

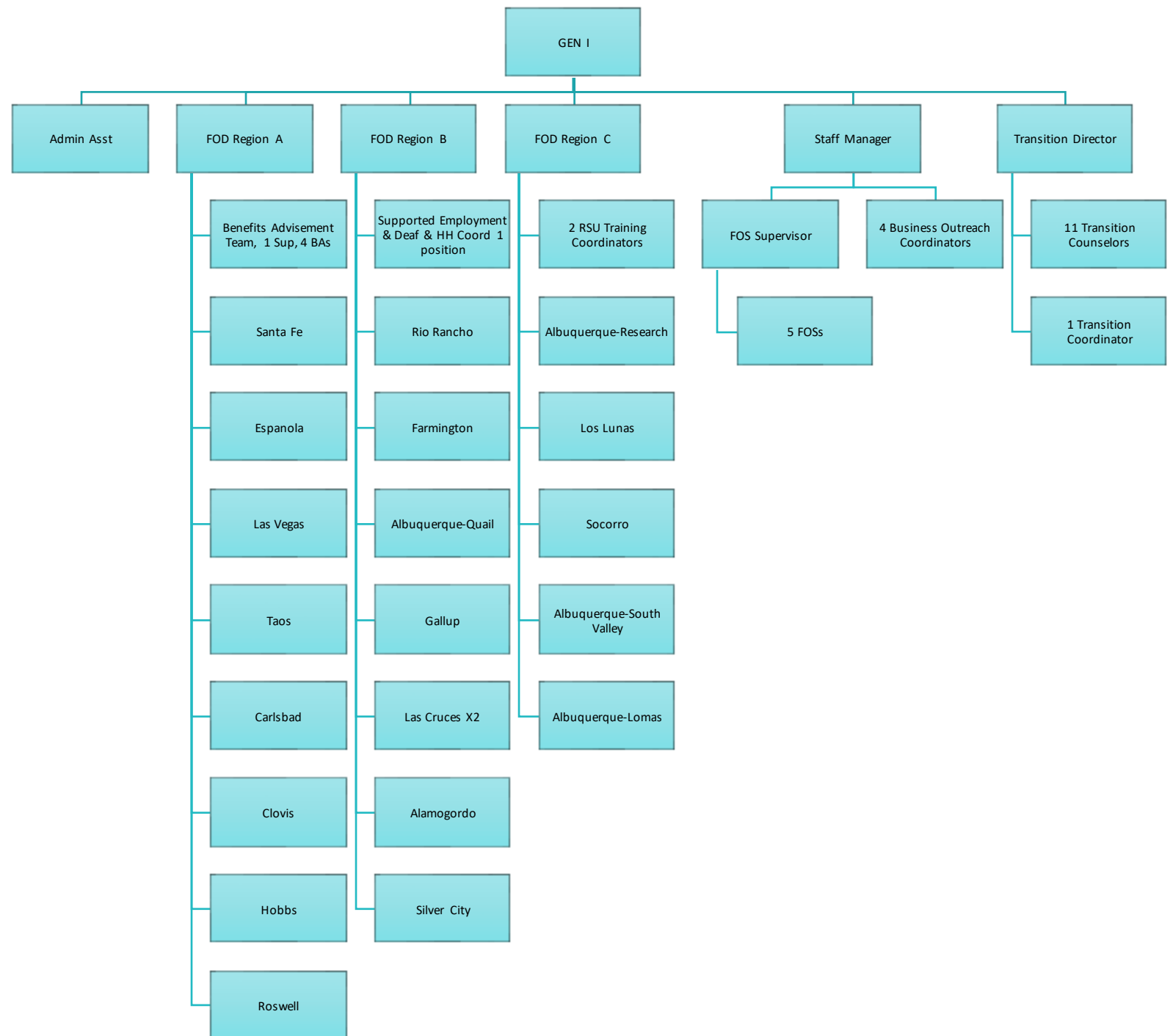
Our Values:

Inclusivity–Diversity–Empowerment–Collaboration–Innovation–Respect

NMDVR Org Chart



Rehabilitation Services Unit Org Chart



COUNCILS Mandated by Federal Regulation

- **STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**

- Consumer controlled; majority must be individuals with disabilities and Centers for Independent Living Directors.
- Adheres to a philosophy of “independent living” or empowerment of persons with disabilities to make their own decisions and life choices to the greatest extent possible.
- Develops the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) every 3 years.

