

Maryland State Rehabilitation Council  
Workforce & Technology Center  
May 6, 2015

**Members – Present**

Andrew Cohen  
Christofer Conklin, teleconference  
Laurie Elinoff, Vice Chair  
Tom Laverty  
Jeff Moran, Chair  
Sue Page  
Barry Shaw  
Michael Whitehill  
Zosia Zaks

**Members Unable to Attend**

Paulette Epps  
Anil Lewis  
Matt Rice  
William Stocker

**Support Staff – Present**

Donna Lippa

**DORS Liaisons to Council - Present**

Kimberlee Schultz, Policy and Planning  
Susan Schaffer, Blindness & Vision Services  
Jean Jackson, Employment Committee  
Donna Lettow, Quality Assurance

**Candidates for Membership in Attendance**

Cindy LaBon, MSRC Candidate for Membership  
Trinelle Koara, MSRC Candidate for Membership  
Diane Pabich, MSRC Candidate for Membership

**Guests**

Secretary Carol Beatty, MD Department of Disabilities  
Jo Anne Materkowski, DORS

**Introduction and Approval of Minutes**

The Chair, Jeff Moran and Vice Chair, Laurie Elinoff, welcomed guests and members to the Council meeting and asked that everyone introduce themselves. The minutes from the February 4, 2015 meeting were approved as written. The Council welcomed Secretary Carol Beatty to the meeting today.

**Special Guest – Secretary Carol Beatty, Maryland Department of Disabilities**

Jeff Moran introduced the Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Carol Beatty. Secretary Beatty commented on how much she appreciates the work of the Maryland State Rehabilitation Council. The Council and the Department have a common interest which is good employment outcomes for persons with disabilities and making sure that persons with disabilities have the same types of opportunities that all Marylanders have and the right supports are in place.

Secretary Beatty stated that she has been on the job for 2 months. Secretary Beatty has extensive experience in the field of community of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has worked for a non-profit for over 30 years. Secretary Beatty received her Bachelor’s Degree from Towson majoring in Journalism and History and continued to Hopkins and obtained a Master’s Degree in Special Education. She spent the last 21 years at the ARC of Howard County as the Executive Director.

Secretary Beatty was involved with Project Search in Howard County with DORS. Project Search is a national and international model for introducing transitioning students to the world of work. This was a community partnership that we were able to obtain Weinberg Foundation Grant for start-up money. The first Project Search class will be graduating this month.

The Secretary stated that MDOD has only 30 staff members. Five of those staff persons are located at the Workforce & Technology Center under the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (TAP). MDOD has hired a new Deputy Secretary, Bill Franks, former Delegate from Towson. Mr. Franks brings legislative experience and connections with former and current legislators and is interested in what is going on in the disability community.

**State Issues Related to Staff and Fiscal Resources**, Sue Page, DORS Director

**Chairperson’s Report**

**DORS Teleconference Public Meeting, April 14, 2015** (Kim Schultz, DORS Public Affairs Office)

DORS hold annual public meetings to get input from consumers and other stakeholders regarding DORS services. The information gathered at these meetings is incorporated in our State Plan and submitted to RSA for approval.

RSA has decided that, due to changes related in WIOA, 2016 funds will be awarded “on the basis of the approved FY 2015 VR State plans...” This means that DORS will not submit a Plan this year, but will operate under the FY 2015 Plan.

Also provided updates on:

- DORS’ Budget and Capacity issues
- DORS Waiting List
- WIOA and DORS services

Seven community partner representatives identified themselves as being on the line during the teleconference and a number of other callers participated so we believe that approximately 17 individuals called in.

There were a few general questions about DORS funding and the 2% State budget cut, DORS relationship with DDA, and several questions about how WIOA might impact DORS services. Additionally, two of the CRP representatives offered praise for local DORS staff and services.

Most of the questions submitted related to how the implementation of WIOA will impact DORS programs and services, and DORS’ relationships with community partners. DORS staff answered the questions, based on the limited information available at this time, and stated that we will continue to pass on information as it becomes available. No pattern of concerns or trends was identified during the teleconference. A summary of the teleconference meeting is available on the DORS website. Go to Resources, State Plan, and then click on the link in the right column for SUMMARY of 2015 PUBLIC MEETING.

**Director’s Report** – Sue Page

### **Committee Reports**

Policy and Planning Committee, Tom Laverty

The committee had a teleconference meeting on April 22, 2015. The committee members discussed the following:

- The Policy and Planning Committee discussed the release of the Proposed code of Federal Regulations for the VR portion of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that was passed last year. There is a 60-day comment period to these proposed changes in the regulation and the committee

members will review information on these changes so they can be discussed at the full council meeting. There was discussion of significant changes in services to students with disabilities while still in school categorized as “Pre-Employment Transition Services.”

- The Committee discussed the modest changes in requirements for Councils, specifically the SRCs coordinating with state AT programs. The possibility of seeking an SRC member who is associated with Maryland TAP was discussed as a way to assure such coordination.
- The committee members also briefly discussed the changes that may result in the Division’s personnel as a result of the Governor’s desire to reduce the size of the State governments Workforce and limitations in funding. This will make implementation of WIOA and the new federal regulations more challenging.

#### Public Relations and Quality Assurance Committee

Committee report is not available at this meeting.

#### Membership and Resource Committee, Laurie Elinoff

- James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D. is the new Secretary of Appointments for Governor Larry Hogan’s administration.
- We not yet heard back from the Governor’s Appointments Office about proposed new members and reappointments which were forwarded some time ago, including the following:
  - Reappointments – Sue Page, Anil Lewis and Michael Whitehill
  - New Appointments –
    - Cindy LaBon, replacing Charlie Crawford as a representative of the American Council of the Blind;
    - Jani Willis, a representative of Business & Industry and employee of the US Business Leadership Network;
    - Christy Stewart, representing the Maryland State Department of Education, Special Education and Early Intervention Services;
    - Diane Pabich, representing the Maryland State Workforce Investment Board; and
    - Joseph Barrett, former recipient of VR services; currently employed by the IMAGE Center, a Center for Independent

## Living in Central Maryland.

- The application for SRC membership of Marsha Legg of the League for People with Disabilities has also been forwarded to the Governor's Appointments office.
- Mat Rice has resigned from the Council because of the demands of his position with People on the Go.
- An orientation for new (and continuing) members will be planned once we hear about the appointments.

Employment/Career Development Committee, Paulette Epps  
Committee report not available at this meeting.

Blindness and Vision Services Committee, Anil Lewis

The committee met on October 22, 2014 and Anil Lewis was elected as Chair of the committee replacing Charles Crawford whose term on the Council was completed.

The committee received an update about Transitioning Services in the Office for Blindness and Vision Services by Toni March, VR Supervisor. The committee also received updates from the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and Blind Industries and Services of Maryland.

The new meeting calendar was developed for 2015. The first meeting in 2015 will be held at WTC on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. All Council members are welcome to attend.

The next full Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015, Workforce & Technology Center, Baltimore.

Respectfully submitted.

Donna Lippa  
MSRC Staff Support

