

**SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Day One (New Member Orientation)  
March 24, 2015**

What	Discussion and Outcome
Welcome & Introductions	<p>SRC Executive Committee members and new members introduced themselves and an overview of the purpose and scope of the SRC was summarized by Mike Irwin, SRC Chair and LaWanda Cook, SRC Vice Chair.</p>
<p>ACCES-VR <b>Frank Coco</b> <b>Lisa Van Ryn</b> <b>Michelle Barlow</b></p>	<p>Frank provided a brief history of VR in general and specifics about ACCES-VR with particular reference to the role of the SRC as an advisory body. Emphasis was placed upon the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and its impact on youth services. This was seen as a major re-focus in the realm of workforce development. A full 15% of federal money must be spent on youth. Under WIOA the focus for VR includes pre-vocational activities as well as transition.</p> <p>Lisa addressed issues related to the State Plan touching on issues related to the review or revision of 32 policies, many of which need to be updated as well.</p> <p>Michelle spoke about the Quality Assurance Unit (QA) as a separate entity from service delivery that reports directly Debora Brown-Johnson. QA is responsible for evaluating services that ACCES-VR provides and includes district office case reviews with recommendations and corrective plans, similar to the review that provider performance is evaluated. She also touched upon due process for disputes with consumers about services and the role of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) and how we are different from DOL as the VRC has the unique ability to make decisions about the appropriateness of services for the consumer.</p> <p>New members were provided with materials n from the Institute for Rehabilitation Issues (IRI) document:</p>

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No What	Discussion and Outcomes
Welcome Minutes Public Comment	<p>Mike Irwin, SRC Chair, opened the meeting and reviewed ground rules for participation emphasizing the use of microphones, stating name when speaking, and avoiding the use of acronyms. Bill Schultz moved and Paul Czech seconded a motion to approve the SRC December 2014 quarterly meeting minutes and accepted unanimously. There was no public comment</p> <p>Michael Peluso noted that since the last quarterly meeting three consumers had posted to the SRC webpage and going forward will posts requiring consumer follow-up will be forwarded to the Quality Assurance Unit.</p>
ACCES-VR Update: <b>Kevin Smith,</b> Deputy Commissioner, ACCES-VR <b>Debora Brown –</b> <b>Johnson,</b> Assistant Commissioner, ACCES-VR	<p>Kevin :</p> <p>ACCES-VR is a large and significant part of the State Education Dept. (SED) taking up about 30% of the department.</p> <p><u>Implementation of Strategic Plan</u> - it was a long process but it was worthwhile. It is very important to have input from our stakeholders and to engage stakeholders in the implementation process. The marketing plan will roll out very soon starting in the updates area.</p> <p><u>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</u> - It became law in July of 2014. Regulations for implementation are expected to be published soon. There will be a brief period for public comment, please be involved in this if possible. There are four main sections:            1,WIBS (Workforce Investment Boards)/One Stops            2.Adult and family Literacy</p>

- 3. Wagner Peyser Act
- 4. Vocational Rehabilitation Act

Unified State Plan - Policy boards for vocational rehabilitation (VR) and Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to make a better combined service. These include the Board of Regents. ACCES makes regular reports to the Regents to make sure they understand what we do and our role in WIOA. We see the WIOA as more of an opportunity than a mandate. It has given us the opportunity to work in tandem with the DOL (e.g., more consistently leveraging DOL market labor information or effectively as part of VR and C-DOS). This is something we have been pursuing for a long while and also represents new opportunities to expand our services to students with disabilities. Consistency and connections throughout SED with our DOL partners are areas we were focused on.

The recent WIOA Regents presentation was referenced in discussed.

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2015Meetings/February/215ACCESd1.pdf>

Debora:

2015 Common Priorities for ACCES-VR and the SRC. These will help us to focus on and align our activities in relation to WIOA and Strategic Planning. [Common Priorities.docx](#)

Strategic Planning - Recommendations were recently shared with the district office and the Board of regents recommendations includes issues related to getting more individuals with disabilities into the system and through the system and how the staff works together to increase the efficacy of the system. By law a vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC) is responsible for determining eligibility for service, writing an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) and case closure. The process to complete these has been examined and recommendations were made. Phase one of the strategic planning role out will include the adoption of the Rochester District Office pilot staffing model by other district offices. This model is a team approach to the provision of services. The target date to begin is July 1.

Marketing - A contract for marketing has been signed and will roll out upstate with ads on busses. New brochures are also coming.

