

Maryland State Rehabilitation Council Minutes

February 8, 2023

Members Present:

Katherine Jones – Chair

Scott Dennis

Penny Reeder

Cory Richo

Marlo Lemon

Melissa Blubaugh

Kristen Patterson

Rosa Raez

Members Unable to Attend:

Michelle Day

Mindy Lipsey

Ronza M. Othman

Tamara Smith

Aaron Stephen

Tassie Thompson

Hunter Whitt

DORS liaisons to Council:

Jody Boone – OFS Director

Toni March, Director OBVS

Wanda Peele, Business Services

Patrick Peto, Program Manager Policy and planning DORS

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Kim Schultz, DORS — Public Relations

Guest:

Megan Glaze Keller

Danielle Bustos

Support Staff for the Council:

Erica Knessi, Staff Specialist for Training & Professional Development

Sherri Alban, Executive Associate

Welcome:

Katherine Jones – Good Evening Everyone

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the agenda – motion accepted.

Motion to approve the minutes – Motion accepted.

The November 9, 2022 minutes are approved as written and will be available on the State Rehabilitation Council website.

Scott Dennis

CSVAR

CSAVR 2023 Spring Conference

Website: <https://www.csavr.org/events>

April 17th -19th, 2023

Hyatt Regency

One Bethesda Metro Center

7400 Wisconsin Ave

SRC Meeting

February 8, 2023

Bethesda, MD 20814

If members of the SRC would like to attend, DORS will pay for your registration, room and will reimburse you on mileage and meals at the state rate. Contact Sherri Alban at #410-554-9410 if interested.

DORS will be presenting over the 3 days.

Legislative Update:

Statewide Independent Living Council

- House Bill 53, Senate Bill 608_Independent Living Council -DORS becoming its own state agency. First hearing will be on February 14th.

Developmental Disabilities Council

- House Bill 504, Senate Bill 168_Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council becoming its own state agency. The first hearing was held on February 7th.

DORS

- House Bill 621- Introduced by Delegate Guyton_ Requires DORS to post total number of active caseloads to the website and update monthly.

Update on The Apprenticeship program:

- We have 1 Full time Coordinator- works with the individual to find out what they are interested in and setting them up with the appropriate internship program. and 1 Full time Tutor who provides one on one tutoring to help prepare the individual for entry into the apprenticeship.
- There has been a strong interest in the program throughout the state.

We Actively recruited for the Client Assistance Director, received 50 applicants.

Katherine Jones

Public Comment: N/A

Melissa Blubaugh

If anyone is interested in attending State Independent living council meetings, they are offered remotely, contact Melissa Blubaugh at melissa.blubaugh@yahoo.com and she

will add you to the list of attendees to receive a zoom link. For more information about the SILC you can go to our website: <https://www.marylandsilc.org>

DORS Performance Data (RSA 911) – Patrick Peto

Program Year 2022 Quarter 2 data trends compared to 2021: See attached.

Quality Assurance updates:

Case Reviews

- Delegated authority & reviews to issue authorizations and start dates.
- Case reviews are done monthly/virtually by teams of 4 plus 1 alternate.
- Cases reviewed: Service status, Employment status, closed successfully and closed unsuccessfully.

Policy Initiatives:

- We are working on streamlining Post Secondary Education policy.
- Reviewing Federal regulations for case closures to ensure that we are supplying our consumers with required information.
- Several training's on Cintrix (Dual signature tool) have been completed, Cintrix allows for the exchange of secure information with consumers.

Directors Report – Scott Dennis

HB 660 Update:

- Interim report and recommendations have been sent out to the committee.
- We are looking at the recommendations and working on implementing them into the program.

Some recommendations were legislative acts:

Securing funding for the future- Mandate Federal requirement for State match

MSDE requested additional funding in the fall for the VR grant. We received funding for VR and in addition, funding for the ILOB and Youth Supported Employment program.

We are expecting an increase of about four and half million dollars for FED. FY 24.

Federal requirements for the State match is 21.3%

- **Expansion of Services at WTC-** work on providing more training services.

