

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**  
Quarterly Meeting Agenda  
May 7, 2026  
Silver Square Building Conference Room  
625 Silver Ave. SW, Suite 100A  
Albuquerque, NM 87102 (**one-time Gate Code 5739#**)  
SRC Meeting 10 am



- I. Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call  
Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM by Sargeant in Arms, TJ Chester

Roll Call

Tracy Agiovlasis, Present  
TJ Chester, Present  
Paula Seanez, Present  
Jennifer Gelhardt, Present  
Rebecca Sanford, Absent  
Breezy Gutierrez, Present  
Veronica Alonozo, Present  
Sarah Michaud, Present  
Kendra Garcia, Present  
Sasha King, Present  
Lia Johnson, Present  
Marlencia Chee, Present  
Dr. Stephon L. Scott, Present  
Jason Gordon, Present

Guests

Angelina Montoya, NMDVR  
Michelle Bowdon, NMDVR  
Antoinette Holmes, NMDVR

- II. Action Items
- A. Approval of Agenda (action item)
    - a. TJ Chester Motions to approve with changes to order of DVR report out
    - b. Breezy Gutierrez seconds Motion
    - c. Unanimously approved
  - B. Approval of February 26, 2026, Minutes (action item)
    - a. Jennifer Gelhardt motions to approve with fixing spelling typo (WIOA)
    - b. Paula Seanez seconds Motion
    - c. Unanimously approved

- II. DVR Directors Reports

- A. Update on Fair Hearings – Michelle Bowdon
    - a. Order of Dismissal
      - i. Requested on May 4<sup>th</sup> and dismissed by stipulated motion to vacate the FH on May 5<sup>th</sup>
        - 1. Participant and NMDVR prior to the prehearing status conference had engaged in negotiation to settle this matter
      - ii. RSA 722 Report
        - 1. FFY 2025
          - a. Mediations: 1 request resulting in successful mediation
          - b. Impartial Hearing: 10 requests in 2025, 9 disputes resolved without a requirement of a fair hearing, 1 that did go to FH however the participant withdrew in favor of DVR
          - c. Civil Actions
            - i. 1 carry over
            - ii. Appeal of a FH that went to the First Judicial Court that was resolved and dismissed
- B. Agency Director – Dr. Stephon Scott, Director
  - a. Conferences
    - i. CSAVR
      - 1. Several DVR leadership and 1 SRC member attended the CSAVR Spring conference
      - 2. DVR Staff Presentation: Enhancing Fiscal and Problematic Collaboration
        - a. Charlene Chavez
        - b. Antoinette Holmes
        - c. Rosalva Lucero
          - i. Kuddos to these presenters, well received presentation
    - ii. DVR Presented at the following:
      - 1. Partner for Employment Reaching New Heights
      - 2. Supported employment
      - 3. Office of Special Education Spring Directors Academy
      - 4. NM Workforce Close It Summit
      - 5. Special Education All Staff Meeting
      - 6. Executive Huddle
        - a. VICE Initiative
        - b. 4 Strategic Goals
          - i. Increase Pre-ETS Enrollment and Activities
          - ii. Support Operation Graduation
          - iii. Evaluate and Assess State of New Mexico and Federal Education Policies
          - iv. Critically analyze the impact of strategic goals 1, 2, and 3 on VR Counselors In-School Engagement
      - c. More collaboration between DVR and PED
    - iii. NRLI Cohort
      - 1. DVR Staff attendance and completion: Mario Lucero
    - iv. LeadVR Program from University of Arkansas
      - 1. DVR Staff attendance and completion: Shannon OQuinn Monica Moya

- v. ASAP Program
  - 1. DVR Staff attendance and completion: Martha Castaneda and Monica Moya
- b. DDS staff members have received 15 Resourceful Awards
  - i. Awards are for excellent work on specific work and complicated cases
- c. Rehab Academy
  - i. 6 VRCs and VRTs attended Rehab Academy
- d. Vacancy rate 30%
  - i. 68 vacant positions are in DDS
    - 1. We cannot recruit without SSA approval
  - ii. DVR 17%
    - 1. 15 positions actively being recruited
    - 2. 6 pending approvals of hiring action
    - 3. 1 awaiting acceptance
- e. Transition from Pre-ETS, VR, IL, K-12, PRO
  - i. Hand-offs from agency to agency
    - 1. Ensure fluidity in hand-offs based on student needs
      - a. Helping partners work collaboratively to ensure students are applying for the appropriate programs, services, and supports during each transition and hand-off process
    - 2. Promote a clear understanding of transition steps and expectations for students and families
    - 3. Provide support in navigating workforce opportunities and services
    - 4. Include All Relevant Programs in the Conversation
      - a. Encourage cross-program collaboration and coordination to support seamless transitions
      - b. Develop a visual guide outlining the referral process across programs
      - c. Results and Implantation
    - 5. Trends and Data
      - a. Use trends and data to justify seeking additional funding to support these efforts
    - 6. Upin
      - a. Includes all 4 Core Title Partners
      - b. This platform may help to address some existing challenges, as all partners will be utilizing the same system
        - i. This is additive to our need
  - ii. Models
    - 1. Review and adopt models while evaluating to fit our own processes
    - 2. Technical Assistance Center
    - 3. Examine the workflow model used by Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services and identify best practices
    - 4. Workflow and connection
  - iii. SRC and DVR, assistance from the SRC Program Review Committee
    - 1. Visions of how we can work together
    - 2. Tasks of reaching out for models and how we can fluently work together for all handoffs

