**STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

**2nd Quarterly Meeting**

**Friday February 16, 2024**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

**SRC Members Present:**

Annette Tashiro (Disability Advocate Group & SRC Chair)

Judy Guajardo (Statewide Independent Living Council, Chair)

Scott Hedrick (Business Industry and Labor, US DOD-Navy)

Sandi Jakob (Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-Private)

Tira Kamaka (Community Rehabilitation Program)

Howard Lesser (Client Assistant Program)

Rosie Rowe (Parent Training and Information Center)

Stan Young (Disability Advocate Group)

**SRC Members Absentees:**

Dr. Heather Chapman (Department of Education)

Vickie Kennedy (Disability Advocate Group)

Sean Knox (Workforce Development Council)

Ramon Ruiz (Business Industry and Labor-American Job Center)

Meriah Nichols (Former VR Recipient)

Catherine Taylor (Disability Advocate Group)

Nani Watanabe (Disability Advocate Group)

Other Attendees:

Lea Dias – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator

Gregg Van Camp-DVR; SRC Liaison, Staff Services Office

Alison Lee – DVR; Staff Services Office

Cheryl Matthews-DVR; Staff Services Office

Violet Horvarth – UH PDC Presenter

CART – Susan Durkovic

1. Call to Order

Chair Annette Tashiro called the State Rehabilitation Council 4th Quarterly Meeting to order at approximately 10:08am

* 1. Housekeeping remarks

1. Members Introduction

Chair Tashiro utilized the Membership Roster prepared by the SRC/DVR Liaison, Gregg VanCamp.

* 1. Icebreaker; Chair Tashiro asked each member when introducing themselves to also answer, what do you do to practice self-care when you need to take a break?

1. Consent Agenda

Chair Tashiro facilitated the approval of the Consent Agenda (Attached):

* 1. Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2023
  2. State Rehabilitation Council Partner Council Reports
     + Client Assistance Program (CAP)
     + Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
  3. State Rehabilitation Council Standing Committee Reports
     + Membership Committee Report

Had to wait to vote because of no quorum until after 11:00am. Howard Lesser first, and Stan Young second and approved the consent agenda. Vote unanimous.

1. State Rehabilitation Council Verbal Reports

Chair Tashiro facilitated the Verbal Reports that included:

* 1. Department of Education (DOE)

No report given from Department of Education as they were not present in meeting.

* 1. Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) – Tira Kamaka gave a verbal report on current happenings with CRP’s statewide which included providers working with a Master Service Provider; Knowledge Services. Providers writing up contracts for the Pre-ETS programs in Hawai’i high schools statewide for approval of new contract for the next two years. Tira spoke about the ARPA funded employment transformation initiative that many providers state-wide are apart of to help improve the quality of employment services for people with disabilities.
  2. SRC Chair Updates

Chair Tashiro continues to send SRC updates and information as it comes. Chair discussed attending various meetings and webinars from the National Administration for Community Living on housing for people with disabilities. Chair spoke about the 200th anniversary/birthday of the braille system. Department of Labor and Workforce Development Division sponsored an accessible hiring event the Chair attended.

1. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Data Report

VRA Lea Dias spoke about an article in the New American journal titled “Pennies on the Dollar; The Use of Subminimum Wage for Disabled Workers across the United States.” Discussed facts on where states scored/ranked on policy engagement with sub minimum wage, use of subminimum wage, and employment policy and funding initiatives, and support of financial security. Lea Dias reviewed the following handouts. (See attached).

1. Status of Total Served
2. Status of HDVR Data by County last Quarter
   * + New Applicants
     + New Determined Eligible
     + New Individualized Plan for Employment
     + New Cases Closed
3. Status of HDVR Competitive Integrative Employment Detail
4. Status of Fair Hearings
5. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Verbal Updates

VRA Lea Dias gave a verbal update on Rehabilitation Services Administration Corrective Action Plan; 16 of the 27 corrective actions were resolved, DVR continues to work through the remaining corrective actions, Unified State Plan; is a road map for the agencies involved in workforce development on how we can improve things moving forward, takes effect July 1, 2024 and is a four year plan. It is revisited and updated every two years as necessary, DHS Strategic Plan; lists the goals and activities of DVR, Pre-ETS (Training, CAP, Rapid Engagement, SEA Agreement); improving on the requirement to spend 15% of the DVR budget on Pre-ETS services for students with disabilities, updating Pre-ETS policies and procedures, budget tracking, all-day training staff on February 22, 2024, Vacancies; high vacancy rate in DVR, Rusnell Pascual-Kestner was selected as VR assistant administrator effective November 2023, spoke of other staff changes in DVR, 40% vacancy rate overall, Hawai’i Island vacancy 36%, Maui County vacancy 12.5%, Kauai 56% vacancy , Bills DVR is tracking.

