

California State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

Quarterly Meeting

January 12-13, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day

Virtual meeting through Zoom with conference call option

*Minutes Approved March 24, 2022*

# Attendance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SRC Members** | **DOR Staff** | **DOR Staff (cont.)** |
| Theresa Comstock, Chair | Regina Cademarti | Craig Rubenstein |
| Nick Wavrin, Vice Chair | Elizabeth Colegrove | Toussaint Wade |
| Benjamin Aviles, Treasurer | Shanti Ezrine | Nicholas Weis |
| Chanel Brisbane | Molly Foote | Nancy Wentling |
| Ivan Guillen | Cruz Fresquez |  |
| Jonathan Hasak | Judy Gonzalez | **Public Members** |
| Susan Henderson | Jessica Grove | Michael |
| Kecia Weller | Daisy Hughes | Stephen |
| Joe Xavier | Lydia Iacono | Sister Beavers |
|  | Brenna Lammerding | Danny Marquez |
|  | Andi Mudryk | Heide Morales |
|  | Lisa Niegel | Dan Okenfuss |
|  | Nina Presmont |  |
|  | Laura Rasmussen |  |

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

SRC Chair Theresa Comstock called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the SRC members. The SRC members introduced themselves and a quorum was established.

**Item 2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments on issues and concerns not included elsewhere on the agenda.

**Item 3. Directorate Report**

The SRC members were informed by Joe Xavier, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Director and Andi Mudryk, DOR Chief Deputy Director on national, State, and departmental policy topics.

National

* Rehabilitation Services Administrator (RSA) Commissioner. The RSA Commissioner has not been appointed. Carol Dolback continues to act in this role.
* Grants. $177 million in grants will be available due to the reverting of vocational rehabilitation (VR) dollars in 2021.

State

* California State Budget. The proposed budget was released on

January 10, 2022. The proposed budget included initiatives to improve State government, advance telework, reduce state government space by 20% in the next three years, modernize the state payroll system, and reform procurement.

* California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) State Budget highlights. Budget investments are on healthcare priorities and expansion, addressing the aging population, healthcare to all, and responsiveness to the homeless population.
* California’s State Supplement Payment (SSP). On January 1, 2022 California’s State leaders adopted an increase to SSP grants

Department

* COVID-19. Over 85% of DOR staff report they are vaccinated. DOR has robust telework expectations and has safety measures in place. DOR continues to serve consumers how they want to be served whether that is in-person or virtually.
* Initiatives for 2022 include increased adult work experience and expedited plan development.

Questions from SRC members

Member Hasak asked about DOR’s virtual outreach or recruitment of new consumers. Answer: DOR needs to continue to evolve in how it uses technology. With COVID-19, the shift to technology was forced immediately. With technology, DOR can reach out to more people and avoid the transportation barriers to access services. However, there are individuals that lack the access and cannot engage in virtual services.

Chair Comstock commented that some consumers want in-person meetings, but there may not be enough DOR staff comfortable with meeting in-person. It was encouraged for DOR to establish best practices for these instances.

Member Guillen asked if there was an official rollout date for expedited enrollment and expedited plan development. Answer: It is the DOR’s expectation these have rolled out now.

**Item 4.** **Fair Hearing and Mediation Statistics and Overview of Hearing Summaries**

SRC members were joined by Cruz Fresquez, Appeals Analyst from DOR Legal Affairs and Regulations to learn about the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)

2020-21 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) fair hearing and mediation statistics and an overview of the legal decisions summary. These statistics are required to be submitted every FFY by DOR to the United States Department of Education.

During FFY 2020-21, there were 24 requests for mediation

Of these 24 requests,

* 15 were resolved in the mediation process
* 3 did not resolve
* 6 carried over to FFY 2021-22

During FFY 2020-21 there were 47 requests for fair hearings

Of these 47 requests,

* 21 resolved without a fair hearing
* 12 resulted in a fair hearing decision
  + 11 decisions favored DOR
  + 1 decision favored the appellant
* 13 carried over to FFY 2021-22

Recurring fair hearing and mediation issues involved:

1. The nature, contents, or scope of the IPE (disagreement with IPE)
2. Communication with their counselors
3. Cost of services
4. Case closure

Of the 12 fair hearing decisions, 3 were for small business plans not being feasible for the consumers.