Orientation - It was found that there was no consistency across the state, so that a standardized

	<p>PowerPoint has been developed and all entry services providers will be trained in using this. Staff members will take a role in this training.</p> <p><u>Technology</u> – A Request for proposal (RFP) is being written for a new ACCES-VR case management system. With renewed emphasis on access to assistive technology in WIOA, we have met with Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski at the Justice Center to discuss how we might work together to promote access to assistive technology.</p> <p><u>Policy</u> - We are shifting our approach to benefits advisement services and will now offer these services to all consumers coming into ACCES-VR.</p> <p><u>State Plan for 2015</u> - Guidance from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) states that we do not have to submit a State Plan for 2015, but the 2016 version of this document will be a joint plan with the (DOL). <a href="http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html">http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/index.html</a></p> <p><u>SRC Annual Report</u> - We have been late the last two years, but we hope to improve this year by getting an earlier start in September.</p>
SRC Executive Committee Report	<p>Mike Irwin, SRC Chair, described documents in each member packet and their uses. There was discussion about bolstering attendance on some SRC committees. Suggestions were offered about ways to improve participation. The issue resides in participation not in attendance and that each member should participate in the way that they can. There was also discussion about the Employment First initiative in terms of ACCES-VR's limited role in this project.</p>
State Plan Update <b>Karen LaJoie</b> ACCES-VR Resource Development (formerly Policy and Partnerships)	<p>Karen: The State Plan includes our priorities to help individuals meet employment goals. Public meetings held throughout the state were well attended and had good participation. The results of public meetings were summarized and sent to SRC members as a separate e-mail. Fifty consumers selected at random were also invited to comment. Some recommendations from public meetings included: hiring more VR counselors, a greater presence in schools, emphasis upon cultural sensitivity, improvement of benefits advisement, greater use of financial incentives for employers, expansion for Supported Employment, greater collaboration with OPWDD (Office of People with Developmental Disabilities) and an increase in self-employment plans. <a href="#">2016publicmeetingnotice.pdf</a></p>
New York State Independent	<p>Chad referred to the NYSILC meeting minutes in group packets. There are four new members on NYSILC and a multi-funded grant to help individuals with disabilities transition out of nursing home</p>

<p>Living Council (NYSILC) <b>Chad Underwood</b>, CEO, Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.</p>	<p>environments. Also highlighted was information about the Council's work priorities including a three year state plan to run from 2017 to 2020. The needs assessment process is beginning now. <a href="#">NYSILC_FCM_Minutes_111414.pdf</a></p>
<p>Client Assistance Program (CAP) <b>Erica Molina, Esq.</b> Disability Rights of New York, Inc. (DRNY)</p>	<p>Erica is also member of the SRC for the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB). She provided an informational update about CAP locations. There are 3 office locations in Albany, Brooklyn and the newest in Rochester. Staffing is now more complete with staff available to do outreach and training. Please e-mail if interested in this. Now working on outreach plan. CAP is overseen by RSA now, but come September this will be changing. Cap Annual Report was submitted but not approved yet. Current and past reports are on the RSA website. <a href="https://www.disabilityrightsny.org/">https://www.disabilityrightsny.org/</a> .</p>
<p>Committee Meetings</p>	<p>All four standing committees met.</p>
<p>Action Item</p>	<p>Committee meeting minutes will be distributed following completion under separate cover.</p>

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**SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**Day Two**  
**March 25, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Shain Anderson, Michelle Barlow, Mira Bowin, Debora Brown-Johnson, Julie Cardone, Frank Coco, LaWanda Cook, Deborah Croce, Paul Czech, Pat Dowse, Helene Fallon, Robert Gumson, Michael Irwin, Martha Jackson, Joann Marshall, Dennis Martinez, Patricia Mazzariello, Sophie McDermott, Erica Molina, Jim Moody, Joanie Parker, Patrick Pascarella, Michael Peluso, Roger Purdy, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, Fredda Rosen, Bill Schultz, Michael Sherman, Elizabeth Skender, Tyler Spangenberg, Amy Steiner, Lois Tannenbaum, Lisa Van Ryn, Craig Wolfson (on phone). Presenters: Stephanie Orlando, Brianna Valesey and Melanie Hecker ("Youth Power"), Blaise Bryant (HVILC), and James Ross (DOL).

