

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting
March 2, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Capitol Plaza Hotel – Topeka

Present: Members: Anita Trainer, Christine Owens, Barbara Crooks, Julia Fonseca, Tami Schwindt, Josie Torrez, Wendy Blaauw, Morris Taylor, Michael Donnelly. Ed Rucker attended for Rocky Nichols.
 Staff: Peg Spencer, Barbara Mah (recorder)

Barbara Crooks welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dave Roberts from the University of Missouri Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program.

Dave provided training about the Rehabilitation Act and the role of the State Rehabilitation Council using a power point presentation. Each Council member also received a CD with the presentation on it for future reference. At the end of the presentation Dave facilitated a discussion to help the Council members identify direction, plans and action steps by asking each member what their wish for the Council is:

- Individual vocational assessment with no waiting list for those who want to work
- Transition includes outreach to students with 504 plans in addition to those with IEPs
- Strengthen partnerships with special education
- Become more involved in giving advice to VR – more of an advisory/advocacy group
- Be more effective and do something – we need sub-committees
- Involved in the development of the state plan
- Build relationships with employers
- Diversify new members on the council, fill the gap of what we are doing and what we need to do

Then Dave asked for a list of barriers:

- Money
- Large caseload
- Waiting List
- Public perspective of people with disabilities
- Perceptive of people with disabilities about themselves
- Transportation

Next Dave asked for a list of barriers on this Council:

- Lack of knowledge of purpose
- Following through on plans
- Education of expectations

Dave ask Mike for his thoughts and Mike said that his number one hope for the Council was to take responsibility and time to do what it needs to do, and that new members have

to be worker bees because they may have to help KRS make difficult but exciting decisions.

Dave then turned the meeting over to Barbara to begin the next steps in making this a good working Council and getting a plan together.

Barbara felt that the first step that she and Julia had come up with would be to set up some committees and they thought the first two committees need to be an Executive Committee composed of Barbara and Julia, and then maybe a Membership Committee. Discussion was held on the membership committee and Peg said there were about 27 people who have shown interest in being on the Council, including those present. That being said the Council decided not to establish a membership committee at this time. Peg encouraged the Council to take an ongoing, active role in helping to recruit nominations for the Council.

We broke for lunch which was provided by RCEP.

The business meeting resumed after lunch with a motion by Anita to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Christine and passed. Copies are posted on the web site www.srskansas.org/rehab then scroll down and look under State Rehab Council.

Plans and Organization – Peg reported on next background and next steps related to the State Plan. Mike has held 18 stakeholder meetings across the state with one more next week. A customer survey was conducted and we received a 10% response back on the survey. This is the year that this group needs to do an entire new state plan per the Federal Government requirements. There are two parts of the plan

1. Pre-Print – this includes all the policy requirements, usually is about 30 pages long and includes the organization structure.
2. Attachments – this is a narrative on how the agency intends to operate, i.e. counselor requirements, order of selection, annual goals and priorities.

After the draft plan is written, we will need to hold public hearings in June so any additional changes can be made before the July 1, 2007 deadline. We will be checking into the possibility of doing one meeting using technology so that all six regions can participate and with 1 or more members of this council in each of the regions. We need the draft ready by approximately mid-May.

Julia suggested that instead of having a State Plan committee that all member of this council be involved in preparing this plan. Peg volunteered to email the old state plan to everyone, but the new plan has a slightly different format per federal instructions. Peg will have the results of the stakeholder meeting and the surveys compiled. The following dates were set to work on the new State Plan – April 4th in Wichita, April 19th in Topeka and May 5th in Wichita. Tami will check to see if we can meet at the Families Together Office in Wichita and the meeting place in Topeka is yet to be determined. Lunch at each meeting will be determined later.

Updates from the State Director – Michael Donnelly

- Last stakeholders meeting will be next week in Hays
- We out-source a lot of our services and we are re-looking at that right now.
- There has been a change in the consumer population in the last 5 years, with an increase in the percent and number of persons served who have mental illness.
- We are trying to make the money last through the end of the year (June). We are working on getting a memorandum of understanding with high education.
- The Federal government is coming the first week of June.

Our next meetings are as follows:

June 8 - Topeka – location to be determined later

September 7 – Wichita

December 7 – location to be determined later

Barbara thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.