

## STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** September 27, 2023  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Location:** 1595 W. 500 S.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Velma Spencer (p)	Jennie Dopp	Steven Phelps
	Austin Oseguera (p)	Lavinia Gripentrog	Matthew Huskinson
	Rob Ferris	Selena Harris	Bryn Peterson
	Dani Williams	Bianca Gonzalez	Heather Mousley

<b>Excused:</b>	<i>Brian Lahti</i>	<i>Julie Beckstead</i>	<i>Gordon Swensen</i>
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**Absent:**

**Quorum:** YES

<b>USOR Staff:</b>	Sarah Brenna Coy Jackson	Aaron Thompson	Sylvia Gines
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<b>OTHER ATTENDEES:</b>	Clay Anderson Christine Anderson Amber Marsh	Paul Degraw Jasi Sefcik Kelly	Brian Phillips Hayden Johnson
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**ACTION ITEM(S):**

- Utah Schools for the Deaf & Blind would like to present
- Lora Bench would like to speak to the Council (date to be determined)

**WELCOME & OPENING BUSINESS**

- Selena Harris welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday Sept. 27th at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting May minutes: **Motion to approve:** by Selena Harris and Jennie Dopp with the second, council approved min.
- Elections - Rob Ferris addressed the council stating it was time to vote in new Ex. Members: Lavinia Gripentrog as the new Chair; Jennie Dopp as the new Vice Chair; Bianca Gonzalez as the Member@Large; Rob Ferris as the Secretary; and Selena Harris as the Past Chair. Motion to accept the proposed positions by Rob Ferris, Selena Harris and Heather Mousley with the 2nd.

## REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Consumer (Brian Lahti):** No Report.
- **BI&L (Rob Ferris):** Looking for people with disabilities who need jobs.
- **Consumer (Selena Harris):** Nothing to report.
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez):** wrapping up our fiscal year, beginning performance reports and finishing by the end of December.
- **Special Education (Lavinia Gripentrog):** Post High school survey finished up; tried to contact over 5000 students. Transition resources website in the works; goal to have available in January. Transition Institute last June had a great attendance of 300; working on next year.
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera):** No Report
- **DSDHH ():**
- **DSPD (Bryn Peterson):** Employment first collaboration updates, Human Services Research Institute started to introduce the project with recommendations for aging services, outcomes, and what they are intending to do. New council member from DSPD Hayden Johnson,
- **Navajo Nation (Velma Spencer):** New hire rehab counselor for Utah schools hoping Dani from LSI can come down and help those Utah students. Upcoming disability conference Oct. 18th. Work-based learning initiative going on.
- **DSBVI (Jenni Thompson):** Roads to Independence received a grant for a Health Transition fair in Morgan County coming up, looking for a location and speakers, please share your resources.
- **VR (Steven Phelps):** USOR annual conference on Oct. 3rd. Lots of new referrals with schools started, working with students making sure they have what they need for AT and other things.
- **USILC (Julie Beckstead):** No Report
- **Utah Parent Center (Jennie Dopp):** Presenting @ USOR Transition Conference Oct. 4th. Monthly class training, last month IEP's, Oct. is guardianship.
- **WDD (Heather Mousley):** Recertifications going on; yesterday Tooele, Price is coming up. WIOA State Plan work in progress.
- **Consumer (Matthew Huskinson):** No report
- **LSI (Dani Williams):** July had 4 new career advocates, Budget amendment waiting for approval, will have 4 more paid internships. Better since Covid, more turnout.

## USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES :

**Sarah Brenna** - Compliance issues/ changes - New requirement put into the law with WIOA, requires states to put aside 15% of monies 2 years to spend. Initially no guidance and took time to develop guidelines, haven't spent all of the money and turned it back in, not able to spend it all, Covid didn't help.

May's National Conference stated compliance letters for not spending all monies, not enforced for years, the need is to spend all monies allocated. RSA wants money spent, Notified in May that we were not in compliance; submitted the corrective action plan in Aug. Need to increase our outreach and awareness has been a struggle. Contracted services, fee for service and employees have been the goals. More contracts coming in the Spring, adjusting budgets, tracking, spending and reporting to RSA every quarter. Looking at the cost allocation process; pie pieces are examples given. Allocating more staff to Pre-Ets, continue to review service rates, enhanced monitoring, fee-for-service.

**Aaron Thompson – Director Report - VR Performance Dashboard** - New Applicants; Closed Employed; Rehab Rate; Average days to Eligibility; Days to Employment Plan; Counselor Caseload. -

**Common Performance Measures** - 2nd qt. Employment; 4th qt. Employment; Median wages; Credential Attainment; Measurable Skill Gain; WIOA Common Performance Measure Outcomes ( July 1 - June 30 )

**VR Fall Focus Areas** - Community Connections; Exceptional Customer Service, Operational Excellence; Employee Success.

**Pre-Employment Transition Services** - Expanded Contracts; Self-Advocacy & Benefits Instructor; USOR Staff Training Conference - Focus Areas.

**VR Website Updates** - New Overview Video; Work Ability Job Fair

**On the Horizon** - 2023-25 VR program goals; WIOA state Plan update; Pre-ETS Action Plan Updates; FY23 Client Satisfaction Survey update; 2023 Annual Report; New Client Experience stories.

#### **PRESENTATIONS BY:**

**Brian Phillips** - Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

**Purpose and Rationale - Disability Emphases-** by choice of the state; extra emphasis was given to Asian populations with rehabilitation needs in the state.

**Flow of Information** - Secondary Data; Key Informant Interviews; Focus Groups; Surveys

**Scope - Preliminary findings** - Highly positive - the evidence and opinions from the secondary data and targeted populations was strongly positive, supportive, and appreciative. Utah is Diverse - Key informant interviews led us to appreciate the diversity of strengths, needs, challenges, opportunities and populations served across the state. USOR has been resilient in the face of global challenges.

**In Comparison - Key Findings** - Turnover; Client Satisfaction; Communication; Specific to Youth; Other themes from focus groups.

**Major Findings with the Asian Population - Key Findings** - Focus on the Survey Data on Unserved and Underserved; Greatest Challenge to Employment - Greatest Difficulty Accessing USOR - Greatest Difficulty Benefiting from USOR = **Homeless Population**

**CRP Perspectives on Populations Experiencing the Most Challenges to Employment**

Potential Recommendations; Focus on the Working Alliance; Seek Ways to Create Turnover Resistant Collaborations; Continue to Fine-Tune Incentives for Rural Outreach & Temporary Work Experiences; Expanding Efforts and Collaboration to address Homelessness; Long-Term Planning for Changing Client Demographics; Training to Prioritize; Summary: USOR, by all accounts, is effectively and efficiently providing quality services to people with disabilities in the state of Utah; There is always room for improvement, and we have provided some suggestions for what to prioritize.

**Call to Adjourn Meeting by** - Rob Ferris & Jennie Dopp with the 2nd.  
Next Meeting November 29, 2023