



**Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Council**

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**Vocational Rehabilitation Council  
Meeting Minutes  
State Legislature Hearing Room in Carson City and Las Vegas  
February 25, 2000**

**Members Present:**

Bill Bauer  
Cruz Bonilla  
Bill Boster  
Toni Caruso  
Marsha Lakes  
Florence La Roy  
Lorraine Marshall  
Karla McComb  
Kathleen Olson  
Maynard Yasmer

**Staff**

Barbara Legier, Rehabilitation Division  
William Hamilton, Rehabilitation Division

**Guests**

Michael Becker, Bureau Chief, BSBVI  
Rick Schneckloth, Bureau Chief, BVR  
Howard Castle, District Manager, BVR  
Libby Jones, Director's Office  
Paul Gowins, Office of Community Based Services  
Scott Youngs, ADA Nevada  
Al Roybal, District Manager, BSBVI

**Members Absent:**

Ralph Baker  
Marcia de Braga

**EXHIBITS**

1. Meeting agenda
2. Minutes of December 3, 1999 meeting
3. Executive Budget 2001-2003 memo from Carol A. Jackson, Director
4. Memo from Maynard Yasmer regarding in-service training invitation
5. Biographies of Council candidates Gillian Wells, Bob White, Linda Lueck and Michael Stubblefield
6. State Plan Draft

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Kathy Olson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bill Bauer moved and Lorraine Marshall seconded approval of minutes. They were approved unanimously.

### **CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Ms. Olson reported that former Council member Ellie O'Toole passed away in February. We are all saddened by this loss. Maynard Yasmer was featured in the current Nevada Silver & Blue magazine. The article outlines his history from a VR client to Administrator of the Rehabilitation Division. Ms. Olson invited members of the Council to a BVR-BSBVI retreat at the Carson Valley Inn March 16-17.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Marketing & Advocacy**

1. Nominations/Membership subcommittee. Marcia de Braga, Kathy Olson and Bill Hamilton met to discuss four vacant and two vacating positions: three in business, industry and labor and one community rehabilitation service professional vacant; vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor and the parent training and information center positions vacating. The subcommittee recommended that Robert White and Linda Lueck be approved as business, industry and labor representatives, Mike Stubblefield as a community rehabilitation service professional representative, and Gillian Wells for the parent training and information center position. Mr. Yasmer concurred with recommendations. There was discussion about whether an employer representative could be a public employer. The answer is "yes," but in the future preference is for non-public sector employers. Bill Bauer moved for approval of the recommendations. It was seconded and approved unanimously. The Council will submit these recommendations to Governor Guinn for review and approval.
2. Videotape. Marsha Lakes and Karla McComb prepared a survey questionnaire for Council members and VR programs personnel to answer. It asked for opinions about what the VR programs should accomplish. One person responded. Barbara Legier will send three videos to help them review possible video content. A report will be given in April.
3. Council brochure. Bill Bauer worked on, and sent to Marsha Lakes, brochure material regarding VR Council is and what it does. They will resume work on the brochure and make a presentation at the next Council meeting. Toni Caruso asked for a copy of Council brochures Kathy Olson has from other states.
4. Legislation.
  - A. Survey of legislators. Lorraine Marshall worked on questions to learn if legislators know about or are interested in disability issues. Can the survey be issued from Marcia de Braga's office? Karla McComb suggested that questions allow open-ended responses and that, if the legislator or family member has a disability, an invitation be made to list the disability. Mr. Yasmer suggested that the housing question might ask if legislators understand the housing issues for

people with disabilities in Nevada with “yes,” “unsure” or “no” answers. Lorraine Marshall will send all members a copy of the survey questionnaire with a two-week turnaround time for comments/revisions to Lorraine. Mr. Yasmer wants to review the survey after it is re-written by Lorraine.

