

**CALIFORNIA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

**Quarterly Meeting Packet**

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Thursday, September 1, 2022

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# June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC Quarterly Meeting Agenda



**CALIFORNIA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (SRC)**

**Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Wednesday, August 31, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

721 Capitol Mall, Room 301

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Public Participation Options**

**Virtual Meeting (Zoom) Link**:

<https://dor-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/85321819293?pwd=eHVwbXJwRDZZWHdnK1I2VXA0OFI4QT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2181 9293

Passcode: 1fJdW0@6

**Join by Phone**: +1 669 900 6833 US or +1 408 638 0968 US

Meeting ID: 853 2181 9293 and passcode: 47022414

Participant phone controls: Mute and unmute press \*6; Raise hand press \*9

**Email Your Comments**: SRC@dor.ca.gov

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022 AGENDA

Please note: Times are listed with the agenda items to assist attendees joining the meeting virtually and by phone. These times are estimates and subject to change. The SRC may act on any item listed in the agenda.

**Item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Membership Recognitions**

**(9:00 – 9:20 a.m.)**

Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair

**Item 2: Public Comment (9:20 – 9:25 a.m.)**

Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on issues and concerns *not* included elsewhere on the agenda. Public comment relating to a specific agenda item will be taken at the end of the applicable agenda item or prior to a vote.

**Item 3: Approval of the June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**(9:25 – 9:30 a.m.)**

**Item 4: Directorate Report (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.)**

Joe Xavier, DOR Director, will report on leadership and policy topics of interest. National, State, and departmental updates will be provided. SRC members will have the opportunity to ask questions and have an interactive discussion.

**Break(10:30 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Item 5:** **Updated Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)**

**(10:45 – 11:15 a.m.)**

Carol Asch, Assistant Deputy Director, DOR Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Employment Division, will provide an overview of DOR’s updated IPE process for consumers.

**Item 6: Expedited Enrollment Update (11:15 – 11:45 a.m.)**

Trung Le, Assistant Deputy Director, DOR VR Employment Division, will provide an update on the implementation of DOR’s expedited enrollment initiative.

**Lunch (11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

**Item 7: Consumer Reimbursement of Goods and Services Process and CalDOR Payment Card Program Overview (1:00 – 1:45 p.m.)**

Lori Bruno, Chief, Gina Franklin, Accounting Administrator I, Supervisor, and Phi Phi Phan, Associate Governmental Program Analyst from DOR’s Accounting Services, along with Sean Nunez, Staff Services Manager I, DOR Napa Branch, will present on the consumer reimbursement process and the CalDOR Payment Card Program. A category identified in DOR fair hearing complaints has included reimbursement requests for goods and services which were not previously authorized by DOR. The SRC will learn of possible factors that may lead up to those complaints. Then, the SRC will receive an update on the CalDOR Payment Card Program, which provides consumers with a quick and easy way to purchase approved goods and services directly from business and government vendors.

**Item 8: DOR Social Media (1:45 – 2:15 p.m.)**

Kim Rutledge, Deputy Director, and Cynthia Butler, Public Information Officer II, from DOR’s Office of Legislation and Communications will discuss how DOR engages with consumers and stakeholders through social media.

**Break 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Item 9: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2:30 – 3:20 p.m.)**

Rosa Gomez, DOR Chief Equity Officer, will provide the SRC with information on DOR’s diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies, which include internal efforts such as DOR’s affinity groups and the Disability Advisory Committee; DOR’s involvement on a state level with the CalHHS Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee; participation in the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity; and, DOR’s national representation on the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Professional Network group. Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, will review themes and findings from DOR’s 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Assessment regarding individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the VR program. SRC members will then have an introductory, high-level discussion about considerations for 1) identifying inequities in programs and services, 2) methodologies and models that can address equity gaps, and 3) how DOR can effectively reach unserved and underserved communities.

**Item 10:** **Adopt-a-Region Reports (3:20 – 4:00 p.m.)**

SRC members will report out from their recent Adopt-a-Region discussions.

**Recess until 9:00 a.m. Thursday, September 1, 2022**

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AGENDA

Please note: Times are listed with the agenda items to assist attendees joining the meeting virtually and by phone. These times are estimates and subject to change. The SRC may act on any item listed in the agenda.

