

## State Rehabilitation Council

Quarterly Meeting

April 8, 2016

DVR State Office

435 St. Michaels Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

9:00 am – 4:00 pm



### **Members Present:**

Richard D. Jirón

Melinda Garcia

Ron Garcia

Bernadine Chavez (arrived at 9:45 am)

Mariela Pijem (arrived 10:04 am)

Larry Rodrigues (arrived 10:30 am)

### **DVR Staff Present:**

Adrian Apodaca

Kasha Suina

## **I. Welcome/Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35A.M. With 3 members present, at the time the meeting was called to order, it was discussed to go on with DVR Director's report. At 9:45 am, Bernadine Chavez arrived and a quorum was established.

## **II. Action Items**

### **a. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda by Ms. Chavez; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Jirón. With no changes being made, and none opposed, the motion to approve agenda passed.

### **b. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2015**

Motion to Approve Ms. Garcia; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Chavez. With no changes being made, and none opposed, the motion to approve minutes passed.

\*\*Note: The council did not hold a public forum prior to the SRC meeting, Council will hold public forum at next scheduled meeting. Olga Alvara is no longer with DVR, and will no longer be a part of the Council.

## **III. DVR Director's Report**

Director's Report was given by Adrian Apodaca, NMDVR

### **a. Legislative Update**

Two bills affecting DVR, HB205 - which was moving DVR administratively under Workforce Solutions, passed the House but stalled in the Senate, dead as of now, assuming it will be reintroduced at the next Legislative Session. SB62 was another bill that would allocate a million dollars to DVR for Autism Spectrum, but that bill didn't go anywhere in the session. Discussion regarding the HB205, SRC members were unaware that the HB was on the table, Mr. Garcia mentioned that he talked with Paul Aguilar (acting director of

DVR) and Mr. Aguilar would keep SRC informed on any discussions regarding DVR moving under Workforce Solutions in the future.

**b. State Plan Update**

Both plans were submitted on April 1, 2016. Submitted individual one to RSA, and the Unified State Plan was submitted by Faye. Ms. Chavez asked what the public forum turnout was like, the biggest turnout was in Las Cruces with 5-6 in attendance.

\*\*Mr. Jiron introduced Mariela Pijem, she is a pending member for the SRC, membership is awaiting approval from the Governor's office.

**c. Ticket to Work Update**

Ticket to work coordinator resigned in March, currently working with Governor's office to get position filled. Looking into getting position filled internally. Have at least a million dollars in reimbursements waiting to be processed. Received first data dump from Workforce solutions this month. Once position is filled DVR needs to go back and resubmit. DVR reported that they only spent \$350,000.00 for FY14, but that amount was wrong; actually spent \$9,000,000.00. This means that the reimbursement rate dropped from \$150.00/hour to \$2.00/hour. DVR is working with RSA and Social Security to get the RS2 report revised/reversed. We got the FY15 years corrected, so the current reimbursement rate is ~\$148.00. Question regarding when the last reimbursements had been submitted which was thought to be last August. Adrian confirmed that is correct. Question: if the reimbursements had been submitted, would that amount be enough to cover the cost of the position you are trying to fill? Adrian: yes, it would but it is not tied to that, the money is there. Filling the position is tied to the executive decision by the Governor that everything has to go through her to get approved. Waiting on decision to be able to post position. DVR has submitted request as the highest priority. DVR currently has 26-30 open positions, DVR has submitted requests to Governor's office for positions that had someone identified for, and is getting ready to submit requests for other positions. Not sure of timeframe for approvals. Question regarding Partnership Plus Programs, not getting a lot of referrals. Adrian: not sure we use that program, will get with Benefits Advisor and report back. Melinda to send Adrian email regarding Partnership Plus Program.

**d. Youth Transition**

Never a separate budget for youth transition; always part of caseload services budget and youth transition is served under counselor's regular budget. On a normal basis, usually spend between \$800,00 and \$1.1 million on youth transition every year. This coming year we have to do PETS (pre-employment transition services); PETS requirement is that we spend 15% of the overall spent allocation on adult services. \$1.5 to 2 million will be focused on PETS. DVR is going to do an IGA with Rec 5, they have staff to go out in the field to work with PETS until DVR can hire staff. They will represent DVR for a year to year and a half until positions can be filled with DVR. Discussion regarding Regional Cooperatives. Will hire 22 counselors to cover 180 high schools in New Mexico, solely focused on Youth Transitions. Next fiscal year is goal to hire, depends on hiring freeze.