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- **Caseloads** -The Super intendent is working with members of the General Assembly to expand the number of staff to address the case sizes and workloads. We are expecting to add about 73 new counselor positions to help address these issues.
- The last Discussion meeting on moving the Agency or creating a separate board will be held on February 13th and hosted on the MSDE website from 1-3:30pm
- Final meeting will be held on March 6th –
 - The Super Intendent will be presenting.
 - Will be reviewing Interim report recommendations and recommendations from all previous meetings.
 - The floor will be open for input.
- Final report will be delivered to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate on March 15,2023

Budget:

- Agency budget has not come up for a hearing yet, not anticipating anything dramatic.
- The State is in a good place financially, we are not looking to see any cuts.
- Will notify the committee when the report comes out.

Outreach:

DORS teamed up with Parents Place of Maryland to host four virtual listening sessions, one in Spanish, with parents across the state to provide information, answer questions and hear feedback about the program.

We had a good cross section of individuals of various ages, disability and ethnic diversity who participated.

Recommendations based on Feedback:

- Secure additional funding for DORS
- Fill open vacancies.
- Recruit additional staff.
- Develop communication & Marketing plan on who and what DORS does.
- Conduct more focus groups.
- Focus on information on the website and in the Brochures.
- Create materials in plain language that would be useful for families & individuals.

- Professional development of staff
- Develop standard operating practices to ensure better customer service.

Jody Boone

Changes to VR forms- The signature page will no longer be included on the incentive form.

Paid adult work experience- We are looking to offer adults a paid internship /work experience directly related to their employment plan. Our target will be adults who completed vocational training or college.

- CRPs will be taken on consumers as an employee for a 12-week session.
- Consumer will have a maximum of 2 work experiences each.
- They will receive job coaching and will be paid minimum wage.

Scott Dennis-

3 ways for Certification/licensure to be a DORS CRP:

- CARF
- BHA
- DDA

Must be certified to provide employment services which will include discovery, job development, ongoing job support, following along services and self-employment development support.

CRPS can contact Toni Cobb-Cannon at latonya.cannon@maryland or Catherine Drake at Catherine.Drake@maryland.gov with any questions about certification requirements and the process.

We are working with the DDA on when DORS funding stops & DDA employment services will begin.

Membership Discussion

Policy & Quality Assurance –

Patrick Peto: No updates at this time

Blindness and Vision Services – Penny Reader

- There are still a number of positions that need to be filled within OBVS
- OBVS has signed all their agency agreements with agencies that supply Rehab services to the Blind.
- MBEP use to have 70 facilities, but because of all the shutdowns during COVID and people still working from home they are now down to 33 facilities which has caused problems for a lot of vendors.
- MBEP is looking into the possibility of having their vendors handle vending machines.
- Summer camps for children who are Blind and visually impaired:
 - BISM will host 2 this summer.
 - Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind will host 1
 - Maryland School for the Blind will host 1
- NFB held a convention in November.
- ACB will hold a virtual convention the last weekend in February and will be sending a program to OBVS to share with their consumers.

Membership – Scott Dennis:

- We will not be able to accept new applicants to the SRC until the end of February, after the Governors appointment process is complete.
- We are looking to add more consumers to the council, please reach out to your consumers and encourage them to join.
- Also, looking for organizations for the Deaf as well as private businesses to join the SRC.

Employment /Career Development – Michelle Day

Wanda Peele: No updates at this time

Strategic Planning & Public Relations- Kim Schultz

No updates at this time

- If anyone is interested in the strategic planning committee, please contact Kim Schultz at kimberlee.schultz@maryland.gov

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Council Sharing

Melissa Blubaugh, SILC

- The SILC membership is growing, we have three new council members and others interested in joining the council.
- Last month we initiated a quarterly newsletter highlighting the programs and the successes of our Maryland centers for independent living as well as the State Independent Living council.

If anyone is interested in receiving the newsletter, please reach out to me.

Next month several of our members will be attending the SILC congress in Arkansas.

We are looking forward to all the new exiting opportunities that people with disabilities in Maryland will have and are looking forward to serving those people.

Katherine Jones:

Our agency just renovated and will be opening a new health and wellness center and will be offering all kinds of opportunities for free to our Eastern Shore communities as well as to our vocational Pre-Ets. Students.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

Sherri Alban
MSRC Staff Support

Encl:

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