

State Rehabilitation Council
Quarterly Meeting
Friday, September 14, 2012
San Juan Center for Independence
1204 San Juan Blvd.
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Public Forum- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Quarterly Meeting - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Members Present:

Bernadine Chavez
Ava Gutierrez
Richard D. Jirón
Andrew MacRae
Alex Martinez
Treva Roanhorse
Louise Williams

Members Absent:

Jeffrey Diamond
Sarah Michaud
Yvonne Hart

DVR Staff Present:

Tracy Alcaraz
John Fullinwider
Richard Smith

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Bernadine Chavez welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Ms. Chavez asked Ms. Tracy Alcaraz to call the roll.

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón motioned to accept the agenda, Ms. Ava Gutierrez seconded the motion. There being none opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

B. Approval of Minutes –April 27, 2012 and July 13, 2012

The April 27, 2012 minutes approved with suggested changes. Ms. Ava Gutierrez motioned to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Alex Martinez seconded the motion. There being none opposed and one (1) abstention, the motion passed.

The July 13, 2012 minutes approved with suggested changes. Ms. Louise Williams motioned to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón seconded the motion. There being none opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

III. Acting Director's Report – John Fullinwider

Mr. John Fullinwider reported on behalf of Ralph Vigil. He welcomed the Council and gave the Acting Director's report.

- Order of Selection- Priority group 1 will be removed off of the waiting list. Priority groups 2 & 3 will be taken off of the list in early October 2012.
- Legislative Session- The Legislative process begins in October 2012. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and Department of Finance Administration (DFA) will put their recommendations together in early January 2013 which will be presented at the House Appropriations Finance Committee hearing in the early part of the Legislative Session.
- Vacancies at DVR- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is beginning to fill some of the open vacancies. Currently, 18 out of 19 positions have been posted. DVR has contracted with two (2) previous employees to fill in on caseloads until the positions have been filled.
- Manual of Operating Procedures (MOP) – The MOP did have some revisions approved by the Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA). They have been put into effect and staff have been trained on these revisions. DVR will train with Disability Rights of NM (DRNM) in October 2012 on the revisions that have taken place. MOP revisions will be posted on the public web site under “Hot Topics.”
- DVR Fair Hearings- For FY12 & FY13 there have been 12 Fair Hearings. Mr. Andrew MacRae and Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón suggested to have a more complete and comprehensive explanation when a case is settled, withdrawn, and closed etc. and with the understanding of confidentiality.

Ms. Bernadine Chavez will bring the document of the client rights to the next SRC meeting scheduled for December 7, 2012 in case the council would like to provide input.

IV. SRC Chairperson's Report – Bernadine Chavez

Ms. Bernadine Chavez stated that there are only ten (10) people on the SRC Council. The SRC committees are:

- Executive Committee- Members are Ms. Bernadine Chavez, Ms. Sarah Michaud, Mr. Ralph Vigil, and Ms. Tracy Alcaraz, Interim Executive Administrative Support until there are more members.
- Membership and Awards Committee- These two (2) committees will be combined until there are more members. Members are Ms. Connie DeHerrera, Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón, Ms. Treva Roanhorse (Membership and Training Committee), and Mr. Andrew MacRae (Awards Committee). Ms. Ava Gutierrez offered assistance to help with the awards committee, if necessary, in sending emails.

Once we have fifteen (15) members, then we can resume with the heads of the committees. Ms. Bernadine Chavez mentioned that the SRC really needs someone to represent the State Independent Living Council (SILC), and one (1) representative from community rehabilitation program service providers, (this position was currently held by Ron Garcia), one (1) representative in business industry and labor, one (1) representative in advocacy groups, and one (1) representative for the state workforce investment board. The SRC membership committee will need to get Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón and Ms. Connie DeHerrera to start recruiting for these positions. Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón said he will follow up with the chair of the membership committee as this needs to take place. The election of officers will take place in December 2012. The election for chair and vice chair will also take place as they expire in December 2012. Ms. Bernadine Chavez has asked Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón and Mr. Alex Martinez to take on the task of getting nominations so we can have the elections. We currently have five (5) vacancies that need to be filled.

