

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**  
**Minutes**  
**December 6, 2002 – Manhattan**

State Rehabilitation Council members present: Suzanne Evans, Pat Terick, Dale Barnum, Barbara Crooks, Cindy Jackson, Shannon Jones, Sharon Kearse, Christine Owens, David Rosenthal, Tami Schwindt, Anita Trainer, James Wabaunsee, Debra Wheaton.

Staff present: Dianne Hemphill, Hope Rosen.

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:** New members present were introduced: Barbara Crooks, Sharon Kearse, Christine Owens, David Rosenthal, Tami Schwindt, Anita Trainer, and James Wabaunsee. The new member listing was reviewed and those present noted changes or corrections. Members not present will be contacted for changes. The corrected listing will be completed and e-mailed to members, and distributed in media of choice prior to the next meeting.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2002:** Corrections were given by Cindy Jackson regarding the Youth Leadership Forum. A copy of those notes is attached. Dianne's and Cindy's reports were combined. No further additions or corrections. The September minutes were approved with corrections.

Questions regarding the RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) review. The Council requested that support staff obtain a copy and distribute to the members. Dale Barnum said that the Central Office would distribute the summary report to the Council members.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

**Orientation of new members:** The Council suggested that the orientation of new members be held on January 24 or 25 in Topeka, with Saturday being the day of preference. Suggested start time is 9:00 or 9:30 a.m., and to adjourn by 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. A list of acronyms and the most current bylaws to be distributed in the members' media of choice prior to the orientation.

Notebooks with membership materials were distributed to all members present. Members who received their notebooks at this meeting were instructed to bring their notebooks to the orientation, as well as to the March Council meeting. Notebooks for members not present at this meeting will be distributed at the orientation and/or at the March Council meeting. Special media requests have been noted and the notebook materials will be distributed in the media of choice.

**Expiration dates on appointments of members:** Original appointment dates and expiration date of terms was discussed. It was emphasized to Council members that recommendations for new members needs to be completed 4 to 6 months in advance, with timely followup. If a

member has someone in mind for Council membership, submit those names for consideration as soon as possible. Names of members due for reappointment and recommendations for new members need to be presented no later than the June SRC meeting, so that the list can be submitted to the Governor in June.

**2003 meeting Schedule:** Current schedule is for meetings to be held March 6/7 (Topeka,) June 5/6 (Leavenworth,) September 11/2 (Colby,) and December 4/5 (Emporia.) Some members have scheduling conflicts with the current meeting schedule. Alternative dates for 2003 meetings were discussed, and the second Thursday and Friday in March, June, September, and December. Hope Rosen was requested to send an e-mail message to the membership, requesting the members to check their schedules for those months, and for members to let Hope know if those dates and times are acceptable with their schedules.

**Stakeholders Conference Call:** Information from Secretary Schalansky's conference call with Stakeholders was distributed.

**KDOT:** Tabled until next meeting.

## **COMMENTS REGARDING THE PUBLIC FORUM:**

### **Discussion:**

Sharon reported that the Forum attendees were a mild group, and appreciated everyone's response. One gentleman was pleased with his counselor but aftercare and followup of medical treatment was delayed.

Anita reported some people consider Vocational Rehabilitation a form of public assistance. One consumer went through years of struggle and grief which might not have been had she been given sufficient information. She wasn't referred by One Stop or people handling food stamps. There is an inaccurate public perception in what the VR role is. Barbara said she didn't know how to get around that issue except to explain each time. There is a stigma attached to receiving help from social services as those are the people taking children out of the homes.

Cindy spoke with an individual with communication problems on accessing services. Transportation continues to be an issue. For the most part he had very positive things to say. After he went back home from the center, transition of services was poor. He wants to return to the center. If he will get some assistance he can continue and won't lose the skills he already has learned. This person was extremely motivated.

