

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting
June 8, 2007
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
SRS Learning Center – Room C– Topeka

Present: Members: Anita Trainer, Christine Owens, Barbara Crooks, Julia Fonseca, Wendy Blaauw, Morris Taylor, Rocky Nichols, David Rosenthal, Michael Donnelly
Staff: Peg Spencer, Dianne Hemphill, Barbara Mah (Recorder)
Guests: Kathleen Wilson (alternate for Rocky), Sanford Alexander, RSA staff including Carol Dobak, Jerry Elliott, Fred Isbister, Padma Soundararajan

Barbara Crooks welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Copies are posted on the web site www.srskansas.org/rehab then scroll down and look under State Rehab Council.

Public Comment – Sanford wanted to let the Council know that the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Advisory Committee had a conference call with RSA yesterday. Sanford's view is that the Advisory Committee input is not being taken seriously. He also has concerns that the SRC's resolution from last September regarding the Rehabilitation Center was being ignored, causing him to question if the SRC input is being taken seriously. He said he thought the SRC had made it clear that a one size fits all approach at the Center was not acceptable.

Report from the Client Assistance Program – Kathleen Wilson – Stats from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 – the center reported the following stats:

- 48-50 client calls – some with more than 1 concern which was an increase
- Individuals ranged from 22 – 64 year of age
- Gender – there has been an increase in the male gender calls
- Ethnicity – all are represented
- Disability group – about ½ the calls are issues with mental illness and ¼ are physical issues
- Communications – about 80 – 85 % of the call concern communication issues
- Assistance given – information, technical assistance and short term assistance

Fewer than 10% go further than just information and very little assistance. Most of the questions have to do with improving level of communications, maintenance, higher education and the wording of letters.

Report from SILCK – Christine Owens – The SILCK group met with RSA this week and their Disability Caucus is coming up in Topeka August 8 – 10. Registration forms are on line.

Report from Prairie Band Program – Morris Taylor – At some point, they anticipate that their funding is going to be cut – 25% reduction from tribal money. The tribe voted to

increase \$ to tribal members, there are 900 residents on the reservation, 2,000 residents in Topeka and another 2,000 scattered elsewhere in the United States. A report and comparison is from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 follows:

All tribes	Prairie Band
80 clients	85 clients
\$325,000	\$283,000
22 closures	43 closures
10 unsuccessful cases	10 unsuccessful

They had a good year.

Discussion with RSA – Carol Dobak – RSA is available to assist SRC and to help SRC improve. They want to support this council. There is an important role you play in shaping KRS. You have a list of mandated functions to assist VR. They are demanding functions and require membership to spend time and effort. Responsibilities include assistance in developing the State Plan, analyzing the effectiveness of the VR program, assisting the agency in conducting a statewide needs assessment, creating the annual report due 12/30 each year which shows what you have done, outcomes, issues, and effectiveness of the programs. RSA has updated training material and the feedback is that it is good; they have also created an on-line training program. This can be used as a recruitment tool, or as an orientation tool. SRC's have banded together via video conferences to help strengthen their SRC's. In a discussion Carol had with Barbara we know that there are nominations in the Governor's office and they do need to be filled. We have spoken to Candy Shively today asking for her help in speeding up the process of getting this done. Carol ask those present how RSA could be of further assistance to them. Barbara stated that the conference call last week was very helpful and informative and they will be talking more about what she learned this afternoon. Carol responded that RSA is happy to work with you at anytime. Rocky asked that since RSA have seen other SRC and how they work with VR is there anything that you see we need to be doing – Carol – recruitment and sustaining strong effort in the council - RSA can recommend other councils for you to contact and also Charles Sadler leads the quarterly tele-conference calls. Fred – Oregon is a strong state and they get together with 3-4 other states for discussions. They were the state who pushed for a national way to coordinate and this led to the quarterly tele-conference calls. All the states are struggling with this. Barbara asked for more information about the calls be sent to her. The council also needs to look at developing a committee.

Discussion on State Plan – Peg led the discussion on the State Plan. The flip chart notes from our discussions in Wichita led to the setting of the goals. High expectations were adopted by KRS for the next three years.

