

<b>Event</b>	SRC Quarterly Meeting
<b>Date:</b>	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Attendees:</b>	See attached list

<b>Points Discussed</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Highlights</b>
<p><b>Reminder of what it means to be the consumer voice from McGuire-Kuletz, M., et al <i>The State Rehabilitation Council-Vocational rehabilitation partnership under WIOA- Washington, DC The George Washington University, Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Education</i></b></p>	<p>SRCs are the consumer voice for the VR program. Federally mandated membership requirements include a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that various constituencies have a voice in the conduct of the VR agency. This consumer voice is absolutely necessary for the VR program to partner with individuals with disabilities to jointly facilitate the accomplishment of their dreams of independence, full community integration, and employment. SRC members represent the state agency to a broad array of partners such as employers, parents, educators, community rehabilitation programs, and other stakeholders in the VR program. They reinforce the value that individuals with disabilities are able to achieve quality employment outcomes and become contributing members of society. Though mandated by federal law, the partnership between SRCs and VR extends beyond the shared accomplishment of mandated tasks. Specifically, the partnership is a call to action to advocate for and to hear the voices of the people served by VR. The partnership must be a commitment and priority for the partners in order to make the VR system a change agent whose goal is to assist people with disabilities to become employed in integrated, competitive employment!</p>

<p><b>VR Director's report- Keith Ozols</b></p>	<p>Data around applications and case status: Attachment at the bottom.</p> <p>Celebrating the 100 year anniversary of VR program.</p> <p>There was an executive team retreat in Feb 2020. This is the first time in a year that there have been a full executive staff available for the retreat. They collaboratively created the "Path Plan," focusing on short- and long-term goals. Right afterwards, March 8<sup>th</sup>, is when Gov. Brown declared state of emergency. This is when VR started moving into a virtual delivery service model. After reaching out to state and federal sources, there were no immediate answers as to how to make this work but the Policy team developed guidance with what we knew for our state and in our field in order to do the best to continue services. Field services secured technology equipment to distribute to the field in order for staff to work remotely. Intake appointment will start virtually this month (May).</p> <p>The CARES act had a stipulation that the secretary of education needed to provide a recommendation to Congress and the Senate about waivers that would be requested to help programs operate. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS), which oversees the IDEA and VR services and programs, requested four waivers. The first was around the carry over of funds unspent in the previous fiscal year to go to the next year, The requirement to have 15% of the budget spent on pre-employment transition services, and the last around internships on the job training requirements. The Oregon VR program has been</p>
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		<p>writing letters to legislators asking for further support around funding and support for community rehabilitation programs as well as being able to do creative delivery services.</p> <p>These responses take time and the state has to be planful and take action now around many things. The state has reenacted a program of shared partnership called a Workforce System Executive Team, a multiagency workgroup that works in coordination with all the workforce programs in Oregon. This group is meeting with the intention to plan for re-employment, working in coordination as to not duplicate services.</p> <p>There is significant downturn in revenue for the state so the Governor has asked all programs to consider an 8.5% cut in the allotted general finds for this biennium, that is about \$2 Billion. This is a worst case scenario exercise.</p>
	<p><b>Field Services update- Tryna Luton, Emily Armstrong, Heather Lindsey</b></p>	<p>Changes happening to VR Field Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office appointments are now in a virtual setting whenever possible. Accommodations are allowed for certain situations. All staff are on telework agreements. This effort started on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</li> <li>• 59 laptops, 102 cell phones, and 110+ remote PC Citrix access requests have been provided since the beginning of the emergency orders. This isn't counting the other supplies to allow for VR staff and interns to work from home.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Training to support counselors’ new experience of working from home have started being developed and offered</li> <li>• A Zoom contract is in the works that will allow VR and other state agencies to use a virtual platform that adheres to the state requirements for confidentiality and security.</li> <li>• Electronic signatures are being investigated, but for now, application materials must be signed and mailed in or exchanged in person.</li> <li>• All Staff Broadcasts are being done every third week of the month, going over national, state, and local level information and being able to answer questions from the field. There are also branch manager check ins happening twice a week to keep the leadership informed on policy changes and updates as to what is coming and the direction the agency is heading. This increases the communication between admin and the field. DHS is holding HR Lunch and learn meetings to discuss with managers COVID related topics. Each Branch is doing huddles daily to check in with staff, schedule who will be in the office, and coming up with creative ways to stay engaged with each other.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Youth and Workforce – Sheri Boyd</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Incentive Network (WIN) have provided technical assistance throughout the state.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Social Security administration program coordinator has started virtual training for the cost reimbursement programs.</li><li>• Kim Alejo has been hired to fill Sheri's old position as the workforce and business coordinator and starts May 11<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>• Youth services team has had to adapt to virtual platforms for the summer work program.</li></ul>
	<p><b>Business Operations – Bryan Campbell</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviews have been completed for the research analyst position and references are being checked. This position should be filled soon.</li><li>• Working on the job placement contract and a separate IPS contract for the mental health supported employment programs. The request for applications will be starting Mid-May and through the end of September.</li><li>• The next project is the blended services contract. There is a timeline and workgroups started April 6<sup>th</sup> and should go through May 2021. Focusing on seven services: Medical and psychological consultation, evaluation and diagnosis, restoration and treatment, personal vocational adjustment, disability-related skills training, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services.</li><li>• Zach has created a report after polling VR contractors about the impact</li></ul>

