



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 obtain and keep meaningful and satisfying employment.

SRC May Breakfast Meeting May 10, 2016
Crowne Plaza Warwick, RI
9:00 A.M. – 11:30 AM.

Present: Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Linda Deschenes, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Monica Dzialo, Dr. Judith Drew, Maryellen T. Hagerty, Paul C. Harden, Gail Lawson PhD, Jeffrey Machado, Diana Marcotte, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Ronald Racine, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, John Valentine, Marilyn Walaska

Absent: Liz Graves, Barbara Henry, Diana Kriner, Joan Fino, Lori Norris

Guests: Katelyn Blair, Sharon Bushnemmeli, Kelley Conti, Karen Davis, Elizabeth Hubbard, Janet Iovino, Sharon DiPinto, Michael Montanaro, Teresa O'Brien, Christine Phaneuf, Dawn Simas, Mark Therrien, Bernadette Valentine, Christine Yankee

1. Establish Quorum/Introductions Guests, ORS, SRC - Dr. Gail Lawson

Agenda Review/Additions or Deletions (None)

Acceptance of Minutes from March 8, 2016

Motion

Jack Ringland made a motion seconded by Catherine Sansonetti and unanimously approved to accept the March 8, 2016 minutes

(Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Maryellen T. Hagerty, Paul C. Harden, Gail Lawson PhD, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

2. Presentation of Awards – Dr. Gail Lawson & Ronald Racine

Awards given out to [Alex and Ani](#) and [Community Enterprises](#) for their work with the [Office of Rehabilitation Services](#) in a project that has significantly helped Rhode Islanders with Disabilities achieve meaningful employment. Dawn Simas received the award on behalf of Alex and Ani. Bernadette Valentine received the award on behalf of Community Enterprises.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Membership Training – Lea Colardo & Maryellen Hagerty

Committee is putting together a binder and presentation focusing on the history, role, and expectation of membership of SRC. Training meeting will be schedule for next year. Nancy Baker will assemble membership binders once committee reviews and approve materials.

State Plan, Policy & Quality Assurance – Catherine Sansonetti

State Plan work is completed, waiting for RSA feedback. Committee is reviewing Supported Employment Policy revisions; most of the changes appear to be legal in nature so the agency can comply with the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) (WIOA) language. We have asked ORS for a one week extension on our remarks. We will make sure the language complies with the federal language. Comprehensive Needs Assessment timeline has been developed, resources have been identified and five ad hoc groups set up to identify tools for surveying. Over the next months the ad hoc groups will be working to establish means of compiling information. It is important to capture the needs that exist in RI while complying with the new requirements of WIOA.

4. ORS Director's Report – Ronald Racine

Thanked the SRC / ORS and all the partners for another year of hard work.

The new [State Plan](#) was challenging and with all the changes came some anxiety. ORS did not have timely, specific guidance from the RSA moving forward, combining this with a new partnership with the Department of Labor and Training and a lot of new members working on the SRC Policy committee, development of the Plan was time-consuming. Hopefully next year will not be as daunting. The engagement with the SRC was positive and helped ORS create a better product. Moving forward, ORS encourages the SRC, if they have comments or concerns, to share them with ORS. ORS is now working on finalizing the new WIOA State Plan to track the many new items of data and what ORS will be reporting. With the new Plan, instead of annually reporting our data, it will be required quarterly, starting in July. The MIS system that tracks and collects data, is being updated so all the new requirements are put in the system.

[DOJ Consent Decree](#) continues to be a challenge, ORS is dedicating enormous amount of resources to this area.

Budget - Even though ORS is eighty percent federally funded, the agency had to make seven percent in cuts. ORS hopes that the cuts will not prompt implementation of Order of Selection.

Motion

Dr. Judith Drew made a motion seconded by Jack Ringland and unanimously approved to accept ORS Report.

(Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Maryellen T. Hagerty, Paul C. Harden, Gail Lawson PhD, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

5. SRC Report - Dr. Gail Lawson

Thanked all the members for their work on the Council this year. Impressed by the efforts of the committees and the collaboration work with ORS. Primary tasks for Council to work on; the State Plan, Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), and membership Training. This year we have tried to realign the work of the Council to meet the federal regulations and the SRC will continue to work on this moving forward.

[State Plan](#) - WIOA created a game changer for much more collaboration between the SRC and ORS. The role of the SRC is to continue to give collaborative, constructive feedback and seek measurable results from ORS. It was a difficult role for the State Plan committee this year and they met the challenge getting the work done. There were long meetings and late evenings, and I want to thank SRC Members and our ORS Partners who worked on that committee.

CNA - The work on the CNA has been informed by the work already done on the State Plan, and we are much more organized moving into this project. This work will go on throughout the summer on a [timeline](#), and be more relaxed because we have a lot of lead time to figure things out. The Council looks forward to this endeavor and will have many members involved.

Membership Training Initiative with [National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council](#) (NCSRC). All members are encouraged to visit the NCSRC website and listen in on their [teleconferences](#). National meetings, executive leadership has been encouraged to attend these events but only one member can attend each meeting at a time so we are trying to rotated attendees.

Training and Engaging Membership – This Council only functions if we collaboratively agree to get the work done and engage each member in some aspect. The efforts of membership this past year have been very engaging and positive.

Thanked Jeff Machado for his work as Co-chair and Nancy Baker for her work for the Council.

Motion

Jane Slade made a motion seconded by Jack Ringland and unanimously approved to accept the SRC report.

(Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Maryellen T. Hagerty, Paul C. Harden, Gail Lawson PhD, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

6. Award Past SRC Member – The Council presented Kelley Conti with a membership award. Kelley Conti was a member of the SRC for 6 years. Kelley did a yeoman’s work on the By-laws committee, and she was also the Co-chair of the State Plan, Policy and Quality Assurance committee. Karen Davis, her supervisor spoke about Kelley’s efforts in her new position with ORS. She thanked Kelley for her work on the Council, and asked the SRC to take her back! Saying, “Kelley’s heart is with the Council and always will be”. She spoke about how well Kelley has been doing in her first year as a Rehabilitation Counselor in a difficult work load with mostly clients having developmental disabilities. She said Kelley is hard but fair, she holds others and herself accountable. But her heart is soft when it comes to caring for her clients.

7. New Business – Dr. Gail Lawson

Meeting Locations for fall 2016 –spring 2017 –An update was given regarding locations and amenities for meetings. A survey will be taken later this summer of membership to determine a new location for SRC meetings. Reasons for moving the meeting location are booking difficulties and no tech available to Council at DLT.

8. Correspondence - Dr. Gail Lawson

[RespectAbility](#) - Is a non-profit advocacy group. The leader of this group has two sons with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and her interest for doing this is to create a nationwide evaluation because her sons were excluded from school in Virginia. She presented an individualized review, for every State Plan, at the DC NCSRC meeting. The review on RI was fairly negative as they were for many other states. You have to read it and figure out what the challenges are and then take the comments within the content that they are given. RI section is eighteen pages long. I urge everyone to take the time to look at this document. It is [linked here](#) and available on the SRC Google drive. If you want it, Nancy Baker can email it to you.

9. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Motion

Paul Harden made a motion seconded by Vincent Rossi and unanimously approved to adjourn.

(Vote Approved - Christina Battista, Christine Botts, Peggy Benz, Rocco Bruno, Cynthia Cote, Dr. Mona Dorsinville-Phanor, Dr. Judith Drew, Maryellen T. Hagerty, Paul C. Harden, Gail Lawson PhD, Jeffrey Machado, Dan Pieroni, Jack Ringland, Vincent Rossi, Catherine Sansonetti, Jane Slade, Willa Truelove, Marilyn Walaska)

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy L. Baker, Facilitator
RI SRC