What	Discussion and Outcomes
<p>Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</p> <p><b>Frank Coco,</b> ACCES-VR Coordinator of District Office Administration</p>	<p>Frank provided an overview of WIOA</p> <p>Resources: PowerPoint slides titled: <i>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act - a first look at the changes for VR</i> <a href="#">WIOA and VR.pptx</a></p> <p>Highlights of WIOA Changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases Services to Youth with Disabilities</li> <li>• Supports Employer Engagement</li> <li>• Emphasizes Competitive Integrated Employment</li> <li>• Enhances Accountability of Federal Programs</li> <li>• Promotes Collaboration and Efficiency of Stakeholders at the Federal and State Level</li> <li>• Transfers Certain Programs from DOE to DHHS.</li> <li>• Repeal of Several Programs under the Rehabilitation Act</li> </ul>
<p>WIOA Priority Areas Under Discussion &amp; SRC Feedback</p> <p><b>Lisa Van Ryn,</b> ACCES-VR Manager, Resource Development</p> <p>Work Try Out (WTO) &amp; On-The-Job</p>	<p>Lisa discussed a number of preliminary ideas that ACCES-VR has identified to meet the requirements of the law were discussed and translate into new services required, current services where additional capacity is necessary, and future services to be developed to meet WIOA requirements including:</p> <p><u>New Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Foundation Skills; Self-Advocacy – Individual and Group; Job Customization; Trial Work Experience – specific use with Status 06; Talent Acquisition Portal (TAP) Profile Creation and Reporting (Level 1, 2, and 3); Federally Funded, Supported Employment Extended Service for Youth</li> </ul> <p><u>Extend Capacity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-Based Workplace Assessments (112x); Work-Readiness Soft Skills (620x); Supported Employment, Milestone Payments for 572x (Job Development) and 573x (Placement Day 5)</li> </ul> <p><u>Future Development:</u> (may require an RFP or pilot)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrepreneurial Skill Development; Higher Education Exploration; Job Advancement while in Supported Employment Extended,</li> </ul> <p>Members expressed strong support for the proposed introduction and expansion of “foundational</p>

<p>Training (OJT)</p> <p>Review &amp; Discuss Strategies for Engaging Consumers</p>	<p>skill” development and services. Discussion focused on how soon can these supports be implemented and included additional observations and recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the success Job Path has experienced in delivering customized employment services;</li> <li>• The importance of promoting these new services particularly to parents of students with disabilities;</li> <li>• The need for youth to develop self-advocacy skills and the importance of pure role models;</li> <li>• The importance of generating political support that may open the door to middle skills employment opportunities;</li> <li>• Consider working with the New York State Disability Services Council on promising practices to promote access and success in scratch that at the postsecondary level and in employment;</li> <li>• Consider broadening access to postsecondary remedial services and consider extending TAP to assist in this regard;</li> <li>• Work to support and expand CUNY LEADS;</li> <li>• Provide ongoing postsecondary academic supports and ongoing services/supports to assist students in navigating the world of postsecondary education;</li> <li>• Provide supports to DOL business service teams personnel (“that get and bring in the jobs”) to be sure they have the requisite skill sets to discuss and promote hiring individuals with disabilities;</li> <li>• Consider strategies that link IES efforts with DOL business service team;</li> <li>• Teach rights and advocacy skills (possibly turn to the ILCs for support);</li> <li>• Review the NYSCB Model Program;</li> <li>• Develop strategies for increasing utilization of the local Workforce and One-Stop Centers;</li> <li>• Cultivate relationships at the One-Stop Centers through training, and development of the Unified State Plan to remove existing barriers and improve demand on the employer side;</li> <li>• Cultivate relationships with Disability Resource Navigators to allow more consumer participation at the One-Stops rather than direct the individual with a disability to ACCES-</li> </ul>
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	<p>VR or CBVH; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies to help youth “buy-in” to their disability, possibly through peer mentoring (utilize the ILCs).</li> </ul> <p>Lisa Van Ryan encouraged councilmembers to feel free to share addition feedback by emailing her directly.</p>
<p>YOUTH POWER Youth Panel Self-Advocacy</p>	<p>Guest Speakers Brianna Valesey, Melanie Hecker, Stephanie Orlando from Youth Power! and Blaise Bryant from the Hudson Valley Independent Living Center provided an overview of the peer-to-peer mentoring program designed to empower young people to be active citizens, aware of government operations, their rights, and the ability to use their voices to influence policies, practices, regulation and the law. The peer-to-peer network of young people ensure the availability of self-help and peer support while changing systems so that young people get the support they need with the respect and dignity they deserve. Panelists powerfully demonstrated how peer supports a self-advocacy skill development are instrumental in building confidence and in successfully negotiating service systems and the work world.</p> <p>Resources: PowerPoint slides: <a href="#">Youth Power\Self-Advocacy.pdf</a></p>
<p>Update on the SED Advisory Council on Higher Education for Students with Disabilities</p> <p><b>Roger Purdy</b>, SRC representative to the Advisory Council</p>	<p>Roger provided an update on the Advisory Council on Higher Education for Students with Disabilities which meets twice a year. The first meeting was October 24, 2014 and kicked off with members presenting their responses to the following three questions: What’s working now, what’s not working, and what needs to be implemented to improve the system/process? In response to these questions, issues were identified and compiled into a survey whereby members voted on the top three issues to be addressed. The issues will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting (April 14, 2015).</p> <p><a href="#">Meeting Notes from 10-24-14.docx</a></p>
<p>SRC Business <b>Mike Irwin</b>, SRC Chair</p> <p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Committee Reports: each Committee submitted an oral report for their meeting held during the past day.</p> <p>Workforce Development Committee: James Ross of DOL joined the Committee during the working lunch to discuss DOL’s statewide and regional efforts to identify market labor data</p>

