



SRC Special Meeting Minutes  
August 27, 2019  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Location: Disability Rights New Mexico  
3916 Juan Tabo NE., Albuquerque, NM 87111

---

## **SRC Special Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order/ Introductions/Roll Call – Sarah Michaud**

Meeting called to order at 1:12 p.m.

#### **Members Present**

Sandy Sandoval, Chair  
Sarah Michaud, Vice Chair  
Tracy Agiovlasis  
Bernadine Chavez  
TJ Chester  
Yolanda Montoya-Cordova  
Keith Maes  
Paula Seanez – via phone  
Guy Surdi – via phone  
Rebecca Holland – Excused

#### **Members Absent**

Andrea Leon  
Charles Hamlin

#### **DVR and DWS Staff**

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley  
Diane Mourning – Brown, Director  
Anna M. Vigil, Independent Living Program Manager

## **II. Action Items**

### **A. Approval of Agenda**

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova moved to approve agenda  
Diane Mourning-Brown seconds  
Unanimously approved

## **III. Discussion of SRC Position on DVR's Proposed Pending Move to DWS**

Diane Mourning-Brown – been with DVR 3 months. I am working on getting DVR, getting the house (DVR) in order, lots of challenges, but DWS has been very helpful in doing so. I understand it is the governor's position that we do of course get everything right with DVR in terms of operational and internally with staff a lot of staffing issues, etcetera and that we

consider moving our state DSE PED to DWS, and that is kinda why we wanted to get together. I think what is vitally important is federal funding that we follow RSA state guidelines and we also include and share our reports with SRC and SILC and begin the discussions. We have already had some inner workings with DWS in terms for our MOA, MOU for our CFO (Sara Brownstein) acting CFO from DWS to come over to DVR. And there were some really wonderful changes with that but we are currently re-working that MOA and we are preparing for a meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Coincidentally, this morning we met with Senator Linda Lopez and Representative Ferrary and Liz Thompson but had to leave it was a good meeting in preparation for the meeting we will be having on September 11, 2019. It gave me a big picture of the history of DVR – how it has operated and all the challenges. We came away from there- we will not put a transition plan now because it is going to take quite a long time to get that plan developed, we want to receive assistance and leadership from PED as well as from DWS to help get DVR back on track. Mostly in terms of operations and program delivery to our community and we want to do that in conjunction with the disability community with SILC and SRC the CFB etcetera so that kind of where we are.

Sandy Sandoval – thank you Diane for getting us up to speed is there anything you would like to share about the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting?

Diane Mourning-Brown - I will be preparing a presentation for the September 11, 2019 meeting we have about 20 minutes to present and the rest of the time will be used for questions. An hour is allotted.

Areas of Focus:

- DVR up to now present – how are things going, things that will be happening – any changes we've made those kind of things
- If we want to go forward with re-organization, we will have to have a plan – RSA has set the standard – there is a checklist we will need to follow set by RSA
- We will look at other states to see what the best way is
- A timeline is needed and steps on how to get there, it is very important
- We want to look where we want the future of DVR to be what we want to look like
- PED is working a special education symposium and we want to be sure PED include DVR and DWS

TJ Chester – the SILC meets Thursday, are you on the agenda for the SILC meeting? What is the SILC Special Meeting for? Are they aware of the situation?

Diane Mourning-Brown – last meeting I was not there but I called in and I just briefly talked about a possible transition, but whether they know about it, I don't know

Sarah Michaud – TJ if I may interrupt, I was not at that meeting either, but I have spoken with several members that attended, and the SILC's input was not requested. One of the recommendations that we would need to emphasize as an associate council that any

transitions would require council input as well as public hearings to ensure that we as councils are fulfilling our charge.

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova – I will say that that is part of the requirement of RSA, is looking at how the whole discussion of that transition is built into the transition. What I will add is that we are not talking about the up coming session.

Anna Vigil – She is not on the agenda, but she will be in attendance of the special meeting on Thursday 29 August 2019. The meeting will be to discuss the hiring of the SILC Coordinator.

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova – nothing was discussed – it's a long-term plan that won't go into effect this legislative session. It is a huge project/process and we want to be thoughtful; make sure that along the way opportunities to be heard and public input are considered. From what I understand from RSA, all those things have to happen and put in the discussion.

TJ Chester – you mentioned that DSE can be stand alone

Bernadine Chavez – Can DVR be stand alone? SRC should be given every single option for an informed choice because it hasn't been made clear.

TJ Chester – a report of the pros and cons of each approach would be best

Diane Mourning-Brown – RSA has everything laid out. We can get that analysis it will be helpful in deciding what avenue we will take.

Sarah Michaud – reason for this meeting is due to SRC not knowing anything that is going on. Also, a letter of support was requested from SRC. We as a council, we have to have a voice. Diane wanted to know our position.

Sandy Sandoval – so is the letter premature now?

Diane Mourning-Brown – any letter of support would be helpful

TJ Chester – so it is support not....

Sarah Michaud – Diane, what would your letter of support need to say?

Diane Mourning-Brown – the letter should say how you interact with DVR – your relationship-what you see moving forward

Sarah Michaud – What is RSA's position on this?

Diane Mourning-Brown – it is a re-organization of agencies, we must have a plan, we must

be compliant on regulation financial portion on the transferring of federal grants. RSA has offered to help us transition we can have a phone conference with them.

TJ Chester – I am not clear on the audience – sub committee is the audience you're looking for?

Diane Mourning-Brown – yes

Yolanda Cordova-Montoya – a bill was introduced, there was no pre planning or any plan, so, this go around DWS wants to be certain there is a plan.

Bernadine Chavez – I think at that time they knew it was coming but didn't know all the steps required to get there. Senator Michael Padilla introduced the bill

TJ Chester – What is the DWS position?

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley – the governor has two things she wants to see happen

1. Solve all problems make things better
2. Agencies should not have turf battles and she wants things to happen quickly so we are working on it.

Nobody will argue that there are problems at DVR. The past eight years there was no support from PED to DVR. Our overall goal is to help DVR with staffing issues and order of selection. Really, we need to examine why DVR is under the Public Education Department. WIOA concept

Nov-Dec of next year

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova – when it first occurred it was chaotic. Subsequently we learn from those states that have transitioned.

Diane Mourning-Brown – RSA has cautioned me/us from modeling after other states. It is real important to have these conversations from other states.

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley – Please feel free to call anytime, I am in my car a lot and will take your call. 575.496.5731

Sandy Sandoval – I'd like to add that NM Disability Community have for decades been involved. DVR is the oldest VR program we have been leader in the disability community. My concern is to make sure the consumers are taken care of. I don't want OOS and DVR has had problems over the years but so has other agencies.

Sarah Michaud – I appreciate having this conversation. Most disappointing thing is the budget and we are not changing anything. We need to listen to our consumers. You cannot leave the disability community out.

## Accessibility

Bernadine Chavez – the beauty of VR is it is individualized. WIOA it is not.

Keith Maes – as a counselor I want to provide a quality service specific to the individual. We need to focus on a long-term success career path.

Diane Mourning-Brown – the counselor positions in terms of a bachelor's degree has changed now we can hire anybody.

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova – from our/DWS perspective shortage of teachers as well as counselors. Another additional structure we are looking at – career ladder for those counselors that have that higher education – build a

Bernadine Chavez – WIOA got rid of the masters in VR requirement you can now hire a bachelors. Western has a VR tech 2-year training program but we hear that DVR does not hire from Silver City

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova – please excuse me I have to leave for a meeting in Las Cruces (2:14 p.m. left)

TJ Chester – can it get worse under DWS than PED?

Guy Surdi – lots of pros to have DVR move to DWS, the devil is in the details. How can this be successful opportunity to make programs successful?

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley – What is the preferred method going forward, for communication? Do you want us at all your meetings, do you want emails?

Sarah Michaud – getting regular updates, come to our SRC meetings. Ask the SILC as well what they prefer. This is a great forum. The frustration is because we have not had those conversations.

TJ Chester – I agree with Sarah as you have explained.

Bernadine Chavez – Diane is making efforts, which is better than what we have had in the last six years. We need to make a decision here, so Diane what kind of support can we give you?

TJ Chester – I feel comfortable with DVR going to DWS.

Diane Mourning-Brown – I'm putting a presentation together to include SRC and SILC for the presentation on September 11<sup>th</sup>

When and where is the meeting? September 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. @ the UNM Science

Sandy Sandoval – a report from Diane

Sarah Michaud – do we need to vote for the action item?

TJ Chester – going forward I feel comfortable for support of moving DVR under DWS

Keith Maes – I think we need statistical data on what other states did and the outcomes before moving forward

Tracy Agiovlasis – yes, I agree with Keith

Diane Mourning-Brown – at this point I guess a letter is not needed

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley – may I suggest doing a letter specific to what your concerns are and you can take a position later after the research is done.

Bernadine Chavez – I move to do a position letter when we have more information

#### **IV. Action Item – SRC position letter to Governor on proposed DVR move**

Bernadine Chavez moved to table action item

TJ Chester second

Unanimously approved

Sandy Sandoval – do we have a volunteer to write the letter?

Sarah Michaud – I volunteer to write the letter. I will draft it and email to everyone for input.

#### **V. Other Business**

TJ Chester – Just real quick, how will we get the information, the data, how other states did, pros and cons?

Diane Mourning-Brown – I will do research – my staff Lucinda will do research and I will put a report together. We are meeting Friday. Also, I will be attending the CSAVR, they have great resources for this that we can tap into.

Bernadine Chavez – I will be going to CSAVR too.

Diane Mourning-Brown – we will need to do this research before going to DWS. We/DVR need to get our house in order, you know we can't sell it until it's in order (I'm also a realtor) laughter. I am working on doing just that, we have made an offer for an HR Manager and interviewed for Legal/Attorney.

Bernadine Chavez – we work closely with DVR – counselors are worried – there's lots of

questions. Keith you do a great job!

Keith Maes – Thank you but I can say it is frustrating as the requirements for a counselor have changed and having a masters in a specialized field like VR is different training than social work.

Sandy Sandoval – In the end, it is their decision.

Sarah Michaud – Mr. Chair, I disagree. I feel it is our responsibility to have a voice as we are representing the disability community.

Cabinet Secretary Bill McCamley – Thank you for allowing me to be here.

## **VI. Adjournment**

TJ Chester moved to adjourn this meeting

Tracy Agiovlasis seconds

Unanimously approved; meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.