**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

**Training Subcommittee Meeting**

**Monday, 09/08/25, 10:00am – 11:00am**

**Training Meeting Minutes**

In attendance:

Training subcommittee members (by Zoom): Sandy Balani*,* Jerry Gann, Steve Alford, Julie Wakamoto

DOR staff (by Zoom): Luis Rodriguez, Emma Godinez, Carlene Guzman, Raj Basi, Joshua Pitts, Jennifer Wilbon

Members of the public (by Zoom): Maria Trovato, Daniel Salinas, Michael Hatch, Max Duarte

Agenda

Item 1: Welcome and roll call

Sandy Balani, Chair, welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the rules.

**Item 2: Update from Training Officer**

Committee members comments and questions

* Asked for updates regarding the training class
* Asked if all 3 students are doing the pre-eval at the same location and at the same time
* Would like to know if the 3 students can attend the next CVPC meeting and if a vendor can speak to the students during the training class

 Department comments and questions

* Regarding the question of whether all 3 students are doing the pre-eval at the same time and at the same location: it is staggered
* 5-month class will begin October 6, 2025
* 3 students in the training class
* Will have a 4-day, 5-hour, class each day
* The 5th month, students will receive on the job training/hands-on practice and training
* Working on blending the curriculum with in-person curriculum
* Shared the importance of the 20-day pre-evaluation
* Will look into the new students attending the CVPC meeting in November and if a vendor can speak to the new students

**Item 3: Discuss pros/cons of the 2025 Anaheim Conference**

 Committee members comments and questions

* Discussed pros and cons of the 2025 conference in Anaheim
* Shared which events were enjoyed
* Discussed expenses and costs
* Feels there’s more unity than in the past between vendors and the department
* Appreciate the departments vision for the program
* Due to unexpected events, it is suggested to have emergency contacts available from vendors
* Counselors are working with new students regarding transportation

Department comments and questions

* Working in collaboration with the department and vendors to grow the program

Public comments and questions

* Would like to know if the new students are getting access to discounts for travel/transportation

**Item 4: Begin Discussion for the 2026 conference**

Committee members comments and questions

* Suggested looking into Embassy Suites
* Suggested next conference in San Diego (south) or Lake Tahoe (north)
* Discussion took place about costs and vendors who did not show
* Suggested the conference being a success because of the location (being in southern California) If in Sacramento, most likely to have less attendance
* Would like to know what the conference rooms look like at the Embassy Suites
* Embassy Suites have large-sized conference rooms
* Suggested 2026 conference take place during the week

Department comments and questions

* Looked at Embassy Suites room rates

Public comments and questions

* Suggested next conference in April in Southern California because NAMA will be having their convention

**Item 5: Open Forum to discuss future agenda items**

Committee members comments and questions

* Suggested charging a small nominal fee to exhibitors and using the money to fund the hospitality suite

The meeting adjourned at 10:57am