Goal 1 – questions and comments

- 1.2 – why is the indicator less then last years baseline – the 72.6% is the Federal standard – 97% is our baseline for FFY 2006.
- 1.3 - does the average wage include benefits - no

Other comments – make sure people understand – talk to the person so they understand what is being said. Do we have peer mentoring now – we do not have a formal peer mentoring program now, but we want to support this in the future. It was suggested that consumers also be used in counselor training. Chris talked about the Job Club they have in Hutchinson which is open to anyone in the community and they work on a number of things related to job interviews. Peg stated that there is a literacy program in Kansas City where the graduates come and talk to current students about what they learned. Morris states that they do not have a job club, but he is going to Oklahoma next week to learn about the job club they have there and will share that information at the next meeting.

Goal 2 – questions and comments

C – The comment of full understanding could fit in here – big on the list for next year is looking at the current standardized letters. Per Mike Ahlers will this change how the title I grants are done – it could.

H – The word timeliness – should that be changed, or what does it mean. It depends on the situation – there are different time frames depending on the whole process, but it can also apply to providers The Federal government says 60 days to determine eligibility – 120 days to develop a plan. We have a target date for implementing IPEs for people in Category 1 – 75 days from date of application.

2.10 – Is that being done now? In Wichita there is one, but now sure about Topeka. Is that a goal for each site and who decides that? Mike makes that decision.

Goal 3 – questions and comments

Mike and Peg have meet with Wendy and others and there is a grant can be applied for to help with this – it is due at the end of the month.

Goal 4 – questions and comments

4.4 & 4.5 – work with KRS and SRC to establish an evaluation form for these meetings – Is there any chance that SRC could be at stake-holder meetings because it is important for SRC to hear from the public around the state.

Kathleen, Rocky, and Ed Rucker met with Peg, Eunice Thompson and Mike last week and Kathleen will be at many of these meetings and also meetings with the Program Administrators.

How can SRC get all done that needs to be done?

June 22 at 1:00 PM is the statewide presentation of these goals – hope you all plan to attend the meeting at one of the locations listed on the sheet given to you. In Topeka the meeting will be in this room.

Any other comments – You all can still provide input on this plan – we will need all feedback by the end of the day on June 22. The question was asked if this plan is distributed to the counselors. Once it is finalized, it will be talked about at the PA's meetings and also on July 16 there will be a statewide meeting and this will be part of Mike's information to all employees.

SRC members expressed that they were pleased to see their ideas included in the plan and voiced support for the goals and priorities.

Committees – Barbara will email the information to all of you that she has accumulated from other SRC's. Mike was asked about the appointments still not done by the Governor's office. Mike will have to re-establish that contact and then hope it will happen fairly quickly. Mike does not know the actual number, but they do want to do the appointments all at once. Peg suggested that when this round of appointments is finally approved the SRC needs to start looking for more interested candidates for the next group of appointments.

Barbara also talked about the need to prepare and get out an annual report by the end of the year 2007. Is everyone here committed to work more than the September meeting to get this done? All are.

Committees – what do we need? Survey committee – do a SRC consumers satisfaction survey focusing on specific issues, maybe a Policy committee – working on policy development and amendments to the policies, maybe also need council members to attend VR council meetings. Peg state that there are 2 VR counselors in the group of nominations waiting for the Governor's appointment. Peg also asked the council if they would be interested in the committee structure that has been used in the past from this group.

Round Robin Reports –

Anita – her application to VRC program was not accepted, so Anita will be applying to a program in Little Rock, Arkansas in the spring.

Christine – they are currently planning several activities for July specific to ADA including a parade, etc.

Julia – Youth Leadership Forum starts Monday and they have 30 applicants.

Barbara – She is teaching summer school and also working on disability mentoring day in Manhattan.

Kathleen – She has enjoyed the meeting, the DRC will kick off the 30th anniversary of the Disability Act on June 26 at 9:00 AM.

Future Meetings --

Our next meetings are as follows:

September 7 – Wichita from 10:00 – 3:30 PM with ½ hour lunch – Please bring your calendars so that we can set the dates for further meetings to work on the annual report due the end of the year.

December 7 – meet in Morris’s area to finalize the annual report

Barbara thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.