Break at 10:56am – 11:10am

Tira Kamaka arrived, now there is quorum.

VRA Lea Dias gave verbal report and read through the DVR Data Report.

Since we had quorum, vote on consent agenda was made at this time.

1. New Business
   1. Budget Committee

Amendment- no additional funding’s needed or amendments. Discussion of stipends, not determined. More research and report back at 3rd quarterly meeting.

* 1. Nominees to attend National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils, Inc. (NCSRC) and Councils of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference at Bethesda, Maryland from April 6-10, 2024.

Howard Lesser and Catherine Taylor approved to attend. Any additional members need to notify Annette Tashiro and Gregg May as soon as possible if wanting to attend.

1. Old Business

Chair Tashiro reported on the following attachments. (See attached)

1. 2024-2027 Unified State Plan (USP)

Public Comment ends February 16, 2024.

1. SRC Strategic Work Plan

* FFY24 Goals: Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Chair Tashiro asked members for input.

1. Confirmation of 2024 SRC Quarterly Meeting on-site locations
   * 3 rd Quarter Meeting, originally scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024. However, decided to change the date to Thursday, May 16, 2024 to avoid conflict of Transition Quarterly meeting currently schedule on May 17.

Motion to attend 3rd Quarter Meeting on Maui by Howard Lesser, Stan Young second. Vote unanimous. Motion to change date to Thursday May 16 by Judy Guajardo, Howard Lesser second. Final session 3rd Quarter Meeting is on Thursday May 16 on Maui.

* + 4th Quarter Meeting, Friday, August 23, 2024

Break at 11:56am-12:25pm

1. 2023 Consumer Satisfaction Survey Presentation by presenter Violet Horvath. Violet presented PowerPoint and review survey results.

University of Hawai’i, Pacific Disabilities Center on Thursday May 16, 2024.

1. Upcoming Events

Chair Tashiro verbally reported the following upcoming events.

1. April 6-10, 2024; CSAVR 2024 Spring Conference; Bethesda, Maryland
2. May 16; SRC 3rd Quarter Meeting on Maui
3. Comments from the Public

Chair Tashiro opened the meeting up to the Public for any comments.

1. Adjourn

Chair Tashiro called to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:01pm. Howard Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting, Stan Young seconded.

**CAP Activities 12/1/23 through 2/9/24 for SRC meeting**

**by Howard Lesser, SRC CAP rep**

**● CAP Annual Program Performance Report submitted**

**● Participated in Transition Fair**

**● Obtained Current list of DOE Transition teachers**

**● Reviewed related bills at State Legislature**

***SILC Report for SRC - 2nd Quarterly Meeting February 16, 2024***

***Submitted by Judy Guajardo, Chairperson SILC Representative***

*The Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii (SILCH) continues to promote independent living, skill building, peer support, individual and system advocacy, and transition services for youth and people who are aging as requested by consumers in their communities statewide*.

Activity report since the last SRC meeting on December 1, 2023

Activity from the SILC Chair has been focused on the continuing aftermath of the Wildfires on Maui since August 8, 2023. As the Volunteer Coordinator for Na Hoaloha, each day is filled with new challenges. Person centered services require good communication between agency leaders to assess the immediate needs of individuals and further coordination for sustainable support.

The Disabilities Task Force continues to meet each Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 AM with updates from National, State and Local County representatives on the concerns and conditions of the temporary sheltered individuals and the time frames for transitioning them out of hotels and into temporary housing or congregate shelters for previously unhoused persons. The task force is instrumental in oversight of the accessibility of the shelters for persons with disabilities. The community leaders work collaboratively to address the direct service needs by providing resources for DMEs, PCAs and applications for assistance for food, medical and housing.

Mental Health is of great concern for people who have suffered the event and the aftermath of having lost everything and not knowing where they will go from there.

There are five SILC membership applications still pending commissions from the Governor’s office. It is frustrating to not have quorum and not get answers from the many inquiries.

