

SRC June 2015 Quarterly Minutes

Day One: June 10, 2015

In Attendance

Shain Anderson, Frank Coco, LaWanda Cook, Paul Czech, Pat Dowse, Michael Irwin, Martha Jackson, Karen LaJoie, Robert Linton, Joann Marshall, Dennis Martinez, Patricia Mazzariello, Liam McNabb (OMH), Jim Moody, Joanie Parker, Patrick Pascarella, Michael Peluso, Roger Purdy, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski, Fredda Rosen, Bill Schultz, Michael Sherman, Shirley Sherman, Elizabeth Skender, Lois Tannenbaum, Chad Underwood, Lisa Van Ryn, Kerry Wiley (DDPC), and (on phone) Jamie Bay (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe), Julie Cardone, Helene Fallon, Erica Molina, and Craig Wolfson.

What	Outcomes
<p>Call To Order & Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member Introductions• Review & Approve March Minutes• Review Action Items• Public Comment	<p>Michael Irwin, SRC Chair, called meeting to order and welcomed members of the Council. March minutes: Chad Underwood moved to accept with no changes. Passed unanimously. Mike I. then highlighted the consumer satisfaction presentation on day two of the meeting by the panel from the SUNY Potsdam Institute for Applied Research. Action Items - from the SRC webpage since the last quarterly meeting: there had been two inquiries; one was informational, and one related to an open ACCES-VR case which was referred to the ACCES-VR Quality Assurance Unit for follow up. Public Comments – none.</p>
<p>CAP (Client Assistance Program) Update</p>	<p>Erica Molina, CAP Director, explained the Disability Rights New York (DRNY) center is the designated agency to administer the Client Assistance Program (CAP) as per the Rehabilitation Act (WIOA title IV) and seven other federally funded protection and advocacy programs. Much like ACCES-VR's obligation to seek public input into the VR State Plan, the CAP is required to seek public input on their program. New proposed CAP priorities for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016 -2018 will soon be posted on the DRNY website with public comment through till July 31, 2015. Both the ACCES-VR and NYSCB SRC's are strongly encouraged to submit comments on the proposed CAP priorities.</p>
<p>WIOA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRC Role in the State Plan Development Process & WIOA Considerations• Response to Proposed WIOA Regulations	<p>Frank Coco, Coordinator, District Office Administration, ACCES-VR Lisa Van Ryn, Manager, Resource Development, ACCES-VR</p> <p>Lisa presented a PowerPoint overview the of the VR State Plan Development Process & Components srcstateplan.pptx The NYS Combined State Plan will provide an umbrella under which each of the WIOA core services DOL, ACCES-VR, Adult Education & the NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) broadly committing to enhance collaboration and data sharing. The "VR Portion" of the State Plan for 2016 remains the priority for the SRC and the public going forward. New regulations that will refine VR state plan requirements are still pending, so ACCES-VR and partners are relying on the language in WIOA for 2016.</p> <p>WIOA themes familiar to the Council were restated including, but not limited to:</p>

- Common performance measures across core services & new performance measures to be developed by RSA.
- Emphasis on youth & pre-employment transition services (primarily in school youth & out of school youth as well)
- Emphasis on postsecondary education
- Emphasis on outreach to employers (best practices and how to measure same) – will likely be a focus later in the year etc.

Other WIOA challenges include:

- the elimination of homemaker employment as a viable occupational objective, and
- an expectation that individuals with significant disabilities will have trial work experiences as a component of the evaluation process to determine if an individual is not capable of engaging in employment.

It was suggested the SRC review the current ACCES-VR stated goals and priorities In the Current VR State Plan and in light of the new WIOA requirements to provide feedback on such areas as:

- Setting targets for increasing the ACCES-VR employment rate;
- Should we track median earnings as opposed to average earnings?
- How should ACCES-VR employment goals look in comparison to the Employment First Commission’s stated goal of a 5% increase in employment and a 5% decrease in the poverty rate for New Yorkers with disabilities?
- Tracking the percentage of consumers/participants who obtained a post-secondary credential or secondary diploma one year after exit from VR services;
- Should ACCES-VR track and target increases in hourly earnings; and,
- Strategies for capturing “measurable skill gains” etc.

Frank C suggested the SRC review ACCES-VR Goals and Priorities In the current VR State Plan with reference to the new WIOA requirements.

Council members suggested ACCES-VR consider the following:

- Adopt goals based on employment earning increases over time e.g., by a year certain increase the number of consumers/participants earning 200% of poverty;
- Increase services to specific underserved populations;
- Adopt a goal that over time that regional consumer demographics will be consistent with the regional ethnic composition of individuals with disabilities;
- Consider connecting with students sooner than 2 years prior to graduation – it was pointed out that WIOA places an emphasis on youth as ages 16 to 21 and that ACCES-VR is committed to demonstrating an ability to connect with students 2 years prior to graduation for committing to a larger population.
- Reassessment of temporary/interim employment as a bona fide employment outcome
- Follow the attention to transportation issues as is the case with employment 1st initiative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider VRC attitudes in determining which consumers are candidates for postsecondary education – Develop specific supports for individuals exiting work centers; – Increase attempts at competitive employment before referring to supported employment; – Respecting consumer achievements and their role as a partner in the VR planning process; – Expand the use of telephone connections and State Plan: public meetings; – Consider that if a student’s first exposure to employment is at 16 years of age, it leaves her far behind typical students; – Consider empowering individual staff at central office to advance and pursue systemic changes; – Coordinated approaches should also focus on community rehabilitation programs and particularly on independent living centers. – Recognition that the extensive State Plan reporting requirements along with new WIOA provisions has made a cumbersome process more cumbersome and it was suggested ACCES-VR consider adopting fewer goals that represent improved employment outcomes. <p>Michael P reminded Council members that their role is to attend and/or promote the ACCES-VR State Plan public meetings and encouraged each to invite content experts and/or consumers from their respective networks to participate in the public meetings. Michael I committed the Executive Committee to establishing a timeline and process for channeling SRC recommendations for the VR and combined State Plan.</p>
<i>SRC Membership</i>	<p>LaWanda Cook, SRC Vice Chair, reviewed last year’s new member candidates to identify a potential replacement for Mira Bowin. Michael P discussed ex-officio members and welcomed Liam McNabb from OMH. The Transition Committee has discussed an interest in expanding the number of ex-officio members to include representatives of the State Associations of Special Education Administrators. The St. Regis Native American nation is in the process of identifying an interim member to replace Nicole David. Robert Linton was also welcomed as the new ACCES-VR Liaison for the Policy and Planning Committee. Lisa V observed that OPWDD’s participation is important and suggested they identify an additional representative given just how busy they are.</p>
<i>NYSILC (New York State Independent Living Council) Update</i>	<p>Chad W. Underwood, CEO, Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc., discussed the NYSILC’s efforts to go out for public comments on issues relating to the state plan for Independent Living – much like ACCES-VR. He referenced efforts underway to move Independent Living from NY Dept. of Education to the Office of the Aging. Ex-Officio member Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski questioned how serious an effort this is because the Gov.’s language was pretty vague suggesting they would explore the issue. Chad noted he cannot speak for the governor’s office, but views the potential move as “a done deal”.</p>

SRC Quarterly Meeting

Day Two: June 11, 2015

In Attendance: Shain Anderson, Michelle Barlow, Julie Cardone, Frank Coco, LaWanda Cook, Paul Czech, Pat Dowse, Michael Irwin, Martha Jackson, Robert Linton, Joann Marshall, Dennis Martinez, Patricia Mazzariello, Jim Moody, Joanie Parker, Patrick Pascarella, Michael Peluso, Roger Purdy, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski, Fredda Rosen, Bill Schultz, Michael Sherman, Shirley Sherman, Elizabeth Skender, Lois Tannenbaum, Chad Underwood, Kerry Wiley (DDPC), and joining by phone Jamie Bay (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe), Debora Brown-Johnson, Helene Fallon, and Craig Wolfson. Presenters from SUNY Potsdam Institute for Applied Research; Sandra Morris, Bob Shepherd and Dr. Patrick Turbett

What	Outcomes
Call To Order, Welcome, Introductions	Michael Irwin, SRC Chair - Introductions Go-Around
ACCES-VR Operations Update ACCES-VR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New SED Commissioner Appointment</i> • <i>WIOA Update VR State Plan</i> • <i>Governor's Employment First Commission</i> • <i>Strategic Planning Update</i> • <i>SRC Recommendations</i> 	Debora Brown-Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, ACCES-VR Frank Coco, Coordinator, District Office Administration, ACCES-VR <u>SED Commissioner:</u> The recently appointed NYSED Commissioner Ms. MaryEllen Elia will officially take office on July 1, 2015. Mike I suggested we invite the new Commission to attend an SRC meeting as soon as her schedule permits. A joint meeting with the NYSCB's SRC was discussed as a possible opportunity to introduce the new Commissioner to both groups <u>WIOA Update/VR State Plan:</u> Frank C noted ACCES-VR and NYS DOL have committed to ongoing bi-weekly meetings. Initial meetings have gone well and both sides are engaged in interpreting the new WIOA requirements and collaboration around the development of the NYS Combined State Plan. After much consideration, ACCES-VR has elected not to comment on the proposed federal regulations so that efforts can be focused on the State Plan development process. <u>VR & Combined State Plan:</u> As part of the State Plan, we need to look at new services, increased outreach to transition age population and continuing to recruit highly qualified VRCs. We are committed to systems integration concurrent with the need to realize improved outcomes from the new service requirement linked to our distinctive goals and strategies. Discussion focused on how the SRC can contribute to the State Plan development process with the Policy & Planning Committee (PPC) designated as the lead in providing SRC input into the SP development process. <u>Governor's Employment First Commission:</u> Debora B reported that the SRC correspondence to the Governor with recommendations for Employment First Commission Report is still under review with SED leadership. Mike I reported that the SRC Executive Committee discussed the issue and recommended proceeding with the mailing of the letter since it was originally shared with ACCES-VR as a courtesy

