

State Rehabilitation Council

Quarterly Meeting

June 23, 2022

Virtual Meeting

SRC Meeting 10 am DRAFT



I. Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM

Members:

Sarah Michaud, Chair

Tracy Agiovlasitis, Vice Chair

Bernadine Chavez

Chris Boston- *Absent*

Dolores Harden

Jennifer Gelhardt

Meta Hirschl - *Absent*

Joseph Cruz - *Absent*

Paula Seanez - *Absent*

Sbicca Brodeur

TJ Chester

Marlencia Chee - *Absent*

Yolanda Montoya-Cordova

Lisa Jones – *Absent*

DDS Staff:

Charles Hamlin- DDS Administrator

DVR Staff:

Casey Stone-Romero, Agency Director

Mandy Barbero, Executive DVR Secretary & Admin Assist

Nash Sisneros, DVR RSU Deputy Director- *Absent*

Alicia DeVargas, RSU Executive Secretary & Admin Assist

Therese Trujillo, DVR Chief Financial Officer

Kendra Karp, Deputy CIO

All Others:

Michelle Bowdon- DVR Attorney

Julia Petrucelli- DVR Attorney

Jeff Levine- DVR PR Coordinator

II. Action Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Sara Michaud moved to approve agenda

Bernadine approved

TJ Seconds

Unanimously approved

B. Approval of Minutes

Two corrections on March minutes. Minutes corrected.
Jennifer Gelhardt moved to approve minutes with changes
Tracy Agiovlasis seconds
Unanimously approved

C. 121 Report – Paula Seanez

Tabled/Loop Back

D. DVR Directors Reports

I. Agency Director – Casey Stone-Romero

- a. COVID impact on services and staffing
- b. LFC – FY24 planning
- c. Update on RSA Monitoring
- d. Update on Fair Hearings

II. Chief Financial Officer – Therese Trujillo

III. RSU Administrator – Nash Sisneros

IV. DDS Administrator – Alan Hamlin

E. SRC Chairperson’s Report – Sarah Michaud

F. Old Business

A. Orientation for new members

G. New Business

A. Combined State Plan for 2022 and 2023

- a. Update on Plan to date
- b. Preparation and set dates for work on DVR State Plan due in 2023

B. SRC involvement in policy review and state plan

C. Committee Structure Discussion

- a. Review Committees and Discuss options for changes (examples)
 - Resource Plan
 - Awards
 - Bylaws
 - Outreach
 - Annual Report

b. Assign SRC members and DVR staff to committees

c. Develop work plans

d. Discuss changes to the by-laws

D. NCSRC Update – Bernadine Chavez

E. SRC Resource Plan/budget

F. SRC Attendance at DVR All Staff call September 8, 2022 at 11:00 am

G. SRC Awards process – when and how?

H. 2022 Meeting Dates

a. Return to in person meetings

- Possible locations – DVR Gibson Office or Santa Fe office

I. Comments from Audience

J. Adjournment

III. 121 Report – Paula Seanez

Tabled/Loop Back

IV. DVR Directors Reports

- A. Agency Director- Casey Stone-Romero
Casey Stone-Romero will report out on behalf of Nash Sisneros-RSU Deputy Director.

COVID impacts-DVR Staff will return to the office on July 5 on a hybrid schedule. 3 days in office, 2 days in office 3 days telework.

LFC updates- 2nd quarterly action plan updates to RSA on April 29. RSA will respond back by July 8. That gives two weeks for the next submission due July 30.

RSA Monitoring process- DVR has signed a one agreement with VRTAC (Voc. Rehab. Tech. Asst. Center) on quality management, technical assistance, and internal controls. Will have intensive training in various areas. First area targeted is Outreach to rural communities. We are also about to sign an agreement with VRTAC technical assistance center QM which is for Quality Management. They will assist with monitoring reports and how to get out of that monitoring. They will also assist in internal controls/ quality review data management, and quality of data. DVR Completed updates to our combines state plans 3-2022. 45 items needed to be addressed.

We have a vacancy rate of 11% ASU. 13% vacancy rate for RSU, including 14 Counsel 3 VR Tech. We are working to fill those positions. With the rapid hire in May we had 18 positions available, we had 8 people fill positions. DDS vacancy rate is at 35%, they are at a 1 for 1 fill. Overall DVR is at 22% vacancy.

Data correction- We went back 7 quarters. The work was being done but was not being captured accurately. We cannot go back and enter it correctly. Internally – 2020 was actually 35.98% for the second quarter after exit employment rate. 4th quarter was at 37.43% after exit employment rate. Median earning was \$3,890.74.