**Item 11: Reconvene, Welcome, and Introductions (9:00 – 9:05 a.m.)**

Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair

**Item 12: Public Comment (9:05 – 9:10 a.m.)**

Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on issues and concerns not included elsewhere on the agenda. Public comment relating to a specific agenda item will be taken at the end of the applicable agenda item or prior to a vote.

**Item 13: DOR Independent Living & Community Access Division (ILCAD)**

**(9:10 – 10:00 a.m.)**

Ana Acton, Deputy Director, and Megan Sampson, Chief, will provide ILCAD program updates and will have an interactive discussion with SRC members regarding potential opportunities for program collaboration and coordination.

**Item 14: Money Follows the Person, California Community Transitions Project (10:00 – 11:00 a.m.)**

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) representatives George Fleischmann, Nichole Kessel, Marion Rinkel, and Rudy Acosta will provide an overview of the “Money Follows the Person, California Community Transition” program that assists individuals on Medi-Cal to transition from institutional settings to community living. The SRC members and DHCS representatives will have an interactive discussion to potentially identify opportunities for collaboration.

**Break (11:00 – 11:15 a.m.)**

**Item 15: Overview of the DOR Budget Building Process and Program Funding (11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)**

Representatives from DOR’s Budgets, Fiscal Forecasting and Research (BFFR) team will provide the SRC with information on DOR’s budget building process and a high-level overview of funding for DOR’s programs. The information will assist the SRC as they 1) engage in an interactive discussion to identify possible considerations/asks for future DOR budgets, and 2) discuss agenda item 16.

**Lunch (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)**

**Item 16: Future Policy Considerations – Intersection of Retention Plans and Order of Selection (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.)**

As a follow up to the SRC’s June 9, 2022 discussion on this topic, Nancy Wentling, Chief, and Shanti Ezrine, Manager, from DOR Program Policy, along with representatives from the DOR BFFR team will provide information on the following: DOR policies related to job retention; the status of post-employment services; and the Order of Selection and Waitlist process. SRC members will then engage in an interactive discussion regarding the prioritization of job retention services versus new vocational rehabilitation services for consumers. Discussion questions may include: what stakeholders and perspectives need to be considered, what are the possible ramifications, and what policy decisions will need to be made?

**Item 17: Debrief and Recommendations Discussion (2:00 – 2:45 p.m.)**

SRC members will debrief from this meeting’s discussions and potentially adopt recommendations.

**Break (2:45 – 3:00 p.m.)**

**Item 18: SRC Officers, Members, and Executive Officer Reports**

**(3:00 – 3:30 p.m.)**

**Item 19: Annual Election of the SRC Officers (3:30 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Item 20: Identification of Future Agenda Items (3:45 – 4:00 p.m.)**

**\*Adjourn 4:00 p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comment relating to a specific agenda item will be taken at the end of the applicable agenda item or prior to a vote. Public comments on matters not on the agenda are taken at the beginning of the meeting. A speaker will have up to three minutes to make public comments and may not relinquish their time allotment to another speaker. Non-English speakers who utilize translators to make public comment will be allotted no more than six minutes unless they utilize simultaneous translation equipment. The SRC is precluded from discussing matters not on the agenda; however, SRC members may ask questions for clarification purposes.

**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

This meeting notice and agenda and supplemental meeting materials are posted on the [SRC webpage](https://dor.ca.gov/Home/SRC). All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

\*The meeting will adjourn upon completion of the agenda. Interested members of the public may join virtually or use the teleconference line to listen to the meeting and/or provide public comment. The SRC is not responsible for unforeseen technical difficulties that may occur and is not obligated to postpone or delay its meeting in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties with the teleconference line or virtual meeting room.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you require a disability-related accommodation, materials in alternate format or auxiliary aids/services, please call (916) 558-5897 or email SRC@dor.ca.gov five days prior to the meeting.Any requests received after this date will be given consideration, but logistical constraints may not allow for their fulfillment.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, SRC@dor.ca.gov, (916) 558-5897

# Item 3 Detail Sheet and Attachment: Approval of the June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

**Item Type: Action**

The SRC members will review and vote to approve the minutes from the last SRC quarterly meeting.

**Background:**

The SRC met for their quarterly meeting on June 8 – 9, 2022. The meeting minutes highlight the key issues discussed, motions proposed or voted on, and activities to be undertaken.

**Attachment:**

Draft June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes (below)

**California State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**

**June 8 – 9, 2022 Quarterly Meeting**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

Physical meeting location: 721 Capitol Mall, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814

Virtual and telephone participation options offered via Zoom

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

## Attendance

SRC members: Benjamin Aviles, Chanel Brisbane, Elizabeth Lewis, Ivan Guillen, Joe Xavier, Kecia Weller, Lisa Hayes, Nick Wavrin, Sara Abdrabou, Susan Henderson, Theresa Comstock. Absent – Jonathan Hasak.

DOR staff: Mark Erlichman, Carol Asch, Conan Petrie, Russell Schutte, Diane Shinstock, Jessica Grove, Spencer Hoke, Trung Le, Alicia Lucas, Avantika Sharma, Kate Bjerke, Ana Acton, Megan Sampson, Ahmed Yusufu, Barbara Wieskamp, Brenna Lammerding, Cynthia Butler, Daniel Benitez, Della Randolph, Desiree Jackson, Elizabeth Musgrove, Erika Miller, Inez de Ocio, Jeffrey McKey, John Anderson, Kelly Montelongo, Kim Rutledge, Lisa Cushman, Lisa Niegel, Maria Aliferis-Gjerde, Matthew Brown, Peter Dawson, Rachel Mendoza, Regina Cademarti, Shannon Coleman, Shanti Ezrine, Valerie Massey, Zak Ford.

Members of the public: Danny Marquez, Chris Fendrick, Mitch Pomerantz, Yolanda, Lesley Gibbons, Jennifer Gass, Miguel Venegas, Aaron Espinoza, Cheyanne Garcia, Janice Walth, Melanie Wong, Tricia Robertson, Victor Duron, Lisa Rodriguez.

## Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed SRC members and meeting attendees. The SRC members introduced themselves and a quorum was established.

## Item 2: Public Comment

Danny Marquez asked that the SRC consider receiving an update on DOR’s expedited enrollment initiative as a future agenda item

## Item 3: New SRC Member Welcome

The SRC welcomed the following new members who were appointed by Governor Newsom on March 30, 2022:

* Lisa Hayes, representing the State Independent Living Council
* Sara Abdrabou, representing Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors
* Elizabeth Lewis, representing Business, Industry and Labor

The SRC members shared background information and spoke about their professional experience and the networks they represent.

## Item 4: Approval of the March 23–24, 2022 SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Guillen/Henderson) to approve the March 23 – 24, 2022 SRC quarterly meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Henderson, Aviles, Wavrin, Guillen, Lewis) (No – 0) (Abstain – Weller) (Absent for vote – Hasak, Hayes).

## Item 5: Directorate Report

Joe Xavier, DOR Director, joined the SRC to provide a report out on national, state, and departmental topics of interest.

National Updates

Director Xavier spoke about the recent Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) meetings, legislation introduced to reauthorize the Rehabilitation Act, and the national landscape as it relates to VR funding. One in three VR agencies across the US are reverting funds back to the Treasury. Since 2010, $1 billion in VR funds have been reverted. Fortunately, California’s experience is different in that DOR has been able to spend VR funding, meet funding requirements, and pursue additional funding.

State Updates

Director Xavier posed the following policy questions for the SRC’s consideration:

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The California Health and Human Services Agency is assessing what participant data is being collected by the various departments, and what initiatives are taking place to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion. DOR anticipates that the Department will be asked to develop an equity action plan.
	+ How can inequities in DOR’s programs and services be identified, and what methodologies can be used to address these equity gaps?
	+ What communities are unserved and underserved, and how can DOR effectively reach them?
	+ What methods and models should DOR consider to address these inequities?
* Gun Violence: is both a public health and a public safety crisis in California. How can DOR contribute to the strategies and actions that address this crisis? What are examples of those strategies?
* 2023/24 Budget: work is already starting on the 2023/24 budget. The DOR welcomes the SRC’s feedback or suggestions on new funding initiatives for consideration.

Department Updates

Director Xavier reported on the many changes happening at the DOR senior leadership level:

* Departure of Andi Mudryk, DOR Chief Deputy Director, who was appointed by Governor Newsom to serve as a Sacramento County Superior Court Judge.
* Appointment of Kimberly Rutledge, Deputy Director, DOR Legislation and Communications.
* DOR Regional Director appointments: Brian Winic (Santa Barbara), Della Randolph (Greater East Bay), Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia (Northern Sierra) and Sherri Han-Lam (Orange San Gabriel)
* Vacant Deputy Director, DOR Specialized Services Division position.
* Appointment of David Kwan, Deputy Director, DOR Administrative Services.
* Upcoming retirement of Wan-Chun Chang, Regional Director, DOR Van Nuys/Foothill District.