	<p>several weeks ago. Debora inquired as to what the SRC Guiding Principles offer with regard to this situation. Discussion focused on how the inordinate amount of time SED review process makes it impossible for SRC correspondence to get out in a timely manner. Julie Cardone, Ex-Officio member representing the NYSCB requested the correspondence reference the NYS Commission for the Blind's support and shared interest in advancing the Employment First agenda. It was agreed that Mike I and Debora B will meet after they both review the Guiding Principles to discuss the matter further.</p> <p><u>Strategic Planning Update:</u> Frank C reported the strategic planning process has moved into the first phase of internal implementation. From the full set of recommendations from the six strategic planning work groups, an implementation team convened to oversee statewide implementation efforts. Our intent is to connect consumers with accurate information, expedite consumer access to VRCs and ultimately to expedite plan development. Debora B noted VRCs are receiving training on how to coach participants through the early stages of the eligibility determination process, the plan development process and teambuilding and includes a video from an independent living perspective. Another priority is the implementation of a number of strategies to improve internal and external communications. Our Communications Public Information (CPI) team has identified next steps and timelines for several initiatives including marketing our services through advertising on NYC buses and subways. The next priority will be technology, e.g., adopting a new case management system, improved laptops, etc. related management tools and consumer services. We are also reviewing the NYSCB youth services model to determine how ACCES-VR might implement some of their best practices.</p> <p>Marketing to employers: Robert Linton, SRC Liaison (PPC) noted the Integrated Employment Specialists (IES) are engaged in a range of marketing efforts including the new Talent Acquisition Portal (TAP) web-based employer job search program.</p>
<p>ACCES-VR Consumer Satisfaction Information Collecting SUNY Potsdam Panel Potsdam Institute for Applied Research</p>	<p>Michelle Barlow, ACCES-VR Quality Assurance Manager, introduced Sandra Morris, Dr. Patrick Turbot, and Bob Sheppard of SUNY Potsdam's Institute for Applied Research as the lead personnel in carrying out ACCES-VR's consumer satisfaction information gathering activities over the next five years. An overview of the Potsdam Institute for Applied Research was provided and the SRC then broke up into three discussion groups to gather SRC feedback on issues and topics ACCES-VR would like to learn more about from the employer community. All three workgroups engaged in a dynamic dialogue.</p> <p>SRC Presentation.pdf</p>
<p>Working Lunch-Committee Meetings</p>	<p>All committees met to update and develop their work plans</p>
<p>SED Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities</p>	<p>Roger Purdy, SRC Representative to SED Advisory Council: The SED Advisory Council meets twice annually, last meeting on 4/14/15. Highlights included the need to</p>

