



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Department of Human Services

Office of Rehabilitation Services

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

To work with the ORS assuring that all Rhode Islanders with disabilities are able to work and keep meaningful and satisfying employment.



SRC Meeting December 18, 2018
Salve Regina University, Warwick, RI
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Present: Dr. Judith Drew, Chair SRC (Program Director, Rehabilitation Counseling Program at [Salve Regina University](#))
Community members/CRP members: Nina Fiasconaro (Parent Advocate for a Child with Disabilities), Paul Harden, [RI Primary Care Physicians Corporation](#) - Joan Fino (Social Work Patient Advocate)
[Office of Rehabilitation Services](#): Ronald Racine (Associate Director), Linda Deschenes (Assistant Administrator of Operations), Natalia Montoya (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor), Joseph Murphy (Administrator, Vocational Rehabilitation) John Valentine (Strategic Planning Supervisor)
[Disability Law Center](#): Catherine Sansonetti
[Goodwill Industries of RI](#): Christine Yankee
[The RI Statewide Independent Living Council](#): Christina Battista
[The RI Parent Information Network](#): Anne Fartura
[Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities](#): Lea Colardo, Melissa Brusso (Disabilities Advocate Program)

1. Establish Quorum/Introductions Guests, ORS, and SRC – Quorum met.

2. Agenda Review/Additions or Deletions – None.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from October 2, 2018

Motion – Christine Yankee made a motion seconded by Paul Harden and unanimously approved to accept the October 2, 2018 Minutes with two corrections. (Voting members – Melissa Brusso, Christina Battista, Lea Colardo, Dr. Judith Drew, Anne Fartura, Nina Fiasconaro, Joan Fino, Paul Harden, Natalia Montoya, Catherine Sansonetti, and Christine Yankee)

4. Summary of Follow-ups from Meeting

- * Nancy Baker will contact John Valentine to update him on membership additions to the Survey Committee and work out details for a meeting.
- * Members are asked to suggest speakers for upcoming meetings with an emphasis on underserved populations.
- * Training Meeting – Location needs to be selected. ORS needs to assign a speaker for their part of the training meeting.

5. Chairs Report - Dr. Judith Drew

- * Vice-chair - Catherine Sansonetti has expressed interest in stepping up as Vice-chair. If anyone else is interested please let the Council know. Officer succession plan needs to be fully developed moving forward. We will vote for this officer position at the next full Council meeting.
- * Consumer Satisfaction Survey Development Committee will be meeting with ORS to fully review and give input to improve the response percentage of the survey. Preliminary meetings have taken place and now a full committee meeting time will be set up with John Valentine. Nancy Baker will contact John to update him on membership additions and work out details for the meeting. Members on this committee are the following: Christine Botts, Christine Yankee, Judi Drew, Joan Fino, Nina Fiasconaro, Lea Colardo, Natalia Montoya, Catherine Sansonetti, and John Valentine.
- * Speakers for Meetings – Our goal is to get a new speaker to come to each meeting to share the work they do in the rehabilitation field with community providers or other rehabilitation organizations. Speakers from underserved populations should be our priority. We tentatively have someone to speak from [Progreso Latino](#). The Council members are asked to offer suggestions for speakers.

6. ORS Report – Ron Racine

* Waitlist - ORS took twenty-five (25) people off the waitlist in December and will take another twenty-five (25) off in January. If this trend continues, the average wait will be reduced to approximately ten (10) months on the list.

* ORS was unable to get funding from the Capital Budget for the IT system, and is currently seeking funding from other sources.

* New possible initiative across State Agencies (ORS, BHDDH and DLT) - Joseph Murphy

Goal is to establish regional cross disability supported employment capacity by 2020. In order to do the following:

- Increase access to employment and supported employment opportunities to Rhode Islanders eligible for BHDDH and ORS services.
- Create economic efficiencies/economies of scale for providers in Four (4) regions to provide evidence-based practices in supported employment.
- Work with providers to partner across disabilities and bill through braided funding to increase service opportunities for clients.

7. Committee Reports

* Training Committee – Lea Colardo reporting. The committee is going to reschedule the training event.

The Council agreed to reschedule it to coincide with the March 5, 2019 meeting. ORS needs to assign a speaker for their part of the training meeting. The location needs to be selected. More details will follow.

* State Plan, Policy and Quality Assurance Committee – Catherine Sansonetti reporting

This committee should work more with the Training committee to give members a better overview of our work. Suggestion for ongoing awareness and training was to take one aspect of the training and address it more in depth at some of the meetings.

8. Correspondence – None

9. New Business - None

10. Public Comment - None

11. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Motion – Catherine Sansonetti made a motion seconded by Joan Fino and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. (Voting members – Melissa Brusso, Christina Battista, Lea Colardo, Dr. Judith Drew, Anne Fartura, Nina Fiasconaro, Joan Fino, Paul Harden, Natalia Montoya, Catherine Sansonetti, and Christine Yankee)

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Baker
 Nancy Baker, RISRC Staff