Director Xavier provided updates on the following DOR initiatives:

* Community Living Fund: DOR will establish a $10 million Community Living Fund, a bridge program to provide goods and services not available through other programs to help individuals transition out of institutions and to keep individuals from being institutionalized.
* Demand Side Employment Initiative: will incentivize and provide funding to small and medium employers across California to create workplaces that are more disability inclusive.
* Integrating Employment in Recovery Initiative: DOR staff (VR Counselors and Staff Services Analysts) will work in four opioid treatment centers to provide VR services to individuals in treatment. Funding for this initiative is still pending final signing of the budget, but both the legislature and Governor have indicated support.
* Diversity and Inclusion: DOR is hosting a “Persist with Pride” event and will host the Department’s third Juneteenth event. DOR’s affinity groups include the African American affinity group, Native American affinity group, Middle Eastern affinity group, Asian American affinity group, LGBTQIA affinity group, and the Latin X affinity group.
* Event Highlight: a report out from the May 2022 registered apprenticeship program for the health care sector in the DOR Orange/San Gabriel District was provided.

Member of the public, Yolanda, provided comment about increasing awareness for individuals who are blind, including seniors and people of color throughout the many geographic areas of California.

## Item 6: Update on the BAC Taskforce on Allegations of Sexual Misconduct

Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) members Chris Fendrick and Mitch Pomerantz provided the SRC with background information on the origins of the taskforce, which was formed in response to situations occurring at out of state training centers. The BAC taskforce developed eight recommendations which were submitted to DOR in August 2021. The recommendations included items such as incorporating Title IX into Department policies and procedures, establishing an anonymous hotline, developing a code of conduct for contractors, standards for contractors entering the home of a consumer, requiring digital fingerprinting, using an independent trainer to provide sexual harassment and misconduct training, annually obtaining written policies and procedures from out of state training centers, and suspending future authorizations for out of state training centers that have a documented pattern of unsafe conditions. It was noted that in the DOR’s response, the Department disagrees with the BAC taskforce recommendations four through eight. Mitch Pomerantz reviewed rebuttals to DOR’s responses to recommendations four through eight.

## Item 7: DOR Student Services - Current Outreach and Training Methods

Mark Erlichman, Deputy Director, and Carol Asch, Assistant Deputy Director, from DOR’s VR Employment Division, joined the SRC to provide information on the current outreach methods used by DOR to provide local education agencies and teachers with information and training on DOR student services. The purpose of the discussion was to help inform the draft SRC recommendation under development that proposes to provide training and information to all teachers, administrators, counselors, parents and students about DOR Student Services.

* Data was provided to the SRC on the scale of California’s educational system (example: there are over six million public school students in approximately 10,545 schools).
* Information on DOR’s outreach efforts was provided, which includes letters that are distributed to Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Directors, workforce development boards, organizations providing services to youth.
* Approximately 210 DOR staff are assigned to provide full-time DOR Student Services across California.
* A point of clarification was made that DOR provides outreach, not training, to teachers. DOR’s outreach includes (but is not limited too) connecting with Special Education Coordinators, community organizations, workforce development boards, community transition events, connecting with youth involved in the foster system and justice system, etc., and developing partnerships with schools and nonprofits.
* There was discussion about the benefit of adding more information on DOR Student Services to secondary transition planning resources such as the California Transition Alliance Handbook, California Department of Education (CDE) transition handbook, CDE website, Individualized Education Programs (IEP) templates, and the universal referral form.

## Item 8: VR Connections Update

Conan Petrie, Staff Services Manager III, DOR VR Employment Division, and Russell Schutte, Information Technology Specialist I, DOR Information Technology Services Division, provided an update on the VR Connections Portal, an online platform used by DOR staff, vendors, and consumers to enhance collaboration, business processes and service delivery. Schutte provided data on the portal usage, gave a demonstration of the online request for service feature on the DOR website, and explained how the information is routed and responded to. Schutte spoke about features that are under development, like the ability for consumers to directly submit files to their case records, ability for vendors to submit invoices online, providing a comprehensive welcome guide for consumers, and providing geographic specific information on critical need resources. Sara Abdrabou, SRC member, noted that the portal has improved the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) process.