Member Henderson asked do the fair hearing and mediation decisions typically favor DOR? Answer: Yes.

Member Henderson asked can consumers request mediation only? Answer: Yes. A consumer can ask for mediation only, fair hearing only, or both.

Member Aviles asked what happened to the consumers for the three mediation requests that did not resolve? Answer: One consumer did not want to proceed with DOR services, one proceeded to fair hearing, and one consolidated with another case.

**Item 5. Fair Hearings and Mediations: New Contract, Impartial Hearing Officers (Request for Approval), and Proposed Regulatory Change**

Cruz Fresquez, Appeals Analyst, and Elizabeth Colegrove, Staff Attorney III with DOR Office of Legal Affairs and Regulations presented on DOR’s new contract for fair hearings and mediation, request SRC’s approval for Impartial Hearing Officers, and proposed regulatory change to permit an appellant to select their preferred method of delivery of a fair hearing decision.

On February 1, 2022 the current DOR mediation and fair hearing contract through the Office of Administrative Hearings under the California Department of General Services will move to the Division of State Hearings under the California State Department of Social Services.

With the new contract Division of State Hearings, it can allow the consumer to choose their preferred method of delivery including email or certified mail. There will be a regulation package ready by March 2022 for this change.

With the new contract the Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) need to be approved. Mr. Fresquez reviewed the ALJ biographies for Roland Aganon; Elizabeth Ammann; Karen Turner Fruchtenicht; Mark Hammond; Linda Jamison; Tiffany Jensen; Christin Miller; Annette Ohanganian; Eli Palomares; Mary Kate Riley; Iman Shad; Steve Shaffer; Dina Taulli; Natalie Williams; Laurie Wright; and Serena Young.

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Weller/Henderson) to approve adding the ALJs to the new list of Impartial Hearing Officers. A roll call vote was taken.

(Yes – Aviles, Brisbane, Comstock, Guillen, Hasak, Henderson, Wavrin, Weller), (No - 0) (Abstain – 0) (Absent for vote – none) The final vote was 8 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain. Motion carried.

Public Comment. Danny Marquez asked if any of the proposed ALJs had a disability. Answer: It is unknown if these ALJs have a disability. Mr. Marquez emphasized this is an important aspect to consider.

**Item 6. Adopt-a-Region Reports**

Treasurer Aviles connected with Robert Loeun, Regional Director from the Inland Empire (IE) District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* Community Engagement. IE has partnerships with different student services workgroups and business engagement workgroups.
* Successful Closures. In November 2021, IE’s successful closures was the highest in the state with 355 consumers.
* Virtual Services. The virtual delivery system and virtual workshops are working well especially with reaching out to consumers in rural areas.
* Treasurer Aviles attends the IE team meetings to be involved actively with this district/region.

Treasurer Aviles connected with Susan Senior, Regional Director from the

Los Angeles South Bay District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* Community Engagement. A district team presented to the Chambers of Commerce, Employment Development Department partners, and county boards about DOR Services
* Job Developers Network Pilot. Five training modules were developed to cross-train job developers, cooperative program contractors, vendors, CRPs, and DOR regional business specialists.

Member Brisbane connected with Theresa Woo, Regional Director from San Francisco District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* Career Pathways Grant. This district/region is participating in this grant that creates sector-based caseloads. The VR counselor in charge of technology caseloads is housed in the DOR San Francisco district/region.
* The State Internship Program (SIP) was extended into 2022.
* DOR student services staff are sharing their best practices with DOR staff.

Chair Comstock connected with Susan Mathers, Regional Director from the Santa Barbara District/Region and Brian Winic, District Administrator.

Successes include:

* Intakes. This district/region met expectations, exceeding last year’s numbers by 105%.
* Closures. Successful closures are at 88% (anticipate being at 100% by June 30th.)
* Mental Health Cooperative Tool. [Growing Grounds Farm](https://www.t-mha.org/program-details.php?id=13) in San Luis Obispo has been a successful tool. Individuals visit first for two hours, then for four hours before doing a formal work experience.
* Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs). Strong relationships among agencies have been formed. The Ventura LPA is especially strong. (LPAs are agreements between the Local Education Agencies, one or more DOR districts, and one or more regional centers, and can include other local community partners. LPAs are intended to foster an environment of collaboration to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities ID/DD.)
* Department of Juvenile Justice. Grant/Partnership with [Project Rebound San Francisco](https://future.sfsu.edu/programs/project-rebound). DOR is working to keep individuals connected to classes after discharge. They problem-solved to overcome attendance issues, including adding an additional instructor and taping some classes.

Communication – Addressing communications issues.

* Standard for timely response is within 48 hours, but they try for 24 hours.
* “Counselor of the Day” connects with individuals and addresses issues or works with the team manager.
* Staff – Identifying and addressing specific staff issues is key to solving communications issues.
* Customer Service – Increase focus on customer service, looking for a pathway to say yes.

Chair Comstock connected with David Wayte, Regional Director from the Redwood Empire District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

Successes:

* Successful Closures – The following successes were shared:
* Heavy Equipment Operator: A 19-year-old consumer with learning difficulties and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) received Truck-Driver Class A License Training and Heavy Equipment Training. They were provided with tuition, training, and work boots and are now employed at $61/hour working with heavy equipment.
* Dell Computers: After completing a 12-week, full-time paid internship with Dell’s Neurodiversity Division, a consumer accepted a position starting on November 1st, with a $100,000/year salary.
* Homeless Referral Pilots: There are several examples of people who have been helped with obtaining housing, car payments, childcare, and access to food. These supports help them connect with DOR and move more quickly through the application process so that they can benefit from DOR services.
* Intakes. There is a modest uptick in intakes. They are meeting VR goals as a district.

Challenges:

* COVID-19
* Offices must close for a few days and be cleaned when someone tests positive for COVID-19.
* Case Load Fairness: In the case of consumers who want to be served in person, there is difficulty maintaining equal caseloads for counselors (with counselors with underlying conditions not in the office)
* High School Students: The district is not quite meeting the Potentially Eligible (PE) goals. High-School students served by the Transition Partnership Programs (TPP) are difficult to reach due to a decrease in the willingness of schools to coordinate work experience programs, and an increase in distance learning. This is improving, but needs to get better.

Ensuring Timely Communications

Strategies:

1. Timely intake: A prompt response from a counselor is an important indicator of future success. Ensuring a timely intake includes checking SSI/SSDI status and informing team of presumptive eligibility.
2. Date Stamps: Applications are date-stamped the day they are received.
3. Response to Applicants:

* Consumers are assigned to caseload within one business day.
* Counselors are to respond within five business days.
* Consumers are encouraged to call the front desk to ensure communication (Front desk asks who is counselor? How may we help? Checks if counselor is available; Ensures the records show the correct contact information)
* Referral to counselor whether application is received – counselor contacts individual to set intake meeting.
* When communication issues arise, discuss with all participants, and provide team manager contact information.

1. Counselor’s Email Signature Line – They are considering including a listing of in-person days within the counselors’ email signature line (not implemented at this time.)

Challenges:

1. Paperwork: Working as a district to reduce cumbersome paperwork (not seen as welcoming or consumer-friendly).
2. Internet Access: Difficulty contacting counselor for some individuals due to lack of internet access.

Member Guillen connected with Peter Blanco, Regional Director and Jeff Noyes, District Administrator from the San Diego District/Region:

* Application numbers are increasing
* Targeted outreach to youth in foster care and individuals that were justice involved.
* Seeing more success with consumers wanting self-employment. Now have a self-employment staff liaison
* Offering 100 hours of work experience to adults
* Fewer options for vendors. There are a limited number of Community Rehabilitation Programs and service providers
* Delays of equipment to consumers. This is due to issues with the procurement and staff shortages.
* Timely communication back to consumers is not an issue. If there is a consumer waiting to hear back from their counselor, they are to contact the team manager.

Member Hasak connected with Theresa Woo, acting Regional Director and Denise Dorsey, acting District Administrator from the San Jose District/Region.:

* Donna Hezel, San Jose DOR Regional Director and Roberta Tafoya, San Jose Region DOR District Administrator have retired.
* This region is looking to hire two counselors, one in the San Jose North office and Gilroy office.
* With the lower enrollment of new consumers, they discussed engagement and leveraging resources including social media or texting. Zoom works for some consumers, but not for others.

Member Henderson connected with Della Randolph, District Administrator from the Greater East Bay District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* Continuing with hiring events with employer panels focused on their partner schools and regional centers
* Goal to increase the number of individuals with ID/DD into competitive integrated employment (CIE).
* Working with North Bay Regional Center and Solano County on a pilot to incorporate person centered planning and customized employment
* Building apprenticeships for traditional and non-traditional occupations
* Working on increasing paid work experiences with high schools
* This district/region has collaborated with EvoLibri. EvoLibri is based in Santa Clara and works with neuro diverse consumers and provides specialized placement services based on the consumer’s needs. Additionally, EvoLibri provides training to DOR staff on Neuro diversity.

Vice Chair Wavrin connected with Maria Turrubiartes, Regional Director from the Greater Los Angeles District (GLAD) District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* GLAD has not had any issues with staff going onto school sites due to COVID-19 protocols. Counselors are allowed to access on to campus to meet with students in-person or virtually. Some schools do require a negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination.

Member Weller connected with Wan Chun Chang, Regional Director from the Van Nuys Foothills District/Region. Discussion highlights include:

* Staffing issues due to COVID-19 pandemic. There are concerns about returning to work in person.
* New consumer portal will be on the DOR external website where individuals interested in DOR can apply for services
* Retirements. Three managers in this district/region have retired.
* Members of this district/region met with Joe Xavier, DOR Director; Andi Mudryk, DOR Chief Deputy Director and Goodwill Echo Park.

**Item 7. Recess.**

The SRC meeting recessed until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2022

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**

**Item 8. Reconvene, Welcome, and Introductions**

Meeting attendees were welcomed back for day two of the quarterly meeting and a quorum was established.

**Item 9. Public Comment**

There were no public comments on issues and concerns not included elsewhere on the agenda.

**Item 10: Approval of the September 1-2, 2021 SRC Meeting Minutes**

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Weller/Henderson) to approve the

September 1-2, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken.

(Yes – Aviles, Brisbane, Comstock, Guillen, Hasak, Henderson, Weller, Wavrin), (No - 0) (Abstain – 0) (Absent for vote – 0) The final vote was 8 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain. Motion carried.

**Item 11. SRC Bylaw Amendments**

Cademarti reviewed the suggested SRC bylaw revisions originally introduced at the December 8, EPC meeting. Revisions included:

Under Article IV Membership

* Pages 3-5: Updated the membership to match the Federal regulations

34 CFR § 361.17 - Requirements for a SRC.

* Page 5: Updated “with the exception” to “except for”. Updated he/she pronouns to they/them/theirs gender neutral pronouns

Under Article VI Procedures, B. Voting

* Page 8: Update “anytime” to “any time”

The vote on bylaw amendment will take place at the March 23-24, 2022 SRC meeting.

**Item 12. Update on DOR’s Regulation Projects**

SRC members were joined by Daisy Hughes, Attorney IV, and Lisa Niegel, Chief Counsel of DOR Office of Legal Affairs and Regulations for an update on the Competitive Grant Process Regulations; Title IX Regulations; Student Services Regulations; and WIOA Alignment Regulations.

Competitive Grant Process Regulations

This process was subject to a 2018 State Audit report with recommendations for DOR to adopt regulations and adopt a grant solicitation manual. In 2018, DOR engaged with stakeholders to inform the grant solicitation manual. DOR uses this manual for grant processes today. Regulations are needed to fully implement the 2018 state audit recommendations.

Expected time of public notice: February 2022

Title IX Regulations

DOR identified necessary changes after an internal review of policies and procedures of current regulations guarding against sexual and other forms of abuse.

DOR reviewed Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972 that prohibits discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity that receives federal funds, this includes DOR. Title IX has regulations that prohibit sexual harassment including sexual violence, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion.

DOR will add:

* Title IX Coordinator with the roles and responsibilities
* Timelines in accordance with Title IX
* An additional level of review separate from the investigator
* Supportive measures
* Identify potential consequences or remedies and an appeal process

Expected time of public notice: December 2022

Student Services Regulations

DOR needs to add into regulations the Pre-Employment Transition Services they are performing under WIOA. These regulations will define potentially eligible students, the five required student services, and coordination activities.

Expected time of public notice: March 2022

WIOA Alignment Regulations

Updates DOR’s regulations to align with the federal law and regulations under WIOA. DOR is following these federal regulations now.

Expected time of public notice: March 2022

**Item 13. Demand Side Employment Initiative (DSEI)**

Jessica Grove, Deputy Director, Vocation Rehabilitation Policy and Resources Division; Laura Rasmussen, Region Director (Acting) for Blind Field Services; and Toussaint Wade, DSEI Regional Coordinator, presented on the DSEI project and its work with engaging stakeholders and businesses to create grants for business to increase hiring of individuals with disabilities.

In 2020-21 DOR and Department of Developmental Services were jointly allocated $20 million to collaborate and implement strategic initiatives to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities. DOR allocated $10 million dollars for DSEI an employer incentive program to provide resources, technical support and help with implementing equitable recruitment, training, and retention practices for employer who hire people with disabilities.

DSEI funding will be distributed to small and medium sized businesses through grants beginning in 2022 through 2024. The focus is on developing more employment demand of people with disabilities and having the disability community seen as a consumer group they would want to be represented from a hiring perspective and profitability perspective.

The funding must be spent in three years. There are four different DSEI elements:

1. Business incentives: Provide small and medium sized business with one-time grants to introduce and expand disability. How can DSEI help businesses grow and expand and hire people with disabilities.
2. Human Resources (HR) Support: Develop and implement inclusive hiring strategies for HR professionals and create positive culture change in recruiting individuals with disabilities. DSEI will partner with HR agencies or companies to develop trainings designed to help employers have inclusive hiring practices.
3. Work-based Learning Opportunities: DSEI will work with businesses to create new earn and learn opportunities such as apprenticeships, paid work experience, or internships. This will have a regional focus.
4. Marketing Campaign: Initiate a strategic multimedia marketing campaign that highlights the benefits of employing individuals with disabilities. The focus will be why should employers hire people with disabilities, why does this make sense for a business, how does partnering with DOR help your business.

Member Hasak commented the company Year Up has done work in this area through case studies, perception change campaigns, employer incentives, and effectiveness. He will share the resources with the DSEI team.

Vice-Chair Wavrin asked if employers feedback is anonymous. Answer: DSEI provided an anonymous survey through Survey Monkey to obtain employer feedback.

Member Weller commented she appreciates the great work team is doing and asked what kind of business incentives will DSEI provide to hire people with disabilities? Answer: Possible ideas are to help make their website accessible and provide technical support.

Member Brisbane commented there was a study by Institute for Corporate Productivity that may be useful to the DSEI team. This study breaks down incentives for people to hire, how to reduce turnover, and have longer retention rates.

**Item 14. Proposed Form Revisions and Upcoming Application Regulations Package**

Nancy Wentling, Staff Services Manager I, Program Policy Section and Elizabeth Colegrove, Staff Attorney III, DOR Office of Legal Affairs and Regulations presented on the proposed revisions to forms DR 222 VR Services Application, DR 210 Enrollment for VR Services and DR 222A Supplemental Personal Information and the upcoming application regulations package.

These forms are used for when a person wants to apply for VR services. Reasons for the revisions are:

* Reduce the number of forms to apply for VR services from two forms to one
* Ensure the application form only has the required information needed to initiate VR services
* Align with the VR connections portal application process
* Improve the consumer experience. Make the application more welcoming and less governmental
* Ensure compliance with AB499 (Mayes, Statutes of 2020, Chapter 115) that prohibits a state agency from sending any outgoing United States mail that contains an individual’s social security number unless the number is truncated to its last four digits.

With the form changes it requires a regulation change. The DR 222 will be removed in reference in the regulations. It will only include the elements the consumer needs to provide to apply for services. Expected time of public notice: March 2022.

Member Weller asked if the application will be in plain language for the consumers. Answer: It is a goal to have the public documents in plain language.

Member Guillen asked if the public notice would include a copy of the old application and the new application. Answer: This can be provided upon request.

**Item 15. SRC Officers, Members, and Executive Officer Reports**

SRC Officers and the SRC Executive Officer provided brief reports.

Chair Comstock shared:

* Appreciation to all members for attending and wished the SRC could be meeting in person soon.
* California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions will be meeting on January 18, 2022 in person. There are 11 people expected for in-person attendance.
* Reminder as the SRC makes efforts toward recruitment, this council needs to be at least 51% of members with a disability.

Vice-Chair Wavrin shared:

* Bridge to the Future conference is scheduled March 7-9, 2022. This is the largest statewide conference on secondary transition held every other year and organized by CA Department of Education (CDE), California Transition Alliance, WorkAbility I advisory, and agency partners.

Treasurer Aviles shared:

* SRC budget personnel costs had a small increase due to the wage cut for state workers ending on June 30, 2021.
* There continued to be operating expense savings due to no member and staff travel.

Unified State Plan Committee Chair Guillen shared:

* The Unified State Plan Committee met on November 16, 2021.
  + The DOR considered the SRC’s input to the modification.
  + The modification will have minor changes to the objectives. The objectives will now measure change by percentage increase instead of by numbers.
  + The modification is posted for public comment until

February 14, 2022

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Chair Henderson shared:

* Monitoring and Evaluation met on August 26, 2021 to discuss the Consumer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) qualitative comments focused on communication to consumers and transportation reimbursements.
* One area the committee saw for a recommendation is with transportation.
* The committee will meet again on March 8, 2022. Topics include
  + Presentation on the final 2021 CSS Report
  + Demonstration of the dashboard of CSS information
  + Distribution of the 2022 CSS

Member Brisbane shared:

* Best Buddies is expanding to Marin County and looking to hire in early April 2022. They are starting their vendorization process with the local regional center and certification with DOR.
* Best Buddies is hiring for the jobs program. They are looking for employment consultants in Fresno to help support the Project Search programs.

Member Weller shared:

* Attended an Employment First webinar held by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and Able South Carolina
  + Discussed legislation supporting the phase-out of 14(c), the sheltered work options for individuals with disabilities.
  + SCDD shared their experience with proposing and passing legislation to fully abolish the use of 14(c) sheltered work in California.
  + SCDD shared how they worked with Disability Rights California to advance the legislative efforts to end sheltered work and increase competitive, integrated employment.
  + 14(c) prohibits an employee with a disability from being paid less than the legal minimum wage by January 1, 2024.

Member Guillen had no new items to share.

Member Hasak had no new items to share.

Executive Officer Cademarti shared:

* Provided a membership update.
  + Members Brisbane, Hasak, Henderson, and Xavier terms expire September 2022. All are eligible for reappointment.
  + Chair Comstock’s second and last term ends in September 2022.
  + SRC is waiting for the Governor’s Office to appoint new members.
* Bagley Keene update
  + The Governor issued Executive Order N-1-22 on January 5, 2022 to immediately extend the sunset of Assembly Bill 361, which extended the flexibilities enabling public agencies to meet remotely during the COVID-19-19 emergency. The pandemic related changes to the Bagley-Keene Act will remain in effect through March 31, 2022.

**Item 16. Debrief and Recommendations Discussion**

SRC members discussed a draft recommendation for approval and debriefed from the meeting to discuss, draft, and potentially adopt additional recommendations.

Areas discussed for potential new recommendations included the Monitoring and Evaluation committee’s review of the CSS’s transportation comments to the question, ‘Please tell us if there is anything DOR or its service providers can do to improve services.”

SRC members discussed recommending that the DOR should take action to review and update transportation regulations to address (1) the low consumer-owned vehicle usage of 15 at fifteen cents ($0.15) per mile, or at twenty cents ($0.20) for adapted vans; (2) the requirement for a consumer to operate their own vehicle to complete an IPE; (3) extending transportation payments after one month after employment; (4) adding ridesharing such as Uber or Lyft as a form of transportation that can be reimbursed.

The SRC agreed with the concept of the recommendation, but acknowledged the language needed to be clearer.

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Weller/Ivan) to approve the recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. (Yes – Brisbane, Comstock, Guillen, Hasak, Henderson, Weller), (No - 0) (Abstain – 0) (Absent for vote – Aviles, Wavrin)

The final vote was 6 yes, 0 no, 0-abstain. Motion carried.

**Item 17. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

The following items were noted as possible agenda items at upcoming SRC quarterly meetings:

* Communication concerns for consumers
* Mental Health Cooperative Programs work to increase evidence-based practices for individuals with psychiatric disabilities
* Expedited IPE Development
* Adult Work Experience
* Virtual outreach and engagement of new consumers

**Item 18. Adjourn**

The SRC quarterly meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.