- **STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

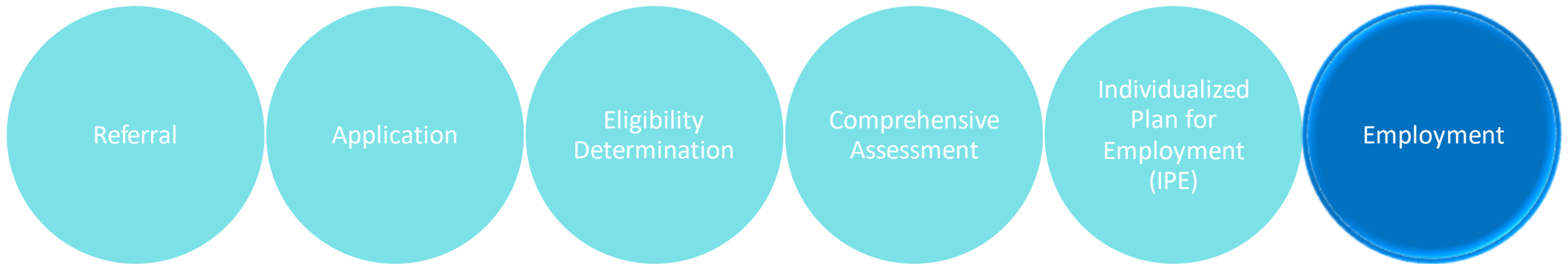
- Consumer controlled; mandated members.
- Reviews, analyzes, and advises NMDVR regarding rehabilitation programs and policies administered by the agency.
- Partners with NMDVR to ensure the highest quality services are made available to those seeking support services.
- Conducts a Client Satisfaction Survey every 3 years.
- Creates SRC Annual Report including recommendations for NMDVR.

One of the responsibilities of the State Rehabilitation Council is to collaborate with NM DVR to oversee agency services and ensure timely and effective services for community members. Feedback gathered during these public forums helps the SRC to understand the concerns and needs of community members, which helps us to craft recommendations to NM DVR for agency policies, priorities, and service goals under the Combined State Plan. Thank you so much for your input today - and if you are interested in learning more about the SRC please check out the council's page on the NM DVR website at: <https://www.dvr.state.nm.us/state-rehabilitation-council/>

Sarah Michaud, State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Chair

Rehabilitation Services Unit (RSU)

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Process**



RSU Services

Vocational Guidance & Counseling

School-to-Work Transition Planning

Training

Medical & Psychological Restoration

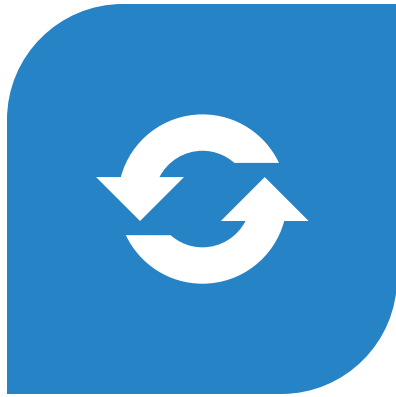
Assistive Technology

Job Training/Coaching/Support

Job Seeking Skills & Job Search



RSU Services Continued



TRANSITION
PRE-EMPLOYMENT
TRANSITION SERVICES
(PRE-ETS)



BENEFITS ADVISEMENT



BUSINESS OUTREACH

State Rehabilitation Council Composition

Council Representative	Current Term Number/ Vacant	Beginning Date of Term Mo./Yr.
Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)	2	8/2021
Parent Training and Information Center	1	6/2021
Client Assistance Program	Unlimited	8/2021
Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor (Ex Officio if Employed by the VR Agency)	1	8/2023
Community Rehabilitation Program Service Provider	1	7/2021
Business, Industry, and Labor	1	8/2023
Business, Industry, and Labor	Vacant	
Business, Industry, and Labor	Vacant	
Business, Industry, and Labor	Vacant	
Disability Advocacy Groups	2	8/2023
Disability Advocacy Groups	1	8/2023
Current or Former Applicants for, or Recipients of, VR services	1	8/2023
Section 121 Project Directors in the State (as applicable)	Unlimited	7/2023 7/2021
State Educational Agency Responsible for Students with Disabilities Eligible to Receive Services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Vacant	
State Workforce Development Board	1	8/2023
VR Agency Director (Ex Officio)	1	8/2023

Section A: SRC

SRC Vacancies, Appointments & Recruitment

- 3 Positions-Business, Industry, and Labor
- 1 Position-Pending Appointment: State Educational Agency Responsible for Students with Disabilities Eligible to Receive Services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - The SRC actively recruits members and works closely with the governor's office to complete timely approvals for council membership. The SRC maintains a quorum and has quarterly meetings as required.



SRC Recommendations

The SRC provides valuable recommendations to NMDVR

NMDVR provides responses to the Council's recommendations

Recommendations and responses are reflected in the State Plan and in the SRC Annual Report

Recommendations and responses are reviewed and updated annually

NMDVR has not rejected any of the SRC's recommendations

Section B: Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)

Focus on the overall and individual recommendations of the CSNA and individuals with disabilities, including:

- Most Significant Disabilities
- Minorities who are unserved or underserved
- Served through other components of the workforce development system
- Youth, Pre-ETS, and Transition
- Community Rehabilitation Programs

Section C: Goals, Priorities, & Strategies

- Prioritize major themes in CSNA.
- Ongoing customized employment training through the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) for staff and Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) staff.
- Partner and collaborate with Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)/Medicaid Waiver services to increase supported employment outcomes. Update Memorandum of Understanding to include all available waivers.
- Explore additional Project SEARCH sites.
- Partner and collaborate with New Mexico Behavioral Health Planning Council and Collaborative to explore Medicaid funding for long-term supports for individuals with mental health diagnoses.

