

State Rehabilitation Council

Quarterly Meeting
Friday, June 7, 2013
NMDVR Lomas Office
111 Lomas NW, Suite 422
Albuquerque, NM 87102
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Members Present:

Bernadine Chavez
Jeff Diamond
Chandra Majumdar
Richard D. Jirón
Sarah Michaud
Treva Roanhorse
Andrew MacRae
Peter Shams-Avari

Members Absent:

Yvonne Hart
Alex Martinez
Louise Williams

DVR Staff Present:

Ralph Vigil
Tracy Alcaraz
Rich Smith

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M.

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

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Roanhorse motioned to approve the agenda with some flexibility, Mr. Diamond seconded the motion. There being none opposed and no abstentions, the motion passed.

B. Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2013

Mr. Shams-Avari motioned to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Diamond seconded the motion. There being none opposed and one (1) abstention, the motion passed.

C. Open Meeting Act- Presentation by Attorney General’s office

Mona from the Attorney General's office gave a presentation on the latest amendments to the Open Meetings Act. Some items that were discussed are:

- Formation of Public Policy-
 - A. Public Meetings Subject to the Act- Quorums
 - B. Telephone Conferences
 - C. Notice Requirements
 - D. Agenda

All this information can be found in the Open Meetings Act Compliance Guide.

III. Acting Director's Report – Mr. Ralph Vigil

Mr. Vigil introduced NM DVR's Field Operations Directors (FOD's):

- Terri Douglass, John Fullinwider, and Adrian Apodaca, who just recently started

Mr. Vigil went on and gave his report:

Order of Selection (OOS)-

- There is no waiting list for any of the priority groups at this time. All priority groups are open with no one going on the waiting list at this time.
- The agency is still under an Order of Selection (OOS), and is projected to remain under an OOS at least through June of 2014.
- Budget reviews at mid-year and mid spring will take place to determine if all of the priority groups can continue to remain open.
- With more people being released off of the waiting list, we are observing increased application rates and increased people being placed into service status. This will increase the agency's service delivery capacity and number of successful outcomes in the long run.

Legislative/Budget Update-

- The agency essentially received a level budget for FY 14. There will be a minor vacancy rate applied which will not have much impact to agency staffing. Level funding will mean that next year's budget and operations will closely resemble this year's.
- NMDVR has been given the approval to fill as many positions as possible. This will be necessary to increase capacity and in requesting additional general fund through the legislative process. The challenge for this and next year is that the agency continues to experience turnover. There have been many retirements and many employees continue to job hunt due to the fact that there have been no pay increases since 2007. Also, when some positions are filled, it creates vacancies in others. The agency's goal of decreasing the agency's vacancy rate from 23% to less than 10% will not be realized this year. That remains the target for next year.
- As part of the staffing efforts, some field positions will be converted to create a centralized fiscal unit. This will assist with maintaining internal controls and in creating a more efficient system to work with vendors and process timely and accurate payments. The necessary paperwork has been submitted and we are awaiting State Personnel Office approval.

- The agency is also hoping to designate three positions to act as Employer Relations Specialists. These staff will work businesses to facilitate more employment outcomes. Currently, one position has been identified. We don't anticipate filling this position until next fiscal year.

Fair Hearing Requests-

- For the current federal fiscal year (FFY), five (5) requests have been received. Four have been withdrawn. One (1) remains open. There is also a civil case that is a carryover from the last two FFY's.

IV. SRC Chairperson's Report – Bernadine Chavez

Ms. Chavez attended the spring meeting of the CSRC in Bethesda Md. The first day focused on leadership training. The topics covered were all related to roles and responsibilities of the SRC. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Policies and procedures
- Recruitment of new members
- Orientation of new members
- By-laws

Hill visits

Ms. Chavez, John Fullinwider, and Terri Douglas, joined Greg Trapp, Art Schreiber, and Jim Salas in doing hill visits with all of our congressional delegates. The visits went really well and were actually able to meet with three of the delegates themselves. Ms. Chavez thought the visits went well and both Terri and John did a great job representing DVR. The visits were successful in making DVR more visible to our congressional delegates.

Other Announcements:

- Both Ms. Michaud and Ms. Chavez will be attending the SRC forum sponsored by RSA at the end of June
- SSA has reinstated the PABSS program for Disability Rights New Mexico and that program is up and running again.
- The Veterans Fair co-sponsored by DRNM and DVR is slated for August 1, in Las Cruces

V. 121 Program Report- Sarah Michaud and Treva Roanhorse

Ms. Michaud reported that Jemez is gearing up for their 3rd (third) community conference, which will be held on June 20, 2013.

Ms. Michaud will be send 2 (two) staff members to the Summer Rehabilitation Institute sponsored by the Southern University.

Ms. Michaud mentioned she is waiting to hear from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on next year's budget and to see if there will be a competition next year.

VI. Awards Committee-

The Awards Committee presented the State Rehabilitation Council Recognition Awards. The following recipients were selected:

- Tanya Shatz, NM DVR Counselor at the Rio Rancho office. Mr. Reyes Rodriguez who at the time was her Program Manager gave the recognition speech.
- David Joyce, NM DVR Counselor at the Silver City office. Mr. Jirón gave the recognition speech in replace of Ms. Shirley Gonzalez, who is Mr. Joyce's Program Manager.
- Lucinda Garcia, NM DVR Counselor at the Las Vegas, NM office. Ms. Alice King, Program Manager gave the recognition speech.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

VII. Committee Reports-

A. SRC ByLaws- Committee Structure

Ms. Chavez discussed the committee structure. There will be 3 (three) standing committees which consist of the following:

1. **Executive Committee-**
 - A. Bernadine Chavez
 - B. Sarah Michaud
 - C. Tracy Alcaraz
 - D. Ralph Vigil
2. **Legislative & Report Committee-**
 - A. Jeff Diamond
 - B. Alex Martinez
 - C. Sarah Michaud
 - D. Chandra Majumdar
 - E. Louise Williams
 - F. Rich Smith
 - G. Agnes Maldonado
 - H. Bernadine Chavez
3. **Membership & Training Committee-**
 - A. Richard Jiron
 - B. Treva Roanhorse
 - C. Andrew MacRae
 - D. Peter Shams-Avari

Each Chair of each committee will also be part of the Executive Committee.

VIII. Comments from Public/DVR/Staff/Members

Mr. MacRae requested to have Parents Reaching Out to be put on a future agenda and have them do a half hour presentation.

IX. Other Business-

A. State Plan Public Hearings-

Mr. Fullinwider went over various attachments of the 2014 State Plan. The public meetings for the State Plan will be held on June 11-12, 2013.

B. Schedule Future SRC Meetings

1. September 20, 2013 in Roswell @ 9:30 AM
 2. December 6, 2013 in Albuquerque @ 9:30 AM
- Locations still yet to be determined.

X. Adjournment-

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM