

## **SRC-DVR Minutes**

January 5, 2026, 1PM-3PM

Zoom Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Allison Wiest, Dylan Sullivan, Lynn Feely, Joshua Weideman, Jennifer Kimble, Jenny Ardito, Samantha Fendeson, Andrew Smith, Darcy Gentle

**Council Members Not Present:** Patty Ngara

**Others Present:** Kathy Depres, Leora Byras, Mary LeBlanc

**Scribe:** Joanne Myers **Next Business Meeting:** March 9, 2026

### **Introduction**

- The meeting was called to order at 1:03PM
- A Quorum was established with 11 members in attendance
- Members/guests were welcomed and participated in an ice breaker activity
  - Ice Breaker – What they are looking forward to in 2026.

### **Minutes**

- The minutes for the November 2025 meeting were tabled because members were unable to access the minutes ahead of time.

### **How VR Helped Someone**

Sam shared a VR client success story “Audrey began working with Christa in 2018 with the goal of working with individuals with disabilities, possibly in special education. Christa was reluctant to begin services at first, as she was dealing with marital problems and was homeschooling her two disabled teenage children. She was battling with depression and unidentified learning disabilities. Christa often missed appointments but her VRC, Audrey, recognized Christa’s ambivalence to making change. Slowly, the client- counselor relationship developed to aid Christa in becoming more confident and ready to pursue next steps. Once her learning disabilities and MH were diagnosed, accommodations were set in place for

Christa to complete her Associates degree and earn her Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician- community certification. Christa made some personal changes which also positively impacted her MH symptoms. Christa is now employed as a Community Case Manager and successfully owns her own home!

**Client Assistance Program (CAP) Update**

CAP Representative was not in attendance and therefore no update was provided.

**Treasurers Report (Jennifer Kimble)**

FY26 Q1 DVR-SRC Budget Update 01/05/2026 - draft

DVR-SRC Budget	FFY 2026	October	November	December	YTD Total	Remaining	Q1 % Spent
Administrator Salary	\$ 3,312.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,312.00	0%
Stipends	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 425.00	\$ 2,575.00	14%
Website Maintenance	\$ 1,248.95	\$ -	\$ 249.45	\$ -	\$ 429.45	\$ 819.50	20%
Subscriptions & Licenses	\$ 494.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 494.48	0%
Supplies / Printing	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0%
Accommodations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0%
Fiscal Agent*	\$ 2,828.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,328.00	18%
Travel/Lodging/Meals	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,911.40	\$ 424.90	\$ -	\$ 2,336.30	\$ 1,163.70	67%
	\$15,883.43	\$ 1,961.40	\$ 1,399.35	\$ 150.00	\$ 3,690.75	\$ 12,192.68	22%

*\*Fiscal agent payment in November was for previous FY, July - Sept*

(Note: YTD total for Website Maintenance includes a January payment which will show up

**Representative Updates**

**Community Rehabilitation Provider/Goodwill (Jenny)**

GWNNE completed the CARF survey in early December, should know results in early February.

Staffing across all regions served is improving but still hiring.

**State Education Office/MDOE (Leora)** - The Maine Youth Summit will take place again this year in May at the Central Maine Community College, more info to come.

**State Independent Living Council (Andrew)**

Currently working on our SPIL (state plan for Independent Living)

**Parent Training & Information Center/MPF (Allison)** - Maine Parent Federation continues to work with Transition age youth on self advocacy and transition planning for the future. Currently, working with DOL and DOE under the P2P grant to bring the Empower the Learner tool to students. Schools in the project are Belfast and Houlton, more schools are being added. Also, MPF is providing support and working with students that are enrolled in the Riding to the Top program under the P2P grant.

**Directors Report (Sam Fenderson)**

- Staffing:
  - Region 2- Interviewing for 1 position
  - Region 1- Hired two new RCII's, have several opening, RCI- Acting cap
  - Intake Unit- All set
  - DHHLD- No changes
  - Increase of staff attending Masters programs or certificate of graduate
  - Region 3- No staffing changes
  
- Sam updated website to reflect correct SRC contact
  
- VR is currently working with Riding to the Top/ Deering HS providing transition services under the P2P grant.
  
- Liz N reached out to 3 businesses for SRC to begin conversations and work toward SRC Business seat representation

- Nearing completion of Individual Placement & Service Memorandum of Understanding with Office of Behavioral Health for individuals with mental health needs
- Bureau of Rehabilitative Services Highlights will be out in January and will provide an overview of the previous year.
- Coastal Counties Workforce Board- Mark McInerney- provided a nice presentation on how AI and how it may impact Maine workforce
- Soft launch of MyMaine worksorce and maine worksorce- <https://www.worksourcemaine.com/>
- Bureau of Rehabilitative Services Transition Quarterly Meeting Region 4&5- Doug D, will be posting CWS and then Regional Manager
- Maine Youth Collaborative - I attended as a representative of VR. Approximately 30 people gathered that all work with youth to discuss youth services. In 2026 there will be regional meetings across the State to network, identify service gaps, problem solve and hear about innovative practices.

### **Priority Topics**

- **State Plan Modification**
  - Modification due in March, the council requested additional data from VR director in order to provide input
  - Sam shared areas of concern including communication, more awareness and understanding of VR services and early exits
  - SRC council requested data about early exits to provide input, Sam will bring to the February work group meeting
  - SRC will provide state plan modification input at February meeting
  - Other concerns discussed included: how to handle staff turnover and more training for staff regarding informed choice
  - SRC would also like to review client satisfaction survey, VR counselor caseload information, and client perspective re:timelines

### **Announcements**

- Honorariums were offered

- Meeting reminders: Focus Group – February 9th, Business Meeting – March 9th

No public comment was provided and the meeting was adjourned just before the 3 o'clock hour.