V. 121 Program Report - Treva Roanhorse

Ms. Treva Roanhorse reported that RSA decided not to have a competition for fiscal year 13. RSA has requested for a waiver of extension to extend the eight (8) programs to September 2015. RSA has also asked for public comments. Next month, the National Congress of American Indians will be voting. Ms. Treva Roanhorse will report on this for the December 2012 meeting. Ms. Treva Roanhorse mentioned that state recognized tribes should no longer be eligible to receive federal dollars because they are not federally recognized while the Navajo Nation is state recognized.

VI. Committee Meetings

Each committee group met for fifteen (15) minutes to discuss upcoming and past meetings, conference calls, etc.

Ms. Louise Williams stated that the SRC annual report is due and approaching quickly. Ms. Williams has requested for each committee to come up with positive outcomes and challenges about each committee. Ms. Williams has asked to have this information given to her by October 15, 2012.

The committees consist of the following:

- Executive Committee:
 1. Bernadine Chavez, SRC Chairperson
 2. Sarah Michaud, Vice Chairperson
 3. Ralph Vigil, DVR Acting Director
 4. Tracy Alcaraz, Interim

- Legislative and Outreach Committee
 1. Jeff Diamond- Committee Chair
 2. Bernadine Chavez
 3. Alex Martinez
 4. Ralph Vigil

- Awards Committee
 1. Andrew MacRae- Committee Chair
 2. Vacant position
 3. Vacant position

- State Plan Committee
 1. Louise Williams- Committee Chair
 2. Ava Gutierrez
 3. Sarah Michaud
 4. Richard Smith

- Membership and Training Committee
 1. Connie DeHerrera- Committee Chair
 2. Richard Dennis Jirón
 3. Treva Roanhorse

VII. Committee Reports

- Awards Committee- Mr. Andrew MacRae, chair for the awards committee reported that the committee has agreed that only one (1) person or one (1) group shall be awarded. The committee will come up with their own criteria to be put on a form. The committee has also decided and agreed to exclude DVR staff that provide direct support to the SRC from the awards selection. By doing this, will avoid a conflict of interest. Mr. MacRae asked that if anyone has any suggestions to e-mail him. Ms. Bernadine Chavez said there is sufficient budget to purchase these awards.
- Membership and Training Committee- Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón, who spoke on behalf of the chair of the membership and training committee, said that the committee will give a full report on previous discussions and meetings for the December 2012 meeting.
- Legislative and Outreach Committee- Mr. Alex Martinez, who spoke on behalf of the chair of the legislative and outreach committee, reported that their goal is to implement a yearly client satisfaction survey. It will go out to the clients that have a closed case with DVR. A closure letter will also be sent with the survey.
- State Plan Committee- Ms. Louise Williams stated that the SRC annual report is due and approaching quickly. Ms. Williams has requested for each committee to come up with positive outcomes and challenges about each committee. Ms. Williams has asked to have this information given to her by October 15, 2012.

VIII. SRC webpage – Richard Smith

Mr. Richard Smith explained to the council where to look for information on SRC and DVR on the DVR website. The Hot Topics area, which is on the right hand side of the website, shows current happenings or information of importance, etc. Comment was made by Mr. Richard Dennis Jirón to also inform the IT department of web links not always being accessible.

Mr. Smith reported that so far DVR has completed four (4) consumer interviews and took pictures. Mr. Smith stated he has started working on the DVR annual report for FY 12 which ended on September 30, 2012.

IX. Comments from Public/DVR Staff/Members

Ms. Ava Gutierrez shared with the group a pamphlet from the Florida Rehabilitation Council.

X. Other Business

The next SRC meeting will be held on December 7, 2012. The location is yet to be determined. A future meeting has been scheduled for March 22, 2013. Ms. Treva Roanhorse suggested having the meeting in Silver City. The June 7, 2013 meeting will be in Albuquerque at the Center for Self Advocacy. More information on locations, times, etc. will be forthcoming soon.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.