

Maryland State Rehabilitation Council Minutes

November 9, 2022

Members Present:

Katherine Jones – Chair

Scott Dennis

Penny Reeder

Cory Richo

Marlo Lemon

Tassie Thompson

Melissa Blubaugh

Kristen Patterson

Members Unable to Attend:

Rose Carey

Michelle Day

Tom Laverty

Mindy Lipsey

Ronza M. Othman

Tamara Smith

Aaron Stephen

Rosa Raez

DORS liaisons to Council:

Jody Boone – OFS Director

Toni March, Director OBVS

Wanda Peele, Business Services

Patrick Peto, Program Manager Policy and planning DORS

Kim Schultz, DORS — Public Relations

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 minutes – Motion accepted

The September 14, 2022 minutes are approved as written and will be available on the State Rehabilitation Council website.

Scott Dennis

HB 660 Update:

- Next meeting will be held on November 17th at MSDE /zoom
- Zoom Link will go out next week
- Presenters on November 17th:
 1. *John* Butterworth, Center for Inclusion, Univ. Mass. –Topic: DORS DDA Relationship.
 2. MD Dept. Of DDA and DORS – Topic: DORS DDA Relationship
 3. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Office of strategic Initiative's for Individuals and Families – Topic: Transparency and Accountability

- Interim report due December 15, 2022

SRC Meeting
November 9, 2022

- Meetings for January and February 2023 have not been scheduled yet.
- Final report due March 15,2023

DORS Waitlist update:

- Started opening up Category 2
- The last from 2017 will be brought off the list next week
- Will start bringing 2018 off list in December with a goal of having all of 2018 off by June 2023

MRA/DORS Conference will be on November 17th and 18th this year with a full house and a waiting list.

SRC Training:

Thank you to all who attended. If you were unable to attend, the training was recorded and will be available on the SRC website. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

CSAVR Spring conference will be held April 2023 in Bethesda.

To any SRC members who wish to attend, we will let you know if there is going to be an SRC training at the conference.

Katherine Jones

Scott you did an excellent job with the SRC training. Thank you for the excellent presentation on providing insight into the big picture on what DORS does. We definitely appreciate everyone from the DORS office and all that you do.

Public Comment:

N/A

DORS Performance Data – Patrick Peto

Program Year 2022 Quarter 1 data trends compared to 2021: See attached

1st Quarter Satisfaction Survey Review of Questions:

SRC Meeting
November 9, 2022

The survey will be sent out to the committee in an accessible form for review and we welcome any feedback you might have.

We will send a letter in the mail along with an access code and their current DORS status to everyone selected to participate

Directors Report – Scott Dennis

Intake/Eligibility Unit – Update

- New Program manager and Supervisor have officially started
- Currently recruiting for additional counselors
- Referrals have been coming in at steady pace with the online referral form
- Looking to increase workload once other positions are filled.
- Just initiated Electronic signature platform. Allowing the EDU to send out electronic documents that can be signed electronically.

Patrick – About the Electronic signature platform:

- The Electronic Signature platform started as a pilot program through the EDU.
- The program is Cintrix – it allows for the exchange of secure information with consumers
- Counselors would complete the form in office and send it through Cintrix to the consumer who will be prompted to type, or draw on tablet or phone their signature and then send back through Cintrix to the Counselor.
- Cintrix gives the ability for adding multiple signatures when needed
- Consumer will automatically receive a copy of the signed document through Cintrix.

Pre-Ets Intake:

- CTCI has ramped up, they have been working for about two months now and have assigned about eight hundred Pre-Ets. referrals to date and have processed about two hundred and fifty cases back to us.
- We have three hundred and fifty interviews scheduled with parents.
- Looking into how to send out electronically Pre Ets information that traditionally has been sent out through the mail so the consumer will receive it before they are contacted by the CTCI. Eventually we will implement that process with the VR Cases as well.

DORS Funding Forecast

Projected to receive an increase in Federal funding between \$4.4 and \$4.5 million dollars in basic support for FY24 which starts July 1, 2023.

The state is required to match Federal funding and as of right now if we do not receive an increase in funds from previous years we will lose Federal funding over the next four years.

For every dollar the State falls short we lose \$4 dollars

When talking with your delegate, please bring this to their attention.

Membership Discussion

Policy & Quality Assurance – Tom Laferty

Patrick Peto: Tom has decided to retire, last day will be on December 1st

If you have any well wishes for Tom I will be make sure everyone gets his contact information.

Blindness and Vision Services – Penny Reader

N/A

Membership –

Scott:

- We are still looking for individuals to join the council.
- Working with MSDE to find a representative for Special Education
- With Tom retiring we will be looking for a Client Assistance program representative
- Looking for Businesses to join the SRC

To Jody and Cory – If you have clients that would be good on the SRC, please encourage them to join

Employment /Career Development – Michelle Day

Wanda Peele: No updates at this time

Strategic Planning & Public Relations- Kim Schultz

- If anyone is interested in the strategic planning committee please contact Kim Schultz ,Corey Richo or Scott Dennis
- We have materials in place that we can tweak and use for talking points pertaining to today's situation with DORS to the legislature and will send them to Scott Dennis and the Counsel for review if interested.

Council Sharing

Penny Reader:

ACB previously held their last 2 legislative seminars on Capitol Hill via zoom and it worked out good. Would like to suggest for consumer day in Annapolis that we also hold the Annapolis legislative seminar this year via zoom.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

Sherri Alban
MSRC Staff Support

Encl: