

SRC-DVR¹ Minutes

Date & Time: November 18th 2024, 1pm – 3pm

Location: Hybrid Zoom Meeting

Attendance Key: P = Present E = Absent (Excused) A = Absent (Unexcused)

Council Members ²					
P	Allison Wiest	P	Jennifer Kimble		
P	Issac Gingras	E	Megan Marquis		
P	Samantha Fenderson*	P	Jenny Ardito		
E	Mary Adley	P	Dylan Sullivan		
E	Darcy Gentle	E	Andrew Smith		
A	Patty Ngara	P	Lynn Feely		
P	Sierra Wood	E	Joshua Weidemann		

Guests: Sophia Phoenix, Meg Ryan, Brendan Williams, Roger Fuller.

Scribe: Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** January 13th 2025 **Minutes Approved:** **YES**

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Introduction	The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, and a <u>Quorum was established</u>. Members/guests were welcomed. Individuals introduced themselves and broke the ice by discussing what they are grateful for in life. There were no additions to the agenda, and the chair briefly discussed the mission of the SRC-DVR.	NA	NA

¹ SRC-DVR □ State Rehabilitation Council, Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation

² *Indicates an Ex Officio non-voting member

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Minutes	The council discussed three sets of draft minutes: September, July, and January 2024.	<i>Prepare September, July, and January 2024 draft minutes and send to Webmaster for posting online.</i>	<u>Branden Densmore</u>
	<u>A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.</u> The motion passed: In Favor: 6 Abstention: 1 Opposed: 0	<i>Create draft November minutes and send to council members for review.</i>	<u>Branden Densmore</u>
Guest Speakers	Two guest speakers presented information to the council. First was <i>Brendan Williams</i>: recently elected as chair of SILC.³ Brendan shared a PowerPoint about the Independent Living (IL) movement and SILC's role. <i>Note: The mission of the SILC is very much aligned with the mission of the SRC. The need for collaboration was highlighted.</i> The second speaker was Roger Fuller, Webmaster for the SRC.	<i>Fix Zoom Closed Captions Issue.</i> <i>For more information about the SILC visit Maine Statewide Independent Living Council</i>	<u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Interested Parties</u>

³ SILC -> Statewide Independent Living Council.

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Guest Speakers	Roger discussed creating a new website, which would involve migrating platforms, moving from WordPress to First Magic. Some of the key points: ➤ Less Expensive ➤ Better Looking ➤ More Accessible ➤ Easier To Edit ➤ Built In Newsletter There was a Q & A session. <u>A motion was made and seconded</u> to <i>allow Roger to build the new website.</i> The motion passed: In Favor: 7 Abstention: 0 Opposed: 0	NONE	NONE
Director's Report	Staffing: Sierra Wood (Region 4&5) and Spencer Trenoweth (Region 2&3) were promoted to Regional Managers. Finishing casework supervisor interviews now. VRCII⁴ vacancies have mostly been filled with the exception of Region 1.	NONE	NONE

⁴ VRC -> Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Director's Report	There are two VRCII postings to cover Portland, and they could reside in Lewiston or Augusta Career Center. IPS⁵: DVR working with the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), implementing the IPS model with five Community Health and Behavioral Health Centers. They are developing targeted VRC's that will work with the Health Centers and be part of the IPS team. Additional training will be provided for the targeted VRC's. Plan: The State Plan was approved by RSA.⁶ The SRC-DVR Annual Report due at the end of December. Rules: DVR Rules opening for change, an opportunity for the SRC to give input and/or recommendations. APSE⁷: Conference held last week with over 150 in attendance. One person's journey was highlighted through a video that Office of Aging and Disability Services produced that involves a VR client!	<i>Work on creating DVR Annual Report for submission to RSA by December 31st.</i> <i>Watch video of VR client's work experience HERE!!!</i>	<u>Allison & Samantha</u> <u>Interested Parties</u>

⁵ IPS -> Individual Placement and Supports

⁶ RSA -> Rehabilitation Services Administration

⁷ APSE -> Association of People Supporting People First

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Director's Report	Leadership: DVR Leaders meet twice since last SRC meeting, working on pulling together CSNA⁸ data. There are four focused areas that the team will focus on: 1. Communication and Customer Servi 2. Closures- Unsuccessful 3. Rights& Responsibilities & Knowledge of Services 4. Intentional Guidance and Counseling	<i>Gather information on successful vs unsuccessful closures for SRC review before the next business meeting.</i> <i>Invite Sue Primiano from Intake Unit to be a guest speaker for next business meeting.</i>	<u>Samantha Fenderson</u> <u>Samantha Fenderson</u>
How VR Helped Someone	Sierra Wood presented a "How VR Helped Someone" story to the council. An Area North VRC worked with a client for over a year. The client was experiencing worsening physical limitations and needed a new career goal. They did evaluations, motivational interviewing, etc. The client applied to multiple jobs and was recently hired as a career coach!	NA	NA
Priority Topics	Goals 2025: The SRC briefly discussed possible goals and direction for 2025. Some of the goals mentioned were as follows:	NONE	NONE

⁸ CSNA -> Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Priority Topics	➤ Growing Membership ➤ Giving Feedback For State Plan ➤ Updating By-Laws ➤ Creating A Robust Orientation Process For New Members ➤ Organizing Annual Meeting Committees: Discussed the need for creating work group meetings to accomplish SRC-DVR related tasks. These would be on the off months where we don't have regular business meetings.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Announcements	Honorariums are offered to members not compensated for attendance. Leadership opportunity was mentioned regarding vice chair officer position. The next SRC meeting will be on January 13th from 1pm to 3pm. A work session meeting was tentatively set for February 10th from 1pm to 3pm.	<i>Contact Branden to receive an Honorarium at srcscribe@gmail.com.</i> <i>Contact Branden if interested in being Vice-Chair.</i> <i>Set up meeting, send group email with Zoom link, agenda, minutes, etc.</i>	<u>Members Not Compensated</u> <u>Any Members</u> <u>Branden Densmore</u>
Public Comments	Time was provided for public comment, and a member of the public raised some concerns.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Public Comments	DVR's policy is to upload mental health notes to their record keeping system called Aware, and all DVR staff have access to these records. There is absolutely no reason DVR needs these notes; a diagnosis is sufficient to cover the federal requirements. Uploading these notes violates HIPPA. The concern is that clients could be harmed by mental health discrimination. Furthermore, there is a fear that with VR's partnership with the Office of Behavioral Health will give VR more access to protected mental health files, creating more opportunities for discrimination, which is devastating to clients. The Office of Behavioral Health needs to look into DVR's record keeping system and see where the privacy violations are. Before Behavioral Health goes in and partners with VR there should be intensive training for ALL staff on working with individuals with mental health diagnosis.	NONE	NONE

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Public Comment	I do think that the partnership COULD be an amazing thing for all involved. However there has to be set parameters on privacy, expectations, and education before any clients are involved.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>

People & Organizations Represented

SRC-DVR Council Members:

Isaac Gingras – State Workforce Board

Allison Wiest – Maine Parent Federation

Jennifer Kimble – Maine Medical Vocational Services

Samantha Fenderson – Director Of Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation

Jenny Ardito – Goodwill Industries

Dylan Sullivan – Disability Advocate, University Of Maine Liaison

Lynn Feely – Disability Advocate

Sierra Wood – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Members Of The Public:

Sophia Phoenix – Disability Advocate

Meg Ryan – Disability Rights Maine

Brendan Williams – Chair Of Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

Roger Fuller – SRC Webmaster

Branden Densmore – SRC Administrator