
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 29, 2023

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Zoom

Members Present:

Velma Spencer (p)	Christine Anderson	Steven Phelps
Austin Oseguera (p)	Lavinia Gripentrog	Matthew Huskinson
Rob Ferris	Selena Harris	Brian Lahti
Dani Williams	Bianca Gonzalez	Heather Mousley
Amber Marsh	Hayden Johnson	Jenni Thompson
Austin Oseguera	Jasi Sefcik	Velma Spencer

Excused: *Jennie Dopp*

Absent: *Julie Beckstead*

Quorum: YES

USOR Staff: Aaron Thompson Gordon Swensen Sylvia Gines

OTHER ATTENDEES: Melody Fico Paul Degraw

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

- Lavinia Gripenrog welcomed everyone to the SRC meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 27th at 9:00 am.
- Review & Approval of previous meeting (Sept. minutes): **Motion to approve**: by Jenni Thompson and Selena Harris with the second, council approved min.
- Mission Statement & Values read by Aaron Thompson and Dani Williams.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Consumer (Brian Lahti)**: Nothing to report.
- **BI&L (Rob Ferris)**: Looking for people with disabilities who need jobs.
- **Consumer (Selena Harris)**: Lost some staff; hiring in Salt Lake, Utah and Wasatch counties; Rebuilding the Pre-Ets program.
- **CAP (Bianca Gonzalez)**: Working on CAP ppr? getting ready to submit that.
- **Special Education (Lavinia Gripenrog)**: Working on cross-training with CTE Coordinators & Counseling and making them aware of Pre-Ets, VR services, Special Education. Annual reporting to the Office of Special Ed Programs at the Federal Level. Graduation rate has dipped and drop-out rate has increased; this has been since Covid impacting these numbers. Next month will report on that more.
- **UCAT (Austin Oseguera)**: Modifying switch adapted toys for Christmas, UATT trainings in Logan and Price were held and have upcoming trainings for Jan., Feb. and March.
- **DSDHH (Jasi Sefcik)**: SHIP & HEAT programs are helping clients, had a harvest night & Thanksgiving dinner.
- **DSPD (Hayden Johnson)**: collecting success stories mainly about employment but are gathering all kinds; if you know of any please send them my way.
- **Navajo Nation (Velma Spencer)**: Native American Disability Conference has been rescheduled to Dec. 15th; the Navajo Advisory Council has been planning this. RSA Training has been going on and Annual Report due Jan. 5th. Starting year 3 of our 5 year grant.
- **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)**: Working on Secondary Schools; LDS Hospital
- **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)**: Recertification in our Price Employment Center passed. Working on our WIOA plan.
- **Consumer (Matthew Huskinson)**: No report
- **LSI (Dani Williams)**: Our budget amendment has gone through and has 2 open positions and a 3rd opening on Friday; Grand San Juan position and Salt Lake and Utah County.

- **Align Community Employment (Amber Marsh):** Nothing to report
- **U of U Center for Disability & Access (Christine Anderson):** Ending the semester and have doubled accommodations. Housing is guaranteed for freshman class which is good news. Summer pilot program worked great and will have a Fall program. New manager for Neuro Diversity Services. Facilitating a panel discussion tomorrow with the Associate Vice President with Equity Diversity and Inclusion with Wyoming state; then in the afternoon working with Individuals in the workspace.

Peer mentoring is in process to be on the website. the link for day of disability and neurodiversity <https://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/day-of-disability-and-neurodiversity/>

Link #2 <https://diversity.utah.edu/disability/>

USOR DIRECTOR'S UPDATES :

Aaron Thompson - WIOA State Plan overview, required by federal regulations, together with local level partners which include Vocational Rehabilitation; Adult Ed: several of the Workforce programs with Workforce Services. . This is updated every 4 years with 2 year updates in that. Public comments available in January, more information to come, the entire state plan is available.

