

## **NYSCB State Rehabilitation Council Minutes**

**Hilton Garden Inn, Albany, NY**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Attendees:** Pratik Patel, Lisa Rosano, Chancey Fleet, Theresa Drum, Maria Mucaria, Ken Stewart, Holly Boots, John Jeavons, Robert Gumson, Miriam Cajuste, Erica Molina (phone)

NYSCB staff: Brian Daniels, Sharon Flom, Susan Loeb, Colleen Sidoti, Julianne Brown, & Al Farias

### **Call to order: Pratik Patel, Vice Chair**

Pratik Patel stated Mike Godino was unable to attend. This was to be his last SRC meeting and he sends his regrets. Mike Godino did not provide Pratik Patel with a Chair's report, however will send a written document. June minutes were approved by Committee.

### **NYSCB updates: Brian S. Daniels, Associate Commissioner**

Brian welcomed all new members. He stated that it was a pleasure to have met many new members and that we finally have a quorum once again. Brian thanked Susan Loeb for the coordination of this meeting. He reintroduced his Assistant, Colleen Sidoti. Brian discussed the upcoming town meetings in Niagara Falls and Ronkonkoma at the state conventions of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the American Council of the Blind (ACB) respectively. Through these town meetings, NYSCB seeks feedback on all issues including:

- Improving employment outcomes for out of school youth
- Working with employers to develop a workforce for the future
- Enhancing vocational training opportunities
- Improving Randolph-Sheppard expansion/programming

These town meetings are open to all and we encourage honest and critical feedback.

As a follow up to the State Education Department's presentation at the June SRC meeting, Brian explained that the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) will be replacing the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). He informed the Council that the test is not accessible to test takers who are visually impaired. This was deemed unacceptable by the SRC. Brian has put out a formal request to State Education, but has not heard back and he will continue to pursue.

Brian will meet with Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority on October 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss opportunities for the Business Enterprise Program at the Buffalo International Airport. Brian also discussed NYSCB's efforts to support the Taste of New York with vending machines service throughout the state.

Brian acknowledged the recent enactment of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and suggested that updates be a standing agenda item for future SRC meetings.

Brian informed the Council of existing critical personnel vacancies soon to be filled and informed the Council of plans to review the Commission's existing organizational chart and forthcoming relocation of NYSCB staff on Long Island.

He also discussed the Governor's Employment First initiative and shared the related press release and Executive Order. The OCFS Acting Commissioner, Sheila Poole sits on this panel and welcomes any input from members of the SRC. If any member has input, please let Brian know and he will get this to Acting Commissioner Poole.

Brian updated the Council on Preferred-Source Program activities. Acting Commissioner Poole, Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn DeStito, and others are traveling to Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) in Utica to acknowledge the creation of many jobs, including many service-sector opportunities through Preferred Source.

Brian re-introduced Julianne Brown and she discussed her new role in Home Office.

Finally, Brian informed the group of NYSCB Consumer outcomes. With the end of the fiscal year within weeks, NYSCB expects to exceed the number of people successfully closed.

#### **Questions from the group for Brian:**

Pratik Patel asked for an update on the Consumer Satisfaction Survey. Brian said he will submit an update in writing. Pratik stated that this needs to be put on the agenda.

Lisa Rosano asked for an update on staffing. Brian stated that NYSCB's fill level is not to exceed 140 and we currently have 135 positions filled.

#### **Discussion of plan to ensure inclusion of NYSCB in transition discussions/trainings with agencies, schools, OPWDD, OMH and any others the Council recommends:**

Susan Loeb stated that she had spoken to Laurie Munro. Laurie was frustrated because she has been reaching out to OPWDD and OMH and has been unsuccessful. Pratik Patel offered the council's assistance to help NYSCB. Theresa Drum stated that there are four transition committees throughout the state that meet quarterly. Sofie McDermott and Amy Steiner are good individuals to contact. Any ideas on how to get the Commission more involved send ideas to Colleen.

**NYSCB, Vendor and Reimbursement procedures – Shirley Rose presents:**

Receipts are required, send copies of travel forms.

**Elections:**

Motion to suspend elections and postpone them until November meeting. Second motion to Pratik Patel and Vice Chair to election, motion to Chancey Fleet and second to Theresa Drum. All in favor.

**Public Comments:** none (no public in attendance)

**Committees meet:** Pratik Patel explained the committees. Quality Assurance members are: Theresa Drum, Erica Molina and Bob Gumson. Workforce members are: Maria Mucaria, Miriam Cajuste, and Holly Boots. Policy members are John Jeavons, Chancey Fleet, Lisa Rosano, and Ken Stewart. Membership is Pratik Patel.

**Committee Reports: Policy-** Assistive Technology guidelines: look at current and confidentiality information; clients involved in progress reports and what training is involved; teacher needs to make sure they narrate training and needs to be more sensitive and effective when training is received; there should be a policy in place for purchases of Apps and what can be purchased. Committee will check with Dennis Semos about current policy and what needs to be updated.

Quality Assurance: Incorporating things into the State Plan; have a consultant discuss what is available and also to discuss employability skills (interviews, resumes, counselor should be adding this to IPE's, accessibility to applications on-line); request made for data by service provider who was successful, withdrawn or unsuccessful. Pratik Patel asked for transcribed notes.

**Revitalizing committees and future plans:** Approve annual report; get copy out of annual report before meeting. Provide goals for committees, if goals are wanted to be included in the final report. NYSCB reports on town meetings get detailed info from Brian.

**Action Items, & Deliberation and Discussion, Wrap-up & Agenda planning for November meeting & Adjourn – SRC**

For upcoming meetings, the following topics were suggested: Introduction to SRC for new members; more information on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); discussion with Executive Board; Assistive Technology presentation from Minnesota (may be postponed until March); concerns about scheduling and new members need copies of the by-law.

**Adjournment:** Pratik motioned to adjourn the meeting. Theresa Drum seconded the motion and all motioned the meeting to be completed. Minutes respectfully submitted by NYSCB staff.