Public comment: Lesley Gibbons provided feedback on the automated verification of goods and services feature.

## Item 9: Election of the SRC Nominating Committee

Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, reviewed the SRC Nominating Committee timeline and responsibilities, provided information on the annual officer election process, and reviewed the slate of candidates recommended by the SRC Executive Planning Committee on May 23, 2022.

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Henderson/Aviles) to elect the recommended slate of candidates – Theresa Comstock, Chanel Brisbane, Jonathan Hasak, Kecia Weller and Ivan Guillen – to serve on the 2022 SRC Nominating Committee. A roll call vote was taken: (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Henderson, Aviles, Wavrin, Guillen, Lewis), (No – 0), (Absent for vote – Hasak, Hayes, Weller). (Abstain – 0).

The SRC Nominating Committee will convene prior to the August 31 – September 1, 2022 SRC quarterly meeting to recommend a slate of candidates for the annual election of the SRC officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer). In addition to the recommended slate of candidates, the floor will also be open to additional nominations prior to the election.

## Item 10: VR and Local Behavioral Health Agencies Partnerships

Diane Shinstock, Staff Services Manager I, DOR Cooperative Education Programs, Carol Asch, Assistant Deputy Director, DOR VR Employment Division, and Jessica Grove, Deputy Director, DOR VR Policy and Resources Division, joined the SRC for an interactive discussion. The purpose of the discussion was to provide information that may help inform the SRC’s draft recommendation that DOR establish a blueprint for state and local agencies/organizations to expand partnerships between VR and behavioral health agencies. Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, began by providing background information and framing the issue. Diane Shinstock gave an overview of DOR’s cooperative programs that contract with approximately 250 entities throughout California such as high schools, colleges, county welfare departments and county mental health departments. Discussion was held regarding evidence-based practices and the individual placement and support (IPS) model. It was noted that in California there is no overarching entity (i.e., California Department of Mental Health) that oversees all of the county metal health programs, and that this is an important distinction to consider when looking at the Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Blueprint as a possible model when comparing VR and local behavioral health agency partnerships.

Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, reviewed the SRC’s draft recommendation, and the following questions posed by the SRC Executive Planning Committee regarding this topic:

* What are DOR’s current coordination and partnerships with local behavioral health agencies?
* Which case management and evidence-based practices are DOR and local behavioral health agencies using for serving individuals with mental health disabilities?
* Which service provider(s) offer individuals with mental health disabilities with a stabilization period and supports before the individual transitions to receiving vocational rehabilitation training and job placement services?

Discussion highlights included the following:

* There is the need for more discovery and increasing the understanding of the landscape and various workgroups.
* There may be opportunities as the CalAIM program rolls out, which focuses on transforming and strengthening Medi-Cal, increasing the program’s equity, and looking at the social drivers of health.
* DOR is communicating with and learning what other States are doing.
* There is a need to embed employment in behavioral health discussions, along with the need for stabilization support and services prior to employment.
* Mention of DOR’s mental health restoration services.
* Mention of the DOR Inland Empire District’s Pathway to Success program.
* Discussion of the opioid program that will embed DOR staff (SVRC-QRP and Business Specialists) into four treatment centers throughout California. For this initiative, how can success be measured?

## Item 11: Employment Panel

Spencer Hoke, DOR Regional Business Specialist, joined Elizabeth Lewis, SRC Member, for an informal panel discussion on hiring individuals with disabilities and DOR/employer engagement. Discussion highlights included:

* Windmills training offers employers with disability education, reduces stigma, and increases awareness for recruiters and hiring managers about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities
* A helpful support is to assist consumers with understanding their strengths and preparing for interviews.
* The skills needed by employers vary among industries, but many hiring managers across sectors are looking for individuals with computer skills, interpersonal skills, a good attitude, communication skills, a willingness to learn, and an energy and drive to work.
* Partnering with the Workforce Development Boards and sending them job announcements is helpful.
* The role of the DOR Regional Business Specialist is important for building relationships and approaching companies identifying opportunities,
* Job placement circles are helpful in supporting consumers with preparing for interviews and building a network.
* Mention of the State Internship Program.

## Item 12: Adopt-a-Region Reports (part 1 of 2)

SRC members reported out from their recent Adopt-a-Region discussions.

* Santa Barbara: Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, connected with Brian Winic, Regional Director, DOR Santa Barbara District. Challenges include staff vacancies, high cost of living, and commutes. The Santa Barbara