	<p>revamp the NYS Higher Education Department’s approach to data collection and SED’s approval of ADA/TAP provisions. The Council established four working committees: Fiscal; Legislative/Regulation (Implementation would require legislative or regulatory action); Technical Assistance; and a Data Collection Committee.</p>
<p>SRC Business</p> <p>Committee Reports</p> <p>4.2 Recommendations</p>	<p>Michael Irwin, SRC Chair & Full Council</p> <p><u>Workforce Development Committee (WDC)</u> met with the ACCES Business Development Unit (IES network) to discuss strategies for replicating the highly successful business-to-business NYC “Champions of Change” outreach event. Development of a toolkit to assist in replicating the program is under consideration. The WDC continues to work on the adult Middle Skills white paper.</p> <p><u>Transition Committee</u> discussed the need for each of the committees to get very specific about data needs, and if after a reasonable amount of time, the requests can be elevated to a formal recommendation. The committee discussed the role of the Community Employment Specialist positions called for in the most recent ACCES-VR, youth employment initiative (YEI) RFP, whose primary role will be to work with school systems. The committee also shared feedback on the next RFP under development that will target disconnected youth.</p> <p><u>Policy and Planning Committee (PPC)</u> requested ongoing updates on the Combined State Plan planning process among the core partners, and particularly between ACCES-VR & DOL. Robert L has committed to facilitating the updates. The PPC reviewed the final training materials, and reviewed the VR staff training approach in connection to rolling out the HIV Technical Assistance Brief (TAB). The committee was very impressed with the structure and approach to the training and suggests it represents a model approach that ACCES-VR might consider formally adopting as a basis for all future human resource development trainings and proposes the following.</p> <p>4.2 Recommendation: PPC moves to endorse the current state wide approach to statewide training associated with implementing the HIV TAB as a best practice that should serve as a framework for all ACCES-VR staff trainings going forward. The framework includes, but is all not limited to, three essential components and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Examine medical aspects of disability; 2. Review how policies/guidance will impact on day-to-day ACCES-VR implementation of services to the disability populations most impacted by the policy/guidance; and, 3. Follow-up by managers, QA & stakeholders to monitor the implementation of the policies/guidance and as necessary, provide follow-up training by VR counselors for proper implementation. <p>Motion: Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo; Seconded: Helene Fallon;</p>

	<p>Vote: Yea=17; Nay=0; Abstaining: =0; Motion Passes Unanimously.</p> <p><u>Quality Assurance Committee (QAI):</u> reviewed and provided feedback on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft survey to gather data on consumer satisfaction in RSA status 26 (successfully employed). • Deliverables/timelines for the first year of the new SUNY Potsdam consumer satisfaction/information gathering grant. Review and assessment of SUNY Potsdam research will be an ongoing QAI priority over the next several years. • QAI is committed to setting an agenda for the planned November 2015 joint PPC /QAI committee meeting. • Development of an ACCES-VR Technical Assistance Group (TAG) that will be more active in providing technical assistance to community rehabilitation service providers. • Hearing officer training program - generally found the training to be effective. <p>4.2 Recommendation: QAI Committee moves to strongly encourages ACCES-VR to include a “disability etiquette” component in future mandatory and optional Hearing Officer Trainings. This component should relate to how different types of disabilities might impact how consumers engage in the impartial hearing process.</p> <p>Motion: Chad Underwood; Seconded Joanie Parker; Vote: Yea=16; Nay=0; Abstaining:=1; Motion Passes</p>
<p>SRC Business Ex-Officio Member Updates</p>	<p><u>NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB):</u> Julie Cardone reported the summer youth programs are gearing up. The NYSCB’s SRC has continuing concerns with RSA’s elimination of the homemaker employment goal in the proposed federal regulations as NYSCB currently supports a large number of consumers pursuing home maker goals. The NYSCB was asked to consider strategies for improvement in communication/operations with the NYSCB SRC and NYSILC. A joint meeting between the NYSCB SRC and the ACCES-VR SRC is being looked into for 2016.</p> <p><u>NYS Justice Center TRAID Program:</u> Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski recently released a competitive request for proposal (RFP) to maintain and/or reestablish the TRAID 12 regional centers across the state.</p> <p><u>NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council:</u> (DDPC) Kerry Wiley, Interim representative of DDPC attended the meeting until a permanent representative can be approved.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p><u>Special Recognition:</u> on behalf of every SRC Committee the SRC recommends that the SRC and ACCES-VR extend an enormous thanks to Lynn McGarry for her extremely competent and tireless work at supporting our efforts. Lynn is always there when-ever need her, where-ever need her, or for what-ever we need her for.</p> <p>Motion: Fredda Rosen & Chad Underwood; Seconded: Martha Jackson;</p>

	<p>Vote: Yeas = 17 Nays=0; Abstaining=0; Motion Passes Unanimously.</p> <p><u>SRC WEB Mailbox</u>: Michael P noted there has been two inquiries since the last meeting; one was informational only and the other related to an open ACCES-VR case that was referred to the ACCES-VR Quality Assurance Unit for follow up.</p> <p><u>Autism Public Comment Follow Up</u>: Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo noted the need for follow up with the Autism Society group who presented public comment at a past meeting. Mike I stated he did send an email thank you and is happy to follow up with a written thank you as well.</p> <p><u>Member News</u>: Lois Tannenbaum mentioned her involvement with the recent opening of a Mid-Hudson Brain Injury Center and invited Council members to join the New York State Brain Injury Association's (BIANYS) "March on for Brain Injury" fundraising event at the Walkway Over the Hudson in Highland, New York on August 29, 2015 http://hudsonvalleymarchon.bianys.org/Static/Event-Info</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Next Quarterly Meeting – September 2-3, 2015

ⁱApproved September 2, 2015