Goals, Priorities, & Strategies

- Provide ongoing 511 Counseling and meet annually with remaining 14 (c) certificate holder and individuals being paid sub-minimum wage.
- Investigate use of Workforce Connection apprentice programs.
- Partner with DDS on Want-to-Work Program for DD Waiver recipients.
- Explore options for increasing access to transportation and work options including internet access, remote work, and self-employment.
- Focus on unserved or underserved ethnic groups, enforce MOUs, participate in Consortia of Administrator for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) annual conference, partner with Interwork Institute, San Diego State University on Underserved Populations Grant.

Goals, Priorities, & Strategies

- Continue to partner with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C) and the New Mexico Public Education Department to enforce Intensive Technical Assistance Agreement ensuring increased activity with students with disabilities.
- Development of training, technical assistance, and resources for employers and internal staff related to hiring, inclusion, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and tax credits.
- Participate in annual National Employment Team (NET) Summit.

Section D: Evaluation and Reports of Progress

Each goal has a measurable reporting mechanism.

- Please see the State Plan for measurable reporting information.
- Reporting on Goals, Priorities, and Strategies will be documented at required reporting deadlines.

Section E:

Supported Employment Services

Update and implement MOU with DD Waiver and Mi Via

Work closely with Human Services Dept. Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) to track legislation regarding usage of Medicaid for Long-Term Supports

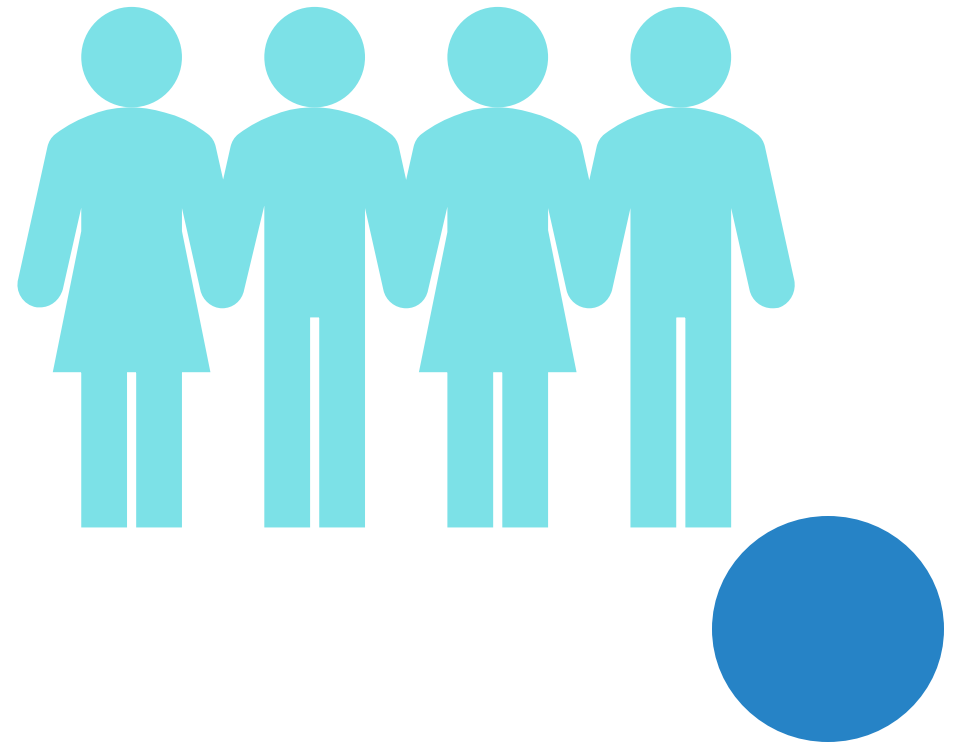
Want-to-Work Program

UCEDD training for staff and CRPs

Utilizing VR Grant to fund Supported Employment

Section G: Order of Selection

- NMDVR will serve all eligible applicants



Section H:

Waiver of Statewideness

- NMDVR does not request a waiver of statewideness



Section I: Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)



New Mexico Administrative
Code (NMAC) Update



Creation of two Staff
Development Coordinator
positions



Continued growth of RSU
positions

Section J: Coordination with Educational Officials

Intensive Technical Assistance Agreement

- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative

MOU

- Annual Review & Update

Work with CTE

- Career Training and Education (CTE) Director on SRC

Section K:

Coordination with Employers

Creation of Business Outreach Coordinators

- Focus on development of training and technical assistance
- Work with DWS to ensure complement of each title services
- Train RSU Staff on resources available

Important Reminders



NMDVR/VR portion draft of the State Plan and slides are posted on www.dvr.state.nm.us



Written comment may be submitted to contact@dvr.nm.gov through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024



Full State Plan and public comment are available at <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/en-us/Workforce-Boards>