



**Vocational
Rehabilitation
Council**

Kathleen Olson, Chair
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Meeting Minutes
U.S. Housing and Urban Development Offices
3702 S. Virginia Street, Reno and 333 Rancho Blvd, Las Vegas
February 9, 2001

Members Present:

Ed Guthrie, Jr.

Beth Horrigan

Karla McComb

Lorraine Marshall

Kathy Olson

Mike Stubblefield

Gillian Wells

Robert White

Pat Williams

Maynard Yasmer

Members Absent

Ralph Baker

Bill Bauer

Cruz Bonilla

Marcia de Braga

Marsha Lakes

Linda Lueck

Staff

Barbara Legier, Deputy Administrator, Rehab. Div.

William Hamilton, Rehabilitation Division

Mike Becker, Chief, BSBVI and Interim Chief,

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

Guests

Myla Florence, Director, DETR

Libby Jones, DETR Director's Office

Scott Youngs, ADA Nevada

Kitti Barth, Governor's Comm./Employment of People with Disabilities

Jack Mayes, NV Disability & Advocacy Law Center

Paul Gowins, Office of Community Based Services

Robert Desruisseaux, Northern NV Center for Independent Living

Paul Martin, Nevadans for Equal Access

Bob Hogan, NV Community Enrichment Program (NCEP)

Reggie Bennett, Assistive Technology Center and Independent Living Program
at NCEP

EXHIBITS

1. Meeting agenda
2. Minutes of December 1, 2000 meeting
3. VRC Annual Report 2000
4. ADA brochure
5. Council vision statement, goals & objectives
6. Council roster

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Kathy Olson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am, took roll, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

MINUTES

Ed Guthrie moved approval of the minutes of the December 1, 2000 meeting. Bob White seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Kathy Olson asked the Council to always watch for potential new members and to pass along names to the Council liaison, Bill Hamilton. She also mentioned that the Council committee responsible for reviewing the Council's annual report had done the work and met deadlines.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY RESOURCES AND PLANNING

Myla Florence, Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, spoke to the Council and guests in regard to an Office of Disability Resources and Planning that Governor Guinn had proposed in his State of the State address in January. She believed there were misunderstandings in the community about the proposal, timelines and the process. She offered to talk about this and answer questions. She announced that community meetings would be held throughout the state to obtain input on the proposed new office and added that Council members would be notified of such meetings. After her presentation, there were numerous questions, observations and recommendations from those in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Marketing and Advocacy.

1. ADA brochure. The brochure that was approved by the Council at the December meeting, with some minor changes approved by a Council committee, has been produced at the University of Nevada Reno. It will be distributed at DETR's legislative display March 12-16 and is available for other functions as well as individual members.
2. Insurance and equitable treatment of newly disabled. Lorraine Marshall has discussed this with someone associated with U.S. Senator John Ensign. She needs to pursue some leads in regard to the ability to obtain insurance by people with disabilities.
3. Videotape. No progress was made since December, but the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will be involved with the BVR videotape project. A meeting of committee members will occur soon.
4. Brochure. Changes to the last version of the brochure to promote the VR programs to employers now include one-stop locations. Some wording changes also have been made. A new version will be produced and will be sent to Council members for review.
5. Membership and Recruitment. Mike Stubblefield and Lorraine Marshall want to continue with the Council, but Toni Caruso and Cruz Bonilla will be leaving. The committee, consisting of Kathy Olson, Mike Stubblefield, Bill Bauer and Pat Williams, recommends that Denise Purcell

fill one position. The committee also recommends Charlotte Serline, of Easter Seals Nevada, to fill Cruz's community service agency position. She has submitted a letter of interest.

- B. Oversight. Federal law requires Council participation in a comprehensive needs assessment every three years, the next one due in 2002. Rehabilitation Division and DETR management would like one every year, simultaneously surveying consumer satisfaction with and providing an evaluation of VR services. The information would be valuable as preparations for the 2003-2004 budget process. It is desired that a random selection of consumers be interviewed, to generate 1,000 responses. Samples are to be chosen from recent active and closed cases. Approximately 60-70 employers and about 45-50 job developers also are to be interviewed.

Paul Gowins suggested that Social Security recipients might be included in the survey, perhaps a specific age group, to ask why they are not in the VR system. Confidentiality may be a problem in accessing that information, but the Bureau of Disability Adjudication can provide an answer.

Lorraine Marshall, Marsha Lakes and Mike Stubblefield and Linda Lueck were appointed to review the survey instruments for VR program consumers, employers, and job developers.

Lorraine Marshall moved, and Ed Guthrie seconded, the approval of up to \$12,000 for UNLV to survey of consumers, employers and job developers cited above. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yasmer discussed the 2001-2003 budget submitted to the State Legislature for the BVR and the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (BSBVI) programs. It includes two new public service interns and full funding of staff positions without the need for "vacancy savings." This will enable rapid recruitment and filling of vacant positions. A concept being examined is development of a career ladder, from rehabilitation technician through professional counselor. He mentioned a realignment of current resources to reach more people in the community with services yet mitigate heavy caseloads.

Council members are invited to attend the February 28 – March 2 statewide in-service training in Las Vegas. Also forthcoming are Ticket to Work Program and cultural diversity trainings, in April-June. Call Barbara Legier at 775.684.4078 for information.

REPORT FROM OTHER COUNCILS

- A. State Workforce Investment Board. Karla McComb had no report but, in response to a question, said that the Council might want to invite representatives of the Reno and Las Vegas local workforce investment boards to discuss implementation of workforce programs. A visit to a one-stop facility also might be useful for Council members.
- B. State Department of Education. No report
- C. Developmental Disabilities Council. No report.
- D. State Independent Living Council. No report.
- E. Mental Health Planning Council. No report

REPORT FROM VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Mike Becker now is Interim Chief of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. He also continues as Chief of BSBVI. Amendments to the VR programs' State Plan are being discussed and include the

participation of Council members Gillian Wells and Beth Horrigan. He discussed performance measures and said that, for BSBVI, nearly all measures should be met for the year. In regard to BVR, some measures are slightly below the year-end target (e.g., of all cases successfully closed with employment outcomes, 95% are competitively employed, in non-sheltered workshop situations). Others trend toward exceeding expectations (e.g., percentage of severely disabled individuals closed in competitive employment, and average hourly earnings for closed cases). He also said that internal control procedures are being revised.

COUNCIL LOG

- A. Web site relevant to disabled Nevadans. Lorraine Marshall found no statewide website that has a directly accessed home page instead of going through multiple steps to reach that page, that subsumes agencies under functional concepts (e.g., housing, personal assistance services, orthopedic equipment, respite care), that defines the mission of the entities, that has up-to-date addresses, phone numbers, e-mail and web site addresses, that provides hyperlinks to community resources (employment agencies, Housing and Urban Development), and so on. The DETR and the Governor's Committee websites are not intended to go much beyond employment. Kitti Barth suggested that independent living centers (ILCs), which produce resource manuals, may be interested in developing such a website. Karla McComb suggested a grant with VRC funds to prepare and maintain such a site, with parameters established for what would be on the website. Lorraine Marshall and Karla McComb want to review the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living resource guide, discuss SNCIL's interest in the kind of website being discussed and, if there is interest in it, help lay out the parameters that pertain to the website, including compliance to Section 508 standards. Karla will arrange for Lorraine to receive a copy of the resource guide. The website idea will be an action item on the next VRC agenda. They desire Bill Hamilton's involvement.
- B. Bulletin board service for Council members. Bill Hamilton looked into two websites that were recommended for possibly arranging a chat room for Council members, but they were not feasible. Moreover, the bulletin board idea seemed to be of little interest to the Council.
- C. Parents Forum. Gillian Wells will have a report in April.

COUNSELOR ISSUES

Pat Williams expressed a concern that, as changes in internal controls are put into place, additional time may be added for payment to vendors. Such delays could lead to a loss of vendors. Mr. Yasmer said that steps have been taken to reduce delays.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BVR/BSBVI WORK CANDIDATES

A new Lowes store in Carson City seems interested in hiring VR clients.

Ed Guthrie announced that Opportunity Village in Las Vegas has a contract for meal serving services at Nellis Air Force Base, with 70 positions filled by people with severe disabilities, earning \$10.25/hour plus benefits.

Lorraine Marshall said that Bechtel Nevada has some high tech positions available, and disabled individuals with appropriate skills could fill one or more of them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & DISCUSSION

The question was asked if the Rehabilitation Division is tracking bill drafts at the State Legislature and, if so, can the information be shared with the Council. Ms. Florence said that DETR has both an Acutrak system (bills pertaining to DETR) and a subscription to a bill tracking system. Mr. Yasmer said that the Division can arrange for staff to make this information available. Lorraine Marshall and Ed Guthrie want to receive it. Paul Gowins said about 30-35 bills impacting on people with disabilities have been introduced. Mr. Guthrie then talked about a bill that will encourage certain community-based programs that employ people with severe disabilities to be preferred providers of goods and services to state agencies, municipal governments, et cetera.

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA

The Council agreed on April 6 for the next meeting, face-to-face, in Las Vegas.

Karla McComb said that the Desert Research Center at UNLV has a video teleconferencing unit that links to UNR, something to consider for future teleconference meetings. She will look into it further, including cost, and call Bill Hamilton. Linda Lueck also has used the community colleges and may be able to arrange a meeting at no cost.

Topics for the next meeting include the disability website, needs assessment & client satisfaction survey, and possibly a speaker from a local workforce investment board.

ADJOURNMENT

Lorraine Marshall moved, and Mike Stubblefield seconded, adjournment at 11:30 am.

Recorded by:

Denise Phipps, Sierra Nevada Reporters

Edited by:

William Hamilton, Rehabilitation Division

Approved by:

Kathleen Olson, Chair