The set of questions for the Public Forum: 1: In thinking about your experience with Rehabilitation Services, what worked well for you? 2. What did NOT work well for you? 3. How can we improve? A copy of the usual Public Forum agenda is attached to these minutes. Input from the Public Forum is used by the Counselors and the Area Offices.

**Notes on mailings to members:** The Council felt that it would be beneficial to have notes and information from the Public Forum compiled and e-mailed to members. It was decided that notes and input along with comments from the Public Forum would be sent out to the membership prior to the next Council meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Annual Report:**

The annual report is not completed at this time. The annual report subcommittee is Pat Terick, Ron Pasmore, and Sanford Alexander. In the past the annual report has been done in December. Pat reported that he, Sanford, and Ron have talked about getting together but have not met yet. The Council needs to decide whether to make the report to the outgoing governor or to the incoming governor. Dale said that if the report is submitted 3-4 weeks late and submitted to the new governor, the chances of the report actually being read improve. He hopes to have it ready to go by February 1, 2003. The report should include the effects of the budget reductions and allotments we have been given, and it is strategic to submit the report to the new governor.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT - DALE BARNUM:**

Dale expressed thanks to VR staff for help in putting the Forum and Council meeting together during Peg's absence.

RS Central Office: Jaryl Perkins has accepted the position of Chief in the Emporia Area Office. Eunice Thompson has accepted Jaryl's duties and is now Program and Field Support for the VR Central Office.

Dale thanked new appointees for their willingness to serve as well as the members willing to continue to serve.

Orientation for new members is planned for January 25. If that date is not feasible, to please notify the Central Office so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Current members are encouraged to attend the orientation. The session will be informal, and a meeting site has not yet been decided. Dianne Hemphill volunteered the use of RCBVI for orientation.

Dale reported the governor's decrease in funding SRS 26 million. No funds for caseload growth in public assistance, medicaid, foster care programs (22 million) was not funded. There is 48 million shortfall in state general fund for the end of this FY. Take that number multiplied by two to see the overall dollar effect on the services, which are 50% federally funded. Dale distributed a report from the Secretary. 6 positions in the CO will be held vacant (17% vacancy rate) and present staffing reflects a 16.9% vacancy rate. Some Area Offices which are slated to have offices closed at the end of the FY, and there are issues where the SRS office is the only social service agency. 31% cuts coming out of administration, with the bulk of the cuts in staff and administrative expenditures. 20 statewide VR grants will be decreased by 5% each, prorated for the rest of the year. Professional fees decreased by 15%. The KCDHH grant is 100% state funded

and has not and will not be let. Kan-SAIL is a federal grant, and with Kansas required to match 10%. Kansas has been overmatching the 10%. That overmatching will be cut. The same with the training grant, which is a federal grant, and Kansas will not be adding dollars to that. All travel out of Central Office, including White Lakes CO and RCBVI to be decreased by 10%. We are not required to decrease case service expenditures, but that does not mean that we won't decrease case services. In VR, the only way to provide services is with people, and by reducing staff, we reduce the tools to provide services. There is also increased pressure on case service dollars. This all pertains to FY 2003, and we don't know yet about FY 2004.

Because of the 17% reduction in staff in the CO, staff have had to double up on some duties. For example, transition full time (FT) duties were added to another supported employment (FT) staff person's duties. Larry Hinton is retiring, and that position will not be filled. The training and human resources duties will be reassigned to other staff. There are 5 support staff positions vacant and those duties are being redistributed. Dale begs the Council's patience in getting information out to the Council.

**Order of selection (OS):** In force, beginning 10/1/02. Regulations changed on OS in July, and there is a rolling waiting list with 3 tiers of severity defined. As long as we are in a waiting list, we will not serve those in categories 2 or 3. By June, we anticipate a 4 to 6 week wait for Rehabilitation Services. Current waiting list is 1317, with 1177 in category 1. We hope to now be able to tell someone how long they will be on a waiting list, so people will at least be able to know approximately how long they may have to wait for services. There are 37 other states in OS, 21 have waiting lists, and the average wait in those states is 3-6 months. If we can service clients after 6 weeks at maximum, we will be doing well. The Council asked about a delay and Dale reported when someone comes in to apply for services, first eligibility is determined, then the category, then determined by date of application. Once a case is opened, it is for whatever expenditures that we have to make on that case.

Goals established for next year for blind services, i.e. training sessions for blind students transitioning from high school. The maximum the training center will handle is 25, and maximum dormitory capacity is 20. We have a state-of-the-art facility, and there will be a cost analysis to determine what to charge an insurance company, e.g., for a student coming from another state, should there be an empty bed.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Report from Blind Services:** Presented by Dianne Hemphill.

- 250 successful closures. 54 had attended blind center. 65% of those had diabetes. Initial training for diabetics 2 years ago.
- KSBVI opened an assistive technology support group, which meets every other month.
- KSBVI is initiating a transition group in August, will host a transition open house in March. They will initiate an early enrollment to Washburn. Sharon Kearsse suggested to Dianne to contact Brenda Eddy for potential contacts for the Youth Transition Program.

- A pilot will be initiated in Colby, an outreach for older blind in Western Kansas. There are 12 community based outreach programs, 321 individuals serviced. Professionals in the community are invited to attend or participate.
- Some staff lost, and this will impact services. Down to 1 staff member for assistive technology and are losing an Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor.
- Issues of dual sensory loss (deaf/blind) are difficult to assess. The Consortium of agencies will bring cases to the table at quarterly meetings, so individuals don't fall through the cracks.

**Ticket to Work:** Dale reported the first tickets mailed out beginning 11/15/02 by the Social Security Administration (SSA.) Meetings were held with employment networks with not much response: employers have been slow to sign up. Two weeks ago Kansas had five, also have some national employment networks. Training will be provided to chiefs and select staff in area offices. Problem: with Order of Selection, the only clients with a Ticket that RS will be able to serve are those already on the caseload. The first round states started in February, and about ½ of 1% of tickets mailed out are being sent back. Not much effect on the caseloads is expected other than the additional paperwork required. The Medicare buy-in part is a plus; Kansas "Working Health" allows disabled clients to keep their medical services when they return to work. Shannon reported that the segment of population not served is those with personal assistance service needs. That program is not yet available.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Cindy explained to new members the terms of office and election of officers. Those eligible for Chairperson are Sanford Alexander, Marvin Kuehn, Debra Wheaton, and Pat Terick. Pat Terick was selected chairperson for 2003 by unanimous acclamation. Those eligible for Vice Chairperson were Sanford Alexander, Marvin Kuehn, Ron Pasmore, and Debra Wheaton. Debra Wheaton was selected 2003 Vice Chairperson by unanimous acclamation.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Further discussion on the issue of stigma attached to going for VR Services raised questions. What are ways or ideas that could be used to address the problem? The Council was directed to be thinking about ideas to address the problem and be prepared to discuss at the March 2003 meeting.

Cindy Jackson reported to the Council on the KSBVI Advisory Committee meeting of 11/23/02.

- Adopted evaluation of training curriculum with measurable outcomes in terms of strengths and weaknesses in performing a skill.
- Subcommittees: Assistive Technology, Living Skills, Independent Living.
- Next meeting will be in March. They have quarterly meetings and meet on Saturdays at RCBVI. These meetings were initiated by the Council for ongoing communication between Services for the Blind and SRC.

**Next meeting:**

New member orientation January 24 or 25. Please bring notebooks if you have received them. Announcements and reminders will be sent out.

Next SRC meeting will be in March. Please bring notebooks if you have been given one. Be prepared to discuss ideas to address the problem of stigma attached to applying for VR services.

Minutes submitted by Hope Rosen. Minutes are considered draft until approved by the Council.