		<p>COVID has had to their ability to provide services. 70% of vendors responded and out of those: 83% are still open for business. The report will be available to SRC next week.</p>
	<p><b>Policy- Howard Fulk</b></p>	<p>More than 20 VR Counselors and field staff have volunteered time to collaborate on updating policies. Many seasoned staff were asked about what tools were needed to get VR operating virtually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action Request (AR)-20-04 was released as guidance in the first week of April for instructions and procedures on how to conduct a virtual meeting and mailing documents back and forth</li><li>• AR-05 guidance on how to process authorizations for purchase, how we interact with vendors and execute contracts.</li><li>• AR 20-04 around eligibility and plans we have challenges with meeting deadlines due to other medical providers not operating as normal.</li><li>• AR-07 is clarifications and updates on how to do virtual appointments which goes into effect today.</li></ul>

	<b>SRC Business:</b>	Meeting minutes from Feb 2020 approved
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**Council Members Present:** Susie Calhoun, Lynn Carter (VR), Gary Chiaravalli, Toni DePeel (VR), Heidi Dirkse-Graw, Mary Jo Erickson, Mike Franklin, Anais Keenon, Elisha Kirsch, Jorge Martinez, Keith Ozols (VR Director), Christy Reese, Kim Poage, Emily Purry, Matthew Serres, Lynn Wiles, Tel Woolsey

**Virtual Guests:**

VR Staff- Deborah Vinson, Debra Selleck, Kadie W. Ross, Brooke Wilson, MaryLynn Parks, Bambi Bevill, Desiree Berry, Dan Franks, Bridget Dazey, Lyra Vega, Jen Munson, Sherryll Hoar, Wendy Shappelle, Andres Endericavillacis, CJ Webb, Beth Pacheco, Doug Franklin, Dee Dee Satran, Lisa Catherwood, Rachelle

Warner, Tryna Luton, Pete Karpa, Cortney Gibson, Alma Contreras-Montes, Emma Duncan, Cheryl Timeus, Nathan Tierney, Howard Fulk, Lindsey Stevens, Betsy Miltmore, Nateesh Noakes, Bryan Campbell, Karen Burch, Grace Scrivo, Ben Coleman, Sandra Cato, Staci Ganje, Heather Lindsey, Leela Black, Tammy Guest, Sheri Boyd

APPROVED



Open Case Profile - By Status						
	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
In Application	1069	989	1051	1180	894	537
In eligible	2036	2114	2054	2016	2140	2245
In Service	4979	4974	5007	5022	4978	5021
In Job Ready	24	24	23	22	21	21
Employed	1130	1158	1109	1007	923	809
in PES	76	67	61	62	54	55
Total Open	9314	9326	9305	9309	9010	8688