ACL has been notified and given permission to continue to act as a board.

The new and pending members are motivated to perform the duties and responsibilities to the community in support of independent living.

A committee was formed to develop the SPIL.

The SILC website is being redesigned and updated from the efforts of Patrick Gartside and Work Now Hawaii.

The SILC Board meets the first Thursday of each month.

The Quarterly Geneal Meeting will be held via Zoom on March 28, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The Community Needs Assessment is in draft form and will be available for distribution in Mid-March.

SILC Chair is participating in a pilot program for selecting and training work force for Community Health Navigators. This is a statewide endeavor for creating person centered care planning to aid kupuna and persons with disabilities have better access to resources and support independent living. Na Hoaloha was one of four non-profits in Hawaii to receive a grant for the program. A Program Navigator was hired, and training started on January 25, 2024.

SILC Chair attended the first meeting for the Broadband Hui Maui on January 24, 2024, as part of the Hawaii Broadband Hui. The purpose is to provide digital access and equity to people throughout the state to promote health and engagement for everyone.

Respectfully submitted by

Judy Guajardo, Chair

Statewide Independent Living Council

SRC 2nd Quarterly Meeting

February 2024

Membership Committee Quarterly Report

Submitted by Membership Committee Chair Nani Watanabe

1. New SRC Applicants for a term beginning July 1, 2024 is awaiting their Testimony Hearing date to be be confirmed and appointed during the 2024 Legisalative sessions.
   * Business, Industry & Labor
   * Disability Advocacy Group
2. The following SRC Members 1st term ends on June 30, 2024 and have applied for second term. They are awaiting their Testimony Hearing date to be be confirmed and appointed during the 2024 Legisalative sessions.
   * Scott Hedrick – Business, Industry & Labor
   * TIra Kamaka – Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP)
   * Meriah Nichols – Former Recipient of VR Services
3. The following SRC Members were on interim status, unable to be confirmed and appointed at the 2023 legislative sessions and should be slated for confirmation and appointment during the 2024 Legisalative sessions.
   * Sean Knox – Workforce Development Council
   * Ramon Ruiz – Business, Industry & Labor –
   * Sandi Jakob – Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
4. Current SRC Roster and term limits.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # | **Composition** | **Member Name** | **Term Begins** | **Term Ends** | **Term status** |
| **1** | [Statewide Independent Living Center Representative](https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/34/370) | Judy Guajardo | 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2025 | First |
| **2** | At least one Representative of a Parent Training & Information Center (§348-8(a)(1) | Rosie Rowe | 7/1/2020 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 6/30/2025 | First  Second |
| **3** | At least one Representative of the Client Assist Program (§348-8(a)(2)) | Howard Lesser | 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2025 | Exempt |
| **4** | Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (§348-8(a)(3)) | Sandi Jakob | 7/1/2023 | 6/30/2026 | Interim Status |
| **5** | Representative of Community Rehabilitation Program Service Providers (§348-8(a)(4)) | TIra Kamaka | 7/1/2021 | 6/30/2024 | First |
| **6** | 1. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Scott Hedrick | 7/1/2021 | 6/30/2024 | First |
|  |
| **7** | 2. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Ramon Ruiz | 7/1/2023 | 6/30/2026 | Interim Status |  |
|  |
|  | 3. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Vacant |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4. Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Vacant |  |  |  |  |
| **8** | Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor (§348-8(a)(5)) | Nani Watanabe | 7/1/2020 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 6/30/2025 | First  Second |  |
| **9** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Catherine Taylor | 7/1/2021 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 6/30/2025 | First  Second |  |
| **10** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Stan Young | 7/1/2019  7/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 6/30/2025 | First  Second |  |
| **11** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Vickie Kennedy | 7/1/2021  7/1/2023 | 6/30/2023  6/30/2025 | First  Second |  |
| **12** | Representative of a Disability Advocacy Group (§348-8(a)(6) | Annette Tashiro | 7/1/2020 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2022 6/30/2025 | First  Second |  |
| **13** | Current or Former Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (§348-8(a)(7)) | Meriah Nichols | 7/1/2021 | 6/30/2024 | First |  |
| **14** | At least one Representative of the State Educational Agency Responsible for the Public Education of Students with Disabilities (§348-8(a)(8)) | Dr. Heather Cahpman | 7/1/2022 | 6/30/2025 | First |  |
| **15** | One Representative of the State Workforce Development Council (§348-8(a)(9)) | Sean Knox | 7/1/2023 | 6/30/2026 | Interim Status |  |
|  |
| **16** | Administrator of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Human Services (§348-8(a)(10) ex-officio/non-voting member. | Lea Dias | Exempt | Exempt | Exempt |  |
|  |