B. Legislative issues.

1. Flo La Roy wants Council members to review and provide feedback on a two-page document on high school to work transitioning, so that she can make a report to the Council before her term is over in May. Bill Hamilton will oversee its circulation. Mr. Yasmer’s idea of prevocational programs for younger children might be incorporated. Flo received data showing 461 students in the transition to VR (north 120, rural 99, south 242).
2. Lorraine Marshall is interested in group homes for disabled non-mentally retarded individuals, such as those trying to find a job but concerned about where to live. The only current option is 48 units of Accessible Space Inc. housing in Las Vegas.
3. Lorraine Marshall and Flo La Roy are interested in equitable treatment by insurance companies of the newly disabled, citing how from the time someone is injured until short-term disability takes effect the injured individual may have no income or resources. Is there a legislative solution? Mr. Yasmer said there could be a lot of opposition to such a change. If the Council pursues the issue two things should occur. One is more education of people about what to do when life circumstances change, such as maintaining coverage if the person already has it. The second is pursuit of better statutes on equitable treatment.

Oversight

1. Consumer/Client Satisfaction. Bill Hamilton said that the comprehensive statewide needs assessment simultaneously will accomplish the 2000 consumer satisfaction survey, the latter being a Council responsibility under the 1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act. The Bureau of Research and Analysis unit of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation is finishing work on the client survey (522 consumers who gave input), employer survey (68 employers interviewed or who responded) and rehabilitation counselor/rehabilitation technician survey of 46 individuals. There will be a one- or two-page summary for each of these surveys, pie charts and summaries of open-ended answers to questions. The data then will be turned over to the Rehabilitation Division. Based on what the data say, consideration will be given to changes in or improvements to the VR programs.
2. State Plan. Karla McComb wants at least a draft of VR’s new three-year State Plan for the State Workforce Investment Board meeting Monday. The plan is a joint effort by district managers, supervisors, bureau chiefs, administrative staff and others. District managers and supervisors speak to staff, review what is going on and ask for input on pertinent issues. A cooperative agreement with recipients of grants for services to American Indians is new. Ms. Legier, Mike Becker and Richard Nelson discussed attachments, notably those that are new or that make changes to last year’s State Plan. Preliminary statewide comprehensive needs assessment results are included as are VR program goals for improved earnings and health benefits for successfully placed consumers.

An "order of selection" of VR consumers is not envisioned in the State Plan. Service for people of minority backgrounds is an emphasis. Other emphases include average wages over \$8.00 an hour, and health insurance benefits.

Mr. Becker addressed mediation and impartial due process hearings. Lorraine Marshall asked if the \$300,000 employment grant could be increased. Mr. Yasmer will inform her if more than \$300,000 is forthcoming in the supported employment component of Nevada's Title I, Section 110 grant. Lorraine Marshall moved, and Bill Bauer seconded, approval of the plan. The motion passed unanimously but was rescinded on motion by Lorraine Marshall, seconded by Karla McComb, because public comments may be forthcoming. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Marsha Lakes, seconded by Lorraine Marshall, the Council then decided the following: The State Plan is approved contingent on any public comments that may cause alterations. An ad hoc committee of staff and Council members will meet to review and incorporate changes to the State Plan, if public comments lead to that necessity, and do an attachment incorporating public comments. Motion passed unanimously. Ad hoc committee members include Toni Caruso, Marsha Lakes, Bill Bauer and Kathy Olson. If the comments require an answer, a bureau chief will respond to the person(s).

#### **STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (SWIB)**

Karla McComb said the SWIB meeting will be Monday. She congratulated those who assembled the VR State Plan so it could be included with the SWIB plan to be submitted to the federal government by April 1st. The plan is scheduled for implementation in July. SWIB is still negotiating with the Department of Labor on certain issues. She will provide updates.

#### **COURT REPORTER CONTRACT**

The Council agreed to continue using a real-time court reporter to take verbatim discussion for use as minutes of the VRC meetings. Bill Bauer moved, and Toni Caruso seconded, continuation of the service through state fiscal year 2001. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The Council tentatively scheduled the next meeting for Carson City on Friday, April 14.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Yasmer said the Rehabilitation Division has been busy with the Governor's fundamental review of state government and a legislative interim committee fundamental review of agency base budgets and the BVR program. Preliminary budgets have been submitted to the Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. Mr. Yasmer will provide information from this work to the Council after completed and reviewed by the Director.