RSU 60% wait list has been released over 1st 6 months of calendar year. 40%b left. June not to do a release of participants. AWARE will be down for 5 days for some updates. We will do a larger release in July. 650 participants have been released we still have 457 participants.

Fair hearing update. 2 fair hearing requests between March and June.

Case #2022006-Closure due to a misunderstanding between DVR staff and participant. The case was resolved informally. Participant's case was re-opened and is still in service.

Case#2022007-Closure due to noncooperation. Participant refused to sign required forms and did not engage in productive planning with DVR staff. The participant agreed to a zoom meeting and did not show. DVR did attempt to contact the participant with no success. The case was dismissed by oral motion by DVR it was dismissed with prejudice.

- B. Chief Financial Officer – Therese Trujillo

Independent living contracts are ready to go and will be ready by July 1.
NASA federal grant is no longer available.

Starting audit for FY 2022 we have a list of items due June 17, 24 and July 11 and we are ahead of the game.

C. RSU Administrator-Nash Sisneros

D. DDS Administrator- Alan Hamlin

Vacancy at 35%, 30 full time examiners, 1 part time examiner and 10 trainee examiners in their first year. SSA is at a 1 for 1 replacement hire. We are currently trying to fill. DDS has 6-8 people apply weekly there are 2-3 interviews weekly. 50% are being extended an offer, 50% are not accepting because of the pay. Current pay band is 55 we have been approved for an alternate pay band of 60. Adjudicators are at a 65 pay band.

Even with limited staff we are exceeding every workload target in the region. Accuracy rate, #1 in Dallas region 95.9% initial claim accuracy 1 in the region and 4 in the nation. 97.8% on reconsideration accuracy 1 in the region 2 nationally. 97.8% Continuing disability review 1 regionally and 18 nationally.

V. **SRC Chairperson's Report – Sarah Michaud**

Calf Canyon/ Hermits peak fires are impacting New Vistas service areas. Annual report due December. Review in September the progress to date, actions of council and prepare recommendations for DVR. Have all this ready by December to approve prior to submission.

VII. **Old Business**

All members have access to training modules. Possibly add a section of what are SRC responsibilities. There were 15 members and lost 2 from the business industry; Chris Boston and Metta moved on. There are 3 open positions for members of business community.

VIII. **New Business**

A. Combined State Plan 2022 and 2023

- a. going to touch base in March to see how that is going
- b. Between March and June get together to get 2023 going

B. Need to get better input from SRC on updating policies. Process proposal, to RSA

for comment and send back to Casey, then run it by SRC. New policies from July 8 will be sent to SRC.

C. Committee Structure Discussion

- a. Potential other committees: transition committee
- b. SRC members to DVR staff:
Resource Plan to Executive committee. Bylaws to Executive committee,
Annual Report to State plan and outcomes
- c. Transition committee, Sbicca, Dolores and Lisa; Legislative and Outreach, Jennifer, Bernadine, Tara and Casey/Terry; Targeted Populations Committee, Nash, Joseph and Marlencia; State plan and outcomes, Tracy, TJ, Paula, Sara and Casey; Membership training and Awards, Jeff.
- d. Paula will send out current by-laws, specifically about the committees. Need to change the language at September meeting.

D. National Co. Rehab Counsel monthly trainings-Suspended meetings; in person conference will be October 29 & 30 in San Antonio. After that will start the monthly training calls again. CSAVR starts on 10-31. Do an orientation for Vocational Rehabilitation Services, just need a basic understanding. Focus on SRC structure.

- E. Did finalize the executive committee will be working on this.
- F. Invite the SRC staff to the September 8 meeting for introduction to the DVR staff.
- G. Need to get the committee restructured first. Goal date for next one is May or June 2023.
- H. September 22, 2022-December 8, 2022. Hybrid meeting @ State office
Last meeting of the year is December 8, 2022

IX. Comments from Audience

None

X. Adjournment

Sara motions to adjourn

TJ Chester second

End 12:29

If you need a language translator or you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to participate in this meeting, please contact NM DVR at the telephone number(s) listed below. Public documents, including the agenda or minutes can be provided in various accessible forms. For additional information, contact NM DVR. Telephone numbers: 1-800-224-7005 or 505-954-8500.

(Note: the SRC attempts to follow the order of items listed on the agenda; however, it should be noted that the order of specific items is tentative and may vary from the date of the printed agenda.)