

SRC-DVR Minutes

March 9, 2026, 1PM-3PM

Zoom Meeting

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

Council Members³					
P	Allison Wiest	P	Jennifer Kimble		
P	Kathy Despres	P	Meghan Ryan		
P	Samantha Fenderson	P	Jenny Ardito		
P	Joshua Weidemann	P	Dylan Sullivan		
P	Darcy Gentle	P	Andrew Smith		
P	Patty Ngara	P	Hailey Howard		

Scribe: Carolyn Ver-Green **Next Business Meeting:** May 11, 2026, **Minutes Approved:** **NO!**

Introduction

- The meeting was called to order at 1:02PM
- A Quorum was established with 12 members in attendance
- Members/guests were welcomed and participated in an ice breaker activity
 - Ice Breaker – Sign of Spring
- The chair reviewed the agenda – No Additional Topics
- Recording meetings – In favor – 5, No opposition- did everyone vote? – Allison
Follow up

Minutes

- The council discussed January 2026 Draft Minutes
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.
- The motion passed:

How VR Helped Someone

Melissa Sparks, Lewiston VRCII, is working with an individual who started a WBLE at Mac's Grill on 1/29/26. Since beginning he can't stop talking about how positive the work environment is and much he is enjoying his WBLE at Mac's Grill. His VSA Jenny (Goodwill) reports that they enjoy working with him and have developed a plan that will allow him to try different tasks, while working at his pace. In 2-weeks he's going to be moved to 12 – 2pm, which is part of the lunch shift to see how he does in a busier environment. He showed some trepidation but stepped up and said he'd do it. Now here's the amazing part! Mac's feels very good that they have the right natural support

in place for him and have asked to fade the WBLE job coaching. Jenny will still be doing check-ins with him after every shift and if he tells her that he thinks he needs additional support then she'll put him on the coaching schedule.

Staff Accomplishments: At his last meeting before starting the WBLE, this VRC spent some time asking Jordan to share why he wasn't feeling positive about going back to work. Using motivational interviewing, this VRC learned that the negative experience that he had at his previous job had affected his perceptions of work in general. With support from his dad, case manager, and this RC he was able to understand that every workplace is different, that a bad experience with one employer doesn't mean that all employers will be like that.

CAP Update

- Meghan -Clients who are working with the CRPs are struggling to meet their goals
- Jenn Kimble & Jenny Ardito -Difficult to find and retain CRP staff
- Clients have multiple support staff and VRC which makes consistency hard
- Not a lot of people apply for CRP positions

Representative Updates

Jenny A – Goodwill Industries

- ☐ Staffing is improving
- ☐ Completed the survey

Andrew - SILC

- ☐ Working on membership needed to be filled

Darcy - 121

- ☐ Continuing providing services
- ☐ Collab with public health
- ☐ Just granted Work Force Development
- ☐ Job Fair
- ☐ Continue helping those people who have history that's impacting them getting a job

Jen K – Maine Health

- ☐ Summer Employment Program – open again
- ☐ Application is due on April 10th
- ☐ Flyers will be available

- ☐ Accessible for people with disabilities

Allison - PTI

- ☐ Lots of Career Fairs
- ☐ Working on P2P Grants – Adding more schools
- ☐ Annual Conference on March 17th, 9-2PM

Patty – Career Center

- ☐ Success with Trade Workshop
- ☐ Finished the Construction Week
- ☐ March 18-19 – Commercial Driving Week

Directors Report

- Update on State Plan
 - Draft is due on March 16th
- 3 new RCII in Portland position were granted
 - Position will be posted this week
 - They will be working with the RCII's
 - 3 year contract
- VR story
- 6 councilors completed the New Councilor Training on March 6th
- Sam introduced Jorge Alvarado as the new Casework Supervisor in Bangor – started last week
- Annual Staff Meeting
 - To Highlight 2025 and Focus on 2026
- JFF grant- Atlanta- Fair Chance to Advance
 - Sam will represent DOL
 - For those applicants with criminal background
- CSAVR- March/April- Leaders meeting
 - Sam and Elissa to present
 - Will talk about how well DBVI and DVR work together
- Data Days
 - March 25th – remote meeting
 - Will meet every quarter
- Negotiated rates submitted to RSA – March 3rd
- Summer intern
 - For youth services
 - Application is open
 - 1 intern needed
- UMF/USM programs – Grad Rehab Program

Priority Topics

State Plan Modification Update including WIOA Requirements

- 6 Areas SRC will be working on
 1. Continued Membership Development
 2. Continued Evaluation of CNA Data
 3. Evaluation of DVR Strategic Plan
 4. Review of DVR Roles
 5. Early Exitors's Data
 6. Review DVR Consumer Handbook

Review Requested Data

PY24 Closure Information for SRC

Updated 3/4/26

PY24 Other Than Rehabilitated Exits Type of Closure by Disability

	Unable to Contact or Locate	No Longer Interested in Receiving Services	Health/ Medical	All Other Reasons	Disability Too Significant to Benefit from VR	Long Term Extended Services Not Available	Transferred to Another Agency	Other (Death, Impediment, Does not Require VR Services, etc.)
Blindness	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Both Mobility & Manipulation	87	44	12	0	1	0	0	20
Cognitive Impairment	442	266	16	0	1	2	7	70
Communicative Impairment	24	15	2	0	0	0	0	2
Deafness	12	11	0	1	1	0	0	15
General Physical Debilitation	19	9	2	0	1	0	0	0
Hearing Loss	72	42	3	1	0	0	1	74
None Listed	550	178	5	0	0	0	4	51
Other Hearing	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Mental	156	80	9	0	0	0	1	21
Other Physical	89	40	6	0	1	1	0	13
Other Visual	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Psychosocial	333	192	23	0	2	0	5	43
Respiratory	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

**PY24 Closed- In Employment Exits – Average Months Spent
in Employment Status Prior to Closure**

	Employed Status
South	7.3
Central	8.0
North	6.4
Intake	0.0
Statewide	7.2

Transfer to Another Agency Reasons
Client moved to different country
Client moved to different VR region in Maine
Client released from incarceration and had to work with Department of Corrections before working on employment

Client transferred to a different state VR agency
Client transferred to Employment Network
Client working with DBVI
Client working with Job Corps

Announcements

- Spring Conference - Allison will attend and represent DVR and DBVI on behalf of Andy McLean who supposed to be attending. It will be held End of March.
- Administrator Position – Vacant
 - Instead of recruiting, we will just go back to candidates before
 - Allison will be sending the position description
- Nominations Follow Up – New Applicants
 - 11 Pending Applications
 - To discuss how to reformat and shortened meetings
 - To engage DVR and DBVI Business People
 - 1 meeting to focus on Employers/Business
- Consumer Handbook review and revise – to cover it on next Focus Group Meeting
 - To update it and make it easy access to everyone
 - Sam suggested Abbreviated version or video
- Meeting Adjourned at 2:54PM

Next Meeting:

Focus Group – April 13th 1-3PM

Business Meeting – May 11th 1-3PM

Pre Meeting – 12:30PM