#### **STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Marsha Lakes is waiting for feedback from BVR to finalize the collaborative agreement between the state Department of Education and BVR. Rick Schneckloth will work on that soon. She, and prospective member Gillian Wells, will attend a youth leadership forum program arranged by the

President's Committee on the Employment of Youth. Its purposes are to develop advocacy leaders regarding disability issues in local communities and to promote collaboration between different state programs and agencies. Council members are invited to a Nevada Department of Education conference at Lake Tahoe March 24-26. Public comments on the Department's state plan are being taken until March 31.

#### **OTHER COUNCILS/BUREAUS**

- A. ***Developmental Disabilities (DD)***. Paul Gowins said the Home Of Your Own program has provided 43 people with disabilities the opportunity to own their own home. The DD Council has promoted dental care for children without service, including a mobile dental unit. The Council sent information to about 3,000 individuals regarding respite services available through the DD program. Flo La Roy is involved with the DD Council's autism task force.
- B. ***State Independent Living Council (SILC)***. Paul Gowins reported that a public forum on the Work Incentives Improvement Act will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 30. The SILC has been involved with medical insurance issues--notably a Medicaid buy-in program for Nevadans with disabilities wanting to work but not lose insurance coverage—in front of about eleven legislative interim committees. He also said Council members may track agendas and medical issues being discussed in the committees by going to the State of Nevada web site [added into the minutes as: [www.leg.state.nv](http://www.leg.state.nv) Click on interim information. Click on view currently scheduled meetings of all committees. Or, scroll down to “interim committees” or statutory committees].
- C. ***Mental Health Planning Council***. No report
- D. ***Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation***.
1. Barbara Legier said the recent telecommuting grant study yielded no cottage industry work that enabled someone to be self supporting.
  2. Rick Schneckloth said the Deputy Chief of BVR position has been filled, as have a rehabilitation technician position in Ely and a Rehabilitation Supervisor position in Las Vegas. Three counselor positions are vacant in Las Vegas and one in Reno. Two rehabilitation technician positions in Reno and one in Elko are vacant.
  3. Rick Schneckloth said that Bob Himmelreich may request grant funding soon. Mr. Yasmer said the rural employment project the Council discussed last year should be in place soon, with \$20,000 needed for the current year. Lorraine Marshall was referred to Rod Jorgensen, University of Nevada Reno, for no-cost assistance regarding the development of a business plan.
- E. ***Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired***. Mike Becker said a Rehabilitation Technician vacancy in Elko has been filled and recruitment is ongoing for vacant positions in Reno and Las Vegas, one in Las Vegas being bilingual in Spanish and English.

Flo La Roy and Karla McComb asked BSBVI and BVR to report at the April meeting about:

1. A breakdown of the disability populations successfully closed and unsuccessfully closed.
2. Of different disability populations, what is the percentage of each type for which VR programs provide employment, and how successfully are they being employed?
3. Discuss the concerns brought to fair hearings, and how were they resolved?
4. What is the thinking of the VR programs staff regarding the future once the Workforce Investment Act is in place, such as collaboration with other partners. How does staff see that collaboration as proceeding and working?

### **COUNCIL LOG**

- A. *Request to Governor Guinn for Council authority to fill the unexpired terms of members who leave the Council.* The Governor responded that he wanted to maintain that control.
- B. *Court reporter.* The Council voted earlier in the meeting to continue this service at meetings.
- C. *Submission of annual report.* Bill Hamilton said the Council's report was sent in December to the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Education, the State of Nevada Library and Archives and to the Governor.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BVR/BSBVI WORK CANDIDATES**

No such opportunities were brought up other than applications for taking the U.S. Census.

### **COUNSELOR ISSUES**

Bill Boster said that line staff want an annual training of the state agency and there will be one March 15-17 in Minden. Staff is looking forward to it. Council members are welcome to attend.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:55 am Bill Bauer moved, and Lorraine Marshall seconded, adjournment. The Council unanimously approved to adjourn.

Recorded by:

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Denise Phipps, Sierra Nevada Reporters

Edited by:

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William Hamilton, Rehabilitation Division

Approved by:

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Kathleen Olson, Chair