

Montana State Rehabilitation Council
April 21, 2022
Montana State Capitol, Room 102
Meeting Minutes

SRC Members present: Celina Cline, John Gorton, Kathy Hampton, Chanda Hermanson, Lacey Keller, Tom Manthey (Zoom), Denise May, Marcy Roberts, Emma Rooney, Jean Schroeder, and Brian Tocher.

SRC Members absent: Carlos Ramalho,

Staff and guests: Cheryl Bates Harris (Zoom), Gabrielle Broere, Lacey Conzelman (Zoom), Wes Feist, Anna Gibbs (Zoom), Darrel Hannum, Brook Hodge, Tammy Hogan, Kendra Joyce, Doug McElroy, Corinne Moore, Sarah Seltzer, Shawn Tulloch, Joleen Weatherwax, one CART transcriber (Zoom), and two sign language interpreters.

Ground rules/ Interpreter/CART

Read the mission statements

Welcome/Roll call

Approval of April meeting minutes: Moved and seconded: Approved

Announcements:

Public comments:

Member Moment: Denise May

SRC Roundtable discussion: Denise May

SRC function, duties, membership, committees. Open discussion. Question and answer.

Budget Report- Anna Gibbs

\$ 12,041,250	Federal Grant Funds (for General VR)
\$ 3,834,210	State General Funds
\$ 2,124,927	Federal Pre-ETS Set-Aside
<u>\$ 18,000,387</u>	Total Funds

The VRBS program expended \$6,200,887 of the **FFY21** grant as of March 31, 2022 as follows:

\$ 2,011,139	Federal Grant Funds (for General VR)
\$ 3,834,995	State General Funds
<u>\$ 354,753</u>	Federal Pre-ETS Set-Aside
\$ 6,200,887	Total expenses

Our **FFY22** award so far is \$2,226,318 which will not be our whole award, but we do not know how much this total will be yet. In December 2021, we received our Maintenance of Effort** penalty letter, which informed us that our total grant for **FFY22** will be reduced by \$6,874,637.

The Ticket to Work reimbursements we collected in State Fiscal Year 2020 from 7-1-19 to 6-30-20 totaled **\$1,245,362**. The Ticket to Work reimbursements we collected in State Fiscal Year 2021, from 7-1-20 to 6-30-21 totaled **\$1,258,182**. The Ticket to Work reimbursements we collected in State Fiscal Year 2022 so far, from 7-1-21 to 3-31-22 totaled **\$542,116**.

VRBS Report- Brook Hodge

Shared information about 9 offices. Average caseload is 75, smallest is 34 and the largest is 113. We currently have four counselor vacancies, one problem is turnover. Continue to have trainings, pop-up meetings and foundation trainings. Field staff are required to participate in one of our state teams. Teams consist of assistive technology, business services, customized employment, deaf and hard of hearing, policy and procedure, pre-employment transition services and self-employment. SRC is invited to attend the trainings.

BLVS Report – Darrell Hannum

Had stakeholders meeting to provide us with feedback and suggestions for our program. Received training in benefits planning. There is a new candidate for the BEP Business Enterprise Program in Helena. MT Assoc. for the Blind has committed to help us with our older blind program. We are working through our Madison issues with our Older Blind Program. We filled our Vision Rehab Therapist position in Missoula and they started last week. We have more positions open.

Pre-ETS Report – Tammy Hogan

Pre-ETS specialists around the state. We provide services to students with disabilities ages 14 to 21 and those pre-employment and transition services. We have them in Billings, Miles City, Helena, Missoula, Great Falls, Havre and Kalispell and we are in the process of hiring one in Bozeman. We are piloting and working on something called career-related competitions. Explained the program, billable time guide, virtual job shadow program, procedure for an Annual meeting.

Extended Employment – Lacey Conzelman

Extended employment is a program within disability employment and transitions division. It's not a part of VR. It is a program that a select group of VR clients can move into after they are employed and stable in employment and need long-term supports to stay in their jobs.

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) Presentation – Cheryl Bates Harris

Explained the role of the State Rehab Council and the Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Committee Breakout meetings / Reports:

Planning and Review committee- Chair Marcy Roberts:

Working on the governor's report and what happened in 2021, the stories have been submitted, and scored, the picture is done now we need to gather the accomplishments over this year.

Education and Membership-Bylaw committee-Chair Denise May

Denise is gone, Emma gave the update. We only have three open slots for the Council, they are the advocacy and community member slots. We are waiting on the Governor to accept pending members and have contacted some potential members.

Consumer Satisfaction & Needs assessment committee - Chair Celina Cline:

Two main goals is to start sharing feedback from the surveys and do some follow-up.

Employer of the Year Award committee -no report

Wrap-up:

Next meeting will be August 24-25, location to be decided.

Next year's joint SILC and SRC meeting will take place on April 19th of 2023.

AGENDA items:

IPS -individualized placement and support services

Complete bylaws update, functionary duties, discussion about re-appointing members after 6 months, procedure for Governor's report.