

**Joint Meeting of Montana State Rehabilitation Council
And
Montana Statewide Independent Living Council
April 20, 2022
Montana State Capitol, Room 102
Meeting Minutes**

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

SILC Members present: June Hermanson, Molly Kimmel, Michael Manhardt, Brent Morris, Joel Peden, Allyson Talaska, and Tom Thompson (Zoom)

SRC Members absent: Tom Manthey

SILC Members absent: Travis Hoffman and Scott Williamson

Staff and guests: Cheryl Bates Harris (Zoom), Gabrielle Broere, Lacey Conzelman (Zoom), Vena Dagnall, Wes Feist, Anna Gibbs (Zoom), Darrel Hannum, Brook Hodge, Erica Johnson, Kendra Joyce, Mike Lahr, Shannon Mackey (Zoom), Doug McElroy, Tom Osborn (Zoom), Sarah Seltzer, Shawn Tulloch, Joleen Weatherwax, one CART transcriber (Zoom), and two sign language interpreters.

Ground rules/ Interpreter/CART

Welcome, Roll call

Mission statements

Announcements

WIOA section 511 training conducted by Cheryl Bates-Harris of the National Disability Rights Network.

Highlights included: History of Disability Employment, Federal Employment Legislation, ADA information, IDEA, Competitive Integrated Employment, Employment First Movement, WIOA, Section 511 and Subminimum wages.

DET update- Chanda Hermanson

The Order of selection continues. The total wait list is 675 as of 4/20/22. Currently Category 1 is open. 40-50 invites are being sent to Category 2 people. Category 3 has 306 individuals waiting for service. ARPA funding used to add 10 Voc Rehab Technicians temporarily thru Dec 2023. They have provided needed office support to VR counselors. In an effort to cut red tape we conducted a total review of all the rules that impact the division work, prioritized them for change, adjustment or repeal. The budget passed. No grants awarded yet for the programs. We are second in the nation for maintaining employment 6 months after they exit the VR program. We spent funds working successfully with high school students. We don't have any data or performance measures in the database to show the outcome of working with the students. Discussed subminimum wage and work segregation, sheltered workshops and the Olmstead Decision.

Questions for Governor – The Governor couldn't join us. Our question to them was about how well this administration supports advanced employment and services for people with disabilities? They will not send their answer in writing and said is that they would prefer to discuss the issues in person.

Systemic Changes – Legislative involvement - June Hermanson

Discussed legislative involvement and the legislative process. The SRC can partner with SILC to work together during the session. One opportunity is January 26, 2023 for Legislative Day, the Rotunda is reserved for us, we do a training and a luncheon and encourage people to talk individually to their senators and representatives. The action alert system is a way during the legislative session we use to communicate what happens because everything happens so quickly.