

Minutes-1/31/19

Those in attendance: Maureen Bates, Howard Lesser, Michele Ku, George Messengale, Rene Berthiaume, Christina Pascua, Art Cabanilla, Ann Lemke, Deborah Kobayakawa, Terry-Ann Moses, Jodi Asato, Diane Terada, Lanelle Yamane and Claudia Madruga.

Excused:

Mark Travalino

Shirley Sybert

Gwen Keliihoomalu

Public: Annette Tashiro, Kimberlee Auten, Dayna Hironaka.

- I. Michele Ku-SRC Chair, called meeting to order at 10:53 am. Hearing no objections consent agenda and September 14th, 2018 minutes was unanimously approved through general consent.
- II. Vice Chair, Howard Lesser, gave his update on the Client Assistant Program along with an emailed handout for the SRC to review with CAP activities involvement. Items mentioned were: Annual program performance Reports, meetings with VRA Maureen Bates, DOE quarterly transition meetings, assisted with SRC report the Governor, Executive committee meetings, conducted outreach to public high schools, conducted CAP orientation to VR applicants, staffed a table at Footsteps to transition at Radford High School, staffed a table at NAMI Walk, presented at Lion's Club on CAP, presented to DD case managers on CAP and distributed 437 CAP brochures.
- IV. DOE Report was emailed by Christina Tydeman and sent via email to SRC members. Hard copies were provided. As of December 2018, Christina will no longer be serving on the SRC and therefore was not in attendance. In attendance today was her temporary replacement Dayna Hironaka. Until further notice, she will only attend to take notes until given approval to officially apply for Christina's previous position.

- V. Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)-Ann Lemke previously reported for SILC, however no longer serves on the SILC council. Annette Tashiro currently serves as the secretary for SILC and is temporarily sitting in to take notes until given further notice to officially apply as Ann Lemke's replacement.
- VI. Workforce Development Council (WDC)-No Report given.
- VII. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Report-Maureen Bates
 - 1. RSA monitoring-After the findings in June, there will be a 6-month period waiting for reports. The concern/fear is that once a client's case is successfully closed, they may lose their job due to lack of long-term support and follow up from the DVR/VR Counselor. Locating long-term supports are especially difficult to identify for Supported Employment clients.
 - 2. Revisions contract in June for renewal to include long-term supports for Supported Employments supports. DVR didn't use the Supported Employment funds of 300K: 150K for youth and 150k for adults. DVR spent adult dollars; not youth. DVR needs to improve their strategies when working with SE Youth such as identifying long-term supports along with partners such as Workforce Disability Development and Abilities Unlimited who holds the supported employment contract.
 - 3. Order of Selection Update: There are 617 on the deferred list. Priority 1 (Most Significantly Disabled) waitlisted: 395, Priority 2 (Significantly Disabled): 207. Priority 3 (Non-significantly disabled): 15. Counselors are required to send out notification of Order of Selection on a quarterly basis. Although clients are on deferred lists, some counselors are still able to provide some resources. For example, a counselor from Maui Branch was able to provide a job lead. VR counselors are referring clients, both deferred and active, to the American Job Center for assistance. To refer is not the issue, it is the upgrade in services.*

4. \$1.8 million penalty waiver: DVR cannot ask for the waiver until RSA decides which years they will apply it to. Maureen will keep everyone updated. DVR will need to submit an excel spreadsheet detailing the \$1.8 million in expenditures that were supplemented through unsustained State funds, leading to a maintenance of effort imbalance between the FFY17 and FFY19. A new practice for the agency to plan, or draft, services three months in advance. Depending on the amount of the service requested, a prior approval is needed from VRA Maureen Bates. This new practice will require more training for not only VR Counselors, but also the clerical will need to create a tracking system and will need to assist with reporting expenditures.
5. Current numbers to date: 241 Rehabs for last year. The goal this year is 500 successful rehabilitated cases. DVR is now focusing on tracking measurable skills gains (MSGs). DVR is including "transitional work" which is temporary employment that may not necessarily related to a client's goals, internships, schools but offers them employment opportunities until they obtain their desired employment. Current DVR accomplishments related to employment are:
 - a. Oahu Branch Averages: 25 hours per week. \$18/per hour.
 - b. Transition Section- \$11/hour
 - c. Ho'opono Branch: Average 40 hours per week. One client closed successfully was a massage therapist earning \$60/hour.
 - d. Kauai-Athlete earned \$60 per hour.

Evidence proves that with DVR counselors and their credentials, clients are able to obtain quality placements. One of the future goals for DVR is to be able to pay for staff to keep their certification current.

6. DVR's Expectations of the SRC: Quality assurance, expertise, insights, how to build these pipelines, how to build efficient systems with DOH, DOE, DOL. Expectation is that the SRC has the strength in advocacy that DVR does not have.