- iv. Charlene Chavez, DVR's Transition Director, valuable resource in this area of discussion and collaboration
- C. RSU Update – Antoinette Holmes and/or Rudy Grano, Deputy Directors
- a. Rudy Grano- Deputy Director of RSU Client Services
    - i. Working towards initiating the CSNA in state fiscal year 27
      - 1. Scope of work is currently being developed and will be followed by the contract process
      - 2. Goal to have contract executed in early FY27
    - ii. MOUs between NMDVR and the 3 Tribal VR Programs are in the process of being renewed
      - 1. MOUs were collaboratively updated and the goal is to have them executed by October 1, 2026
      - 2. The current MOUs were terminated on September 30, 2026
  - b. Antoinette Holmes- Deputy Director of RSU Statewide Programs
    - i. Total Served participants: 7,758
    - ii. Current Open cases: 4,560
    - iii. Rehabilitated closures: 509 to date
      - 1. Goal: 700
      - 2. 369 in employed status so there is potential to meet the goal
  - c. Update to DVR Processes/Activities and State Plan Update
    - i. 2-year State Plan modifications for NMDVR were submitted last week to RSA
      - 1. The presentation on comments received by NMDVR were reviewed at the Statewide Workforce Board Meeting on April 10, 2026
  - d. Update on Senate Bill 64 Special Education
    - i. Passing that all school districts must follow the same IPE
  - e. Update on National Rehabilitation Leadership Institute (NRLI) Training
    - i. DVR Staff attendance and completion: Mario Lucero
  - f. Update to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Community of Practice
    - i. Set Preliminary and Curriculum
      - 1. A group of VR professionals with adequate experience in various roles to include Statewide coordinators, VRC and Transition VRC, Program Managers
      - 2. CoP group will support coaching, mentoring, critical case questions, as well as support training and education of RSU staff
      - 3. Kick off in July
  - g. Update on Fiscal Basics Training from VRTAC-QM
    - i. DVR in person training on 04/07/2026 – 04/08/2026
  - h. Benefits Advisors
    - i. Initials- 262 participants
    - ii. Intensive- 372 participants
    - iii. 650 generals (emails, phone calls, walk-ins, SSA, etc)
  - i. BOC Team
    - i. Statewide Coverage
      - 1. Established partnership with their regions Workforce Board, American Job Centers, Community partners and employers

- ii. Our Business Outreach Manager is in the process of completing ACRE training and working on ADA trainings to become a Certified ADA coordinator
  - 1. 2 BOCs will be in the next train-the-trainer Windmills Cohort
- iii. Staff have attended more than 30 internal and external training courses
  - 1. Aimed at maintaining mandatory training compliance, expanding their industry knowledge, and improving service delivery
- iv. Staff have developed and revised multiple training modules focused on ADA compliance, disability awareness, and inclusive hiring practices, supporting employer education statewide
- v. Increased Job Opportunities
  - 1. Developed partnerships with City of Albuquerque, Chavez County Waste Management, Amazon, Space Systems Integrated and others
- vi. Community Awareness
  - 1. Attended over 100 events
  - 2. Increasing visibility has enhanced collaboration with workforce partners, promoted disability inclusion initiatives, and directly supported the achievements of the WIOA performance objectives
    - a. Partnership developed with:
      - i. Americas Job Centers
      - ii. Regional Workforce Boards
      - iii. Goodwill
      - iv. CSAVR NET
      - v. Job Challenge Academy
      - vi. Also working to develop partnership with Applyology and Abilities to Careers to better serve our participants
        - 1. Applyology will allow participants to apply for any job off one application
- vii. Let's Talk About IT Sessions
  - 1. Start in January to bring integral and targeted information to the NMDVR staff
- viii. First Virtual Job Club
  - 1. Participants who reached individual job-ready status focused on developing speaking and soft skills. A model for the Virtual Job Club was created and handed off to the local office so they can continue facilitating job clubs locally.
  - 2. Five additional sessions remain to continue supporting the current group
- j. Training
  - i. Rehab Academy week 1 & 2
    - 1. Smaller 6-person cohort since we were on a hiring pause
  - ii. NMDCR ACRE Cohort
    - 1. 15 staff participated in this cohort
  - iii. Project Search in July
    - 1. 5 staff will be in attendance
  - iv. APSE in June
    - 1. 7 Attendees
  - v. Office Hours

- 1. AWARE reports, Characteristics at plan, Resources for Professional, Support Decision Making
      - 1. Regional Training have concluded
  - vii. DVR Training team has processed over 400 training requests
- k. Financials
  - i. 8,296 authorizations have been processed since the start of the FY
  - ii. We have utilized \$9,804,080 in funding towards client services to date of FY26
  - iii. 2 service agreements with Job Developers executed
    - 1. RGC will provide support for both JD and ASL interpretations to serve our Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants directly
- l. Data Unit
  - i. Resolved 252 AWARE requests submitted by RSU between 01/2026 and 03/2026
    - 1. Request resolved in 1.2 days on average
  - ii. 42% of the total AWARE requests were to add an employer
- m. Recommendations
  - i. Can we align the SRC and DVR annual report given that both reports give fiscal year end data
  - ii. State Plan alignment of strategies and goals
    - 1. Recommendations from SRC
  - iii. SRC would also like to know all major items that they need SRC part of
    - 1. Public input
    - 2. Policy changes

D. DDS Administrator – Dr. Stephon L. Scott on behalf of Alan Hamlin

- a. NMDDS FY 2026
  - i. All workloads on PAR with production and workload targets
- b. Staffing issues
  - i. Received authorization to hire 3 DA1 positions
    - 1. Interviews to be conducted today
  - ii. NMDDS is receiving Federal workload support from West Virginia DDS
    - 1. No impact on customer service
    - 2. Expected to improve customer service and reduce wait times
    - 3. All eligibility decisions will continue to remain within New Mexico
- c. Social Security Administration (SSA) has directed a required transition to the SSA softphone system, scheduled to go live on 05/19
  - i. SSA is rolling out implementation at a pace of approximately 10 states per month
  - ii. Federal sites rolled out last year
  - iii. Expecting to have a positive increase in customer service

III. 121 Report – Paula Seanez

- a. Navajo Nation
  - i. 5th year of funding and continue reviewing grant outcomes and budgets to ensure goals and objectives are met
    - 1. The program team prepared a grant proposal in anticipation of a potential funding opportunity announcement from RSA

2. Grants ends December 30, 2026
3. On April 2, 2026, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and RSA published a notice in the Federal Register (91 FR 16599) regarding proposed waivers and extensions for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) Program and the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Training and Technical Assistance Center
  - a. The proposed extension would allow 43 AIVRS projects under Assistance Listing Number 84.250N and one AIVRTTAC project under 84.250Z to receive continued funding beyond their fifth year
    - i. Funding extensions would continue through September 30, 2027
    - ii. RSA invited public comments regarding the proposed waivers and extensions notice
    - iii. Comments must be submitted through [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)
    - iv. Deadline for submitting comments is May 4, 2026
  - b. 43 programs are currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> year
  - c. Will meet with Program Officer May 4th
    - i. Checklist for the extension that came out
    - ii. Going to have to submit a budget narrative and give to program with any change
    - iii. Will ask for a carry over
- ii. Vacancies for Navajo Nation
  1. 2VRCs remain vacant in Farmington, NM
  2. 1 Rehabilitation Technician in Crownpoint, NM
    - a. Student internship- Interview to be conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Rehab Academy
  1. American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS) program had their Rehabilitation Academy on March 2, 4, 9 and 11 which presents an Indigenous approach to the VR journey in tribal communities
- iv. Consortia on Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR)
  1. Membership meeting on 03/25/2026
  2. Midyear conference is planned for Green Bay, WI “Empowering Futures Through Cultural Strength.”
    - a. Call for presentations ended on April 17, 2026
  3. Navajo Nation was sponsor of the Parents Reaching Out Parent Leadership Conference which was held on May 1, 2026.
    - a. Sponsorship was used for parent stipends for attendance
    - b. Conference is to help families and youth improve their skills in advocating and impacting the systems that affect them. The event includes networking opportunities with participants from around the state and workshops providing important and applicable information and perspectives to families and professionals
- v. CSAVR / NCSRC
  1. Sydney, WA state DVR and Janet Lopez from AZ RSA Tuesday, March 31, 2026, was designated as a day for state Caucus Capitol hill visits

2. There were many great sessions on business engagement, competitive integrated employment, transition, data and fiscal information
- b. Marci- Jemez VR Report
- i. Annual Disability Conference at Santa Ana Star on 03/27/2026
    1. 304 people in attendance
    2. Keynote was delivered by Macaiah Shendo
      - a. Scholar from the Pueblo of Jemez and recipient of the Eric D. Bothwell Student Award
      - b. His presentation on Neuropsychological Epidemiology provided critical insights into Indigenous brain health.
      - c. New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP) provided a comprehensive overview of assistive technology services and accessibility pathways for the community
      - d. Questions ran for 30-40 minutes and people responded very well
    3. Not one negative remark
      - a. Advertisements via mail out, social media, and posters
  - ii. 5-Year Award Grant
    1. We were up for the 5-year competition as well and now getting our same award grant award for the 6<sup>th</sup> year
    2. All required documents for the proposed 1-year extension has been submitted
  - iii. Jemez Service Area
    1. 80-mile radius
      - a. Jemez Pueblo
      - b. Santa Ana Pueblo
      - c. Zia Pueblo
      - d. Santa Domingo Pueblo
      - e. San Felipe Pueblo
      - f. Cochiti Pueblo
      - g. Sandia Pueblo
      - h. Isleta Pueblo
      - i. Bernalillo/Albuquerque/ Rio Rancho Metro area
  - iv. 8 transitional students currently being served
    1. 1 transition student finished her job experience and now has a full-time job
  - v. 45 Active consumers
    1. We are introducing the option of dual cases with DVR and working well with Hotona at the DVR Rio Rancho office
      - a. more than half were willing to have dual cases
  - vi. Jemez Project HOPE recently attended a meeting at Bernalillo High School, where they were informed that the program is expected to receive 20 new referrals in the upcoming month.
    1. Jemez VR actively working with the following schools:
      - a. Jemez Valley High School
      - b. Walatowa Charter High School
      - c. Bernalillo High School
      - d. Santa Fe Indian School

- e. Rio Rancho High School
      - f. Cleveland High School
      - g. Cibola High School
    - 2. JVR Project HOPE is currently working various programs and businesses to place our transitional students
      - a. Jemez Natural Resources Department
      - b. Jemez Public Health
      - c. Bernalillo Senior Center
      - d. Bernalillo Albertsons
      - e. Jemez Public Works
    - vii. Resource Night in July
      - 1. Planning meeting is taking place 05/13
      - 2. More information will be shared as it becomes available
    - viii. Professional Development
      - 1. JVR Counselor Natisha Toya graduated 05/07 from NM Highlands University as a double major
        - a. Master of Social Work and Master of Business Administration
          - i. Concentration in Leadership and Administration
- V. SRC Chairperson's Report – Tracy Agiovlasis, Chair
  - a. Orientation for SRC members
    - i. 2-part module on different days virtually
      - 1. 1:1 and help new members with onboarding
      - 2. Doodle pool will go out to get everyone's availability
      - 3. Also plays as a refresher for established members
  - b. CSAVR Attendance
    - i. Paula Seanez Spring attended the Fall conference at NCSRC and CSAVR
    - ii. Fall conference, please let DVR liaison and Chair know who will be participating at least 30 days prior to the travel
  - c. SRC Quarterly meeting save the dates will go out via outlook invite by SRC Chair Tracy Agiovlasis
- VII. Old Business
  - A. Consumer Satisfaction Survey Update
    - a. Pending client consent form
  - B. SRC Open Meetings Act Resolution confirmation
    - a. A new OMA has been updated and signed
      - i. Updated OMA will be uploaded to the DVR website
      - ii. Jeff Levine is assisting with updates to the SRC page
        - 1. Member information and new documents
  - C. SRC Committees Process Review and Updates
    - a. No Committee updates
  - D. Report on National Council for SRC Conference (NCSRC) March 2026 – Paula Seanez and DVR
    - a. CSAVR and NCSRC
      - i. There were many great sessions on business engagement, competitive integrated employment, transition, data and fiscal information
      - ii. <https://www.ncsrc.us/>

- VIII. New Business
  - A. National Disability Employment Awareness (DEAM) Month Business Outreach for 2026
    - a. Discussion regarding assignment of responsibility for leading and coordinating DEAM
    - b. Dr. Scott will be in contact with Veronica to further discuss
  - B. Next Meeting – prescheduled for August 13, 2026, in Roswell, NM
- IX. Comments from Audience
  - a. No comments from Audience
- X. Adjournment
  - a. Adjournment at 2:00 PM

*\*\* The Governor’s Commission on Disability, New Mexico Technology Assistance Program welcomes all attendees to visit their office in this building after the meeting.*

*If you need a language translator, are an individual with a disability who needs a reader, amplifier or auxiliary aid, accessible documents, or additional information to participate in this meeting, please contact NMDVR at 1-800-224-7005 or 505-954-8500 at a minimum of 3 business days in advance to respectfully make appropriate arrangements.*

*For attendance access **on the day of this meeting**, contact New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP) at 505-841-4464 or Tracy Agiovlasitis at 505-469-1489.*

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(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.)