Data Report

**Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) SRC Meeting 4th Quarter – February 16, 2024**

# Program Year (PY) 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

1. **Data period for this quarterly report is PY23** **Q2 (October 1, 2023 – December 30, 2023)**

Total PY23 Served

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| VR Participants (VR Case Type) | 3200 | 3195 |  |  |
| Potentially Eligible (PE): Students with  Disabilities (SWD) – these are not VR Participants but are receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). | 766 | 797 |  |  |
| Total | 3966 | 3992 |  |  |

The following data reflects VR cases only, data of Potentially Eligible (PE) students with disabilities (SWD) cases are not included in these tables below.

1. **Status of DVR Data by county PY23 Q2**

Total PY23 Applications – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applications  by Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct. – Dec. | Q3  Jan.- March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 107 | 65 |  |  | 172 |
| Hawaii | 7 | 2 |  |  | 9 |
| Maui | 6 | 0 |  |  | 6 |
| Kauai | 5 | 0 |  |  | 5 |
| Total | 125 | 67 |  |  | 192 |

Total PY23 Determined Eligible – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eligibility by Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct. – Dec. | Q3  Jan.- March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 77 | 67 |  |  | 144 |
| Hawaii | 8 | 4 |  |  | 12 |
| Maui | 14 | 0 |  |  | 14 |
| Kauai | 7 | 0 |  |  | 7 |
| Total | 106 | 71 |  |  | 177 |

Total PY23 IPEs Developed – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| IPE by  Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 63 | 59 |  |  | 122 |
| Hawaii | 8 | 3 |  |  | 11 |
| Maui | 14 | 5 |  |  | 19 |
| Kauai | 5 | 2 |  |  | 7 |
| Total | 90 | 69 |  |  | 159 |

Total PY23 Cases Closed (Rehabilitated and Other than Rehabilitated) – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Closures by  Branch | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Oahu | 55 | 30 |  |  | 85 |
| Hawaii | 9 | 8 |  |  | 17 |
| Maui | 3 | 5 |  |  | 8 |
| Kauai | 4 | 4 |  |  | 8 |
| Total | 71 | 47 |  |  | 118 |

Total PY23 Rehabilitated in Competitive Integrative Employment – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CIE | Q1  July – Sept. | Q2  Oct - Dec. | Q3  Jan.-March | Q4  April - June | PY 2023 Total |
| Total | 2 | 7 |  |  | 9 |

1. **Status of DVR Cases Closed - Rehabilitated in Competitive Integrated Employment**

**T**otal PY23 Q2 Successful Rehabilitations by Branch/Section Detail – VR

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Branch | Position | Hourly Wage | Hours/Week |
| 1 | Hawaii Kona | Agricultural Workers | $17.00 | 32 |
| 2 | Kauai | Janitors and Cleaners | $17.00 | 10 |
| 3 | Oahu | Laborers and Freight, Stock | $12.50 | 12 |
| 4 | Maui | Customer Service Representatives | $12.25 | 20 |
| 5 | Oahu | Home Health Aides | $12.00 | 24 |
| 6 | Hawaii Hilo | Food Processing Workers | $12.00 | 35 |
| 7 | Oahu | Retail Salespersons | $12.00 | 20 |
|  |  | Average for Quarter | $13.53 | 21.86 |

1. **Status of DVR Fair Hearings**

Form RSA-722 Report for FFY2023 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024) thus far;

1. Total requests for mediation this fiscal year – 0

2. Total disputes resolved during mediation process – 0

3. Total requests for impartial hearings this fiscal year – 2

4. Disputes resolved without IHO decision – 0

5. IHO decisions favoring the individual – 0

6. IHO decisions favoring the agency – 1

7. Total civil actions this fiscal year – 0

8. Civil actions resolved in individual favor – 0

9. Civil actions resolved in agency favor – 0

Results: There were 2 Fair Hearings Request and 1 decusin favoring the agency reported for this quarter PY23 Q2 (October 1, 2023 – December 30, 2023).