Pre-Ets Update - Elise Harward - emailed out the powerpoint - New Contracts started in October; we have 10 existing and added 11 contracts . Went to the School for the Deaf and Blind for a conference the past month for parents; meeting with school counselors from USBE, and Primary Children's Hospitals. Working with Lavinia and the CTE students can work with work-based learning. There are four work-based learning contracts serving different areas in the state and go to potential employers and place them for up to 10 weeks with paid work experience, while they are in school. Community Options are covering 5 contracts for Pre-Ets and the work-based learning program. Handout has a full list.

What are the Five Pre-Ets?

1 - Job Exploration Counseling 2 - Work-Based Learning Experiences 3- Counseling on Post-Secondary 4 - Workplace Readiness 5 - Instruction in Self-Advocacy.

Who is eligible to participate - 14- 21 & 22 if still attending Post Secondary Education; Eligible for and receiving services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or is an individual with a disability for purposes of section 504; is enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary educational program.

Who provides Pre-ETS services? - Vr counselors and Pre-Ets for students with disabilities; Pre-Ets contractors: The State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) has contracted with community partner agencies to provide Pre-Ets instruction for eligible and potentially eligible students, helping to ensure these services are available statewide.

ABLE UTAH - Jolene Wyler - hired Calla Haines a Pre-Ets instructor through the Governors returnship program; will focus on Financial Literacy and Self Advocacy. Working in groups and one-on-one students. Reminder that we are taking referrals for UWIPS; we assist individuals with understanding how work affects their benefits. Powerpoint sent out before the meeting.

What is ABLE Utah? - Utah's ABLE Savings Plan; Administered by Utah Department of Workforce Services; Launched September 1, 2021; Offered to Utah residents through partnership with the Ohio STABLE Plan.

Save money without impacting eligibility for certain means-tested benefits; Benefits of STABLE Accounts - Ownership; Financial Independence; Tax Benefits; Eligibility - An individual with a disability that occurred prior to age 26. Enrollment - Free online enrollment at ableUT.com; quick & easy process; \$25 minimum opening deposit. Funding Your Account - EFT; Check: Payroll Direct Deposit. Funding your Account - if not employed, \$18,000 per year; If employed, total of up to \$32,580 per yr. Lifetime Limit - \$541,000 balance limit. System automatically rejects excess contributions. There are : Investment Options; Spending from your Account; SSI considerations: Account Cost; ABLE Account & Special Needs Trust; Account holder Passes Away; Medicaid Services. For Help call, website, contact customer service or jwyler@utah.gov.

WIOA State Plan Proposed VR Goals & Strategies - Aaron Thompson - powerpoint sent out before the meeting. WIOA State Plan Goals & Strategies Overview - Key priorities for the VR Section of the WIOA State Plan; Based on recommendations from the Statewide Needs Assessment: internal USOR assessments, SRC, staff and stakeholder feedback; Progress towards goals will be provided throughout the year; Updates and goal amendments will be made in the plan after 2 years. Required Focus Areas; Support innovation & expansion activities; Overcome barriers to accessing VR & Supported employment services; Improve & Expand Services to Students; Improve the performance of the VR and Supported Employment programs in assisting individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment outcomes; Supported Employment Goals.

PRESENTATIONS BY:

Adult Ed. Program (Stephanie Patton) - powerpoint sent out to council - Utah Adult Education Mission - We provide transformative, learner-centered, high-quality, evidence-based education that leads to sustainable employment and personal success. Impact of Adult Education Services - Comprehensive reviews of program evaluation and persistence research have concluded that 100 hours of attendance is the approximate point at which program impact on basic skills development becomes discernible. Services - Adult Basic Education; Adult Secondary Completion; English Language Acquisition. 2022-2023 Outcomes; 16-18 year Old Students; Integrated Education & Training; Family Literacy Programs.

Call to Adjourn Meeting by - Selena Harris & Rob Ferris with the 2nd.
Next Meeting January 31, 2024