	<p>collection, analysis and publication. The presentation included a summary of current and projected demand for workers for a broad range of business sectors. Mr. Ross is one of 10 DOL regional economists responsible for maintaining current labor market demand trends statewide. <a href="http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm">http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/regmap.shtm</a></p>
<p>4.2 Recommendation(s)</p>	<p>Policy &amp; Planning Committee: A motion was made by Pat Dowse – SRC Policy Committee should be kept aware of all Statewide letters of agreement/MOUs presented to ACCES-VR and/or presented from ACCES-VR, and the Committee asks that these documents with background be sent to the Committee for review and comment prior to enactment. Motion seconded by Bill Schultz (ayes 21; Nay 0, Abstain 0) – Motion passed.</p>
<p>Ex-officio Member and State Partner Updates</p>	<p>Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski – NYS Justice Center, Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Program (TRAID/AH) is in the process of partnering with ACCES-VR to acquire additional technology devices available for loan tryout to VR consumers. TRAID/AH was also recently awarded Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) monies (\$500,000) to purchase additional equipment for Medicaid eligible persons to remain independent in their community.</p> <p>Sophie McDermott – SED Special Education Office reported that work on CDOS credential implementation is continuing and there is no new information to share. Additionally, Sophie spoke about the community based transition collaborative. Community groups are established in every BOCES region, and have various types of representation at the table including OPWDD, OMH, VR, schools, parents, parent centers, and in some cases, even students themselves or young adults have begun to participate and the primary focus for the transition specialist in the last year has been to try to engage the business community.</p> <p>Julie Cardone – NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) informed members that NYSCB will be representing the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) on the State Workforce Investment Board – Interagency Committee. NYSCB is also an active participant in the development of the Unified State Plan along with ACCES-VR and DOL. NYSCB will be meeting with ACCES-VR to share resources regarding how NYSCB serves youth. NYSCB just started using new job placement providers of which nine were ILCs. One thing that was changed is that NYSCB now require consumers to participate in real interviews, rather than previously used mock</p>

	<p>interviews. NYSCB has also contracted with Cornell to do a consumer satisfaction survey. NYSCB is also looking at some of their existing policies regarding assistive technology to ensure that they are using the most qualified people to make recommendations regarding technology purchases. Additionally, they are looking at training the people who make assistive technology recommendations.</p> <p>Tyler Spangenberg – NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) updated members with DDPC activities regarding their State Plan. DDPC is in the last 18 months of their current State Plan and is in the process of developing their next five year State Plan which involves analyzing a considerable amount of research data regarding the state of employment for people with disabilities. This presents an opportunity for partnering up with colleagues and SRC activities that will be beneficial to the system as a whole and for people with disabilities.</p>
Other Business	<p>Patrick Pascarella – NYS Department of Labor indicated that the interim WIOA regulations are going to be coming out in the next couple of weeks with a possible 30 to 60 day comment period. The next quarterly SRC meeting is not planned until June. This will occur well after the required comment period for the proposed regulations.</p>
Action Item	<p>As soon as DOL and/or ACCES-VR is aware of the release of the regulations, SRC members will be informed and asked to comment on the perspective of their organization/constituency and the SRC will need to discuss if and how to prepare a response either from SRC or review ACCES-VR's response. The SRC may consider forming an ad hoc committee to formulate a response.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Next Quarterly Meeting – June 10-11, 2015</p>