**e. Field Office/Caseload Update**

Current budget of \$9 million for case load services, as of now we have authorized \$7 million dollars. Pay to date is \$5.2 million, outstanding payments are \$1.8 million, and \$1.9 in budget left. Right on target on spending.

**f. CSVAR Conference**

No staff members or SRC members will be attending Spring sessions. All out of state travel has been suspended by the Governor's office. Possibility of attending the Fall conference in San Diego. Recommendation to attend Fall Conference because of WIOA changes and regulations.

**g. Other Updates**

Streamlining payment processes in the field, just got that through in the last 2 months. Has sped up submission process. Reduced backlog, starting to creep back up because of vacancies.

Will be submitting MOP for SRC review. Request to have summary of revisions submitted to SRC. SRC would like to be included in development of the MOP, not just as reviewers. That is included in the SRC Annual Report as one of the goals. Richard and Bernadine have volunteered to help DVR develop the MOP in the future.

DVR had funds left over from FY15, in using those funds DVR is upgrading all area offices to have Wi-Fi, Skype, and software to better serve clients in remote areas.

Board would like to state that they appreciate Adrian and Paul's efforts to be more forthcoming with information and updates to the SRC.

**IV. SRC Chairpersons Report**

- a. Letter of Support to Jemez 121 Vocational Rehabilitation Program  
Vice Chairperson Melinda Garcia drafted a letter in support of the Jemez 121 Program for their renewal proposal.
- b. Would like to have SRC members present at the legislative session if the HB205 is back on the agenda.
- c. Acknowledgment of SRC annual report; thank you to Kasha for putting it together.

**V. SRC Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee:** missed the Public Forum, will add to next meeting.

**Membership/Awards Committee:** 6 pending applications at the Governor's office. Mr. Jiron continues to "bug" the office to get the applications approved. Many of the applications have been awaiting approval for almost a year now. Adrian will get with Paul Aguilar to see about a representative from PED. SRC should have 12-15 members. Mr. Jiron will work on nomination form, and will send to Kasha to send out email blast to DVR staff members; include the Awards in the blast. Deadline for nominations changed to July instead of June.

**State Plan & Outcomes Committee:** MOP Inclusion, Awards Nomination Form,

\*\*Mariela Pijem gave brief introduction about herself, and her role at Parents Reaching Out.

**VI. SRC Committee Review**

Executive Committee will meet on May 2, 2016 to reorganize committees. By-laws need to be revisited regarding membership processes. \*put on agenda for next meeting.

**VII. Update on SRC Website**

DVR is in the process of updating DVR website as well as recreating SRC page. Kasha will include Awards, post notices of upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, historical docs, annual reports, by-laws, memberships, committees, legal notices, and links. Website should be ready to go live within 4-6 weeks. Kasha will give update to members when new website goes live. Kasha to contact “Round the Roundhouse” to put December Awards in next issue. Open Meetings Act requires that we post Meeting Dates, Legal Notices, Agendas, and Draft Minutes need to be posted within 10 days of the meeting. Council needs to adopt a resolution annually accepting the Open Meetings Act. Currently the SRC website is out of compliance. Kasha will work with IT department to get the website up to compliance.

**VIII. Comments from Public/DVR Staff/Members**

None

**IX. Other Business**

- a. DVR Counselor- Richard Jiron will email Adrian to get alternatives for counselor and PED member positions. Ron Garcia will email Paul Aguilar to get names for alternative members from PED and Workforce Solutions.
- b. Time and Location of next SRC Meeting: June 3, 2016. Taos, NM. Public Forum from 9-10 am; SRC Meeting 10 am-4pm. Kasha and Mariela to find location in Taos. Executive Committee to meet on May 2, 2016 at 10 am via conference call to establish agenda for June meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Rodriguez; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Chavez. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.