VIII. State Rehabilitation Council Committee Report

1. Membership

Art Cabanilla does not have updated records other than what was given to him while Gregg Van Camp was still the SRC coordinator. TA Claudia Madruga stated she is in contact with Sharon Ibarra with boards and commissions and will provide updated records for the next meeting. TA Claudia Madruga informed the SRC of the current vacancies and current members. Members no longer serving: Scott Murakami, Scott Nishimoto, Christina Tydeman, Eleanor Doi. Replacements have not been named. Ann Lemke is no longer on the Statewide Independent Living Council and cannot represent them. No replacement was named as of yet. George Massengale and Rene Berthiaume stated they have been in contact with Sharon Ibarra as well to discuss changing the number of members required to sit on the SRC as well as inquire who has voting rights.

- IX. Needs Assessments- Violet Horvath, Pacific Disability Center (PDC), sent the consumer satisfaction survey in December 2018. Pina Lemusu is currently assigned to this task. Claudia Madruga will follow up with the SRC Council and will coordinate for PDC to present at 2nd quarterly meeting.

Old Business-Michele and Art

1. Draft Revision of Bylaws-
Michele reviews changes made to Bylaws:

Page 1; Under Article 3 (Membership), Section 1 (Composition) - change # of council members from 21 to 15

Page 1; Section 1 Name – typo in Hawaii

Page 2; Under Article 4, (Meetings) , Section 1 Meetings – edit of 6 day's notice, changed to 6 days' notice

Page 2; Article 5 (Nominations and Elections), Section 1 (Nominating Committee), capitalized Executive Committee titles and spelled out position titles.

Page 2; Article 5 (Nominations and Elections), Section 2 (Nominations), deleted 2nd quarter and added occurring in the 4th quarter of the state fiscal year.

Page 2; Article 5 (Nominations and Elections), Section 3 (Determination of Officers), deleted second and added state fiscal year fourth.

Page 2; Article 5 (Nominations and Elections), Section 4 (Term), deleted from the date of the 3rd quarter meeting for a term of one year; changed to “for a term of one year beginning July 1 and ending June 30”.

Page 3; Article 7 (Committees), Section 3 (Committee Chairs), deleted 2nd, changed to state fiscal year 4th.

George asked that in Article 7 (Committees), Section 2 (Standing Committees), legislative committee needs to be added along with State Plan, Needs Assessment, Policy and Procedures, and Membership.

Michele deferred to George regarding the approval of the bylaw by the SRC and the next steps. George responded that the SRC doesn't need to get the approval from the AG's office since we are a federal mandated council. We have the power to change the bylaw and vote for the change. George and Claudia will follow up with Board and Commissions to confirm the change.

George moved to approve the revised bylaws. Howard seconded. Approved unanimously.

George motioned to reconsider and amend to state in Article 3 ; the composition shall now state that the council shall consist of a minimum of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Art seconded. Unanimously approved.

New Business-Chair Michele Ku

I. CSAVR & NCSRC

George Massengale to represent the SRC for both the CSAVR & NCSRC. Will attend from April 4-10th. Claudia Madruga will work with DVR Secretary Anita Santiago to coordinate George's travel arrangements. Will present at the 2nd quarterly meeting.

- II. VR Website-Claudia Madruga will contact Gavan Abe, Ho'opono Community Resource Coordinator, to attend the 2nd quarterly meeting. Gavan may either have that authority to add any changes, or may be working with others on updating the DVR website. Ideas discussed were updating the DVR website to include a link for the SRC. More of a web presence would increase transparency.

- III. 2019 Disability-Related Bills and other Measures

- I. Comments from the Public

Kimberlee Auten with Lanakila Pacific, and potential SRC member, asked that due to the recent articles written in the Hawaii Free Press related to Subminimum Wage 14c certificates, organizations referred to as sweatshops, and individuals being named, is the SRC going to take any kind of position? SRC members commented the information may not be accurate. The author of these articles is not getting their information correct. SRC will allow the issue to play out at the legislature and will not take a formal stance.

Maureen stated DVR annual report, 511 report, kept on RSA or DOL for review. Requires DVR to contact individuals whom are receiving subminimum wage (45 clients statewide) to verify if they would like to continue. Still reviewing responses. They are annually checked.

DVR does not pay federal or state dollars for subminimum wage clients. For PreETS, one can argue we were giving monies for subminimum wages for SEVR. Now, we are at \$10.10 for students. DVR will follow minimum wage for their clients. If DVR sends an individual to a training program, it is not DVR money being paid to the client. DVR position is to comply to the federal compliance and informed choice. We need to look to Ability 1 for data subminimum wages, and worked their way up. Then bring this to the State

Legislature. There is national data on this. Except for Hawaii. There are 7 agencies here that have the 14C Certificates.

Kimberlee Auten stated that Lanakila Pacific trainees are paid under the 14C. They do not hire permanent employees under the 14C. They are one of the few training programs that do pay. Some of the trainees are with Lanakila Pacific for almost a year. If 14C goes, it all goes which includes paid training. Lanakila would like to keep the training piece but refer to it as an apprenticeship program. Possibly through Department of Labor, through an apprentice program. Ability 1 programs may go away. How do we get monies in our State so that they can learn work-based settings. It's important for the CRP to keep the Certificate. Change to minimum wage to apprenticeship program. Time-studies, levels one, two and three. To identify skills. Do they get federal set-aside, depending on population? Maybe set-aside contracts. Apprenticeships programs may not be involved in that. We need to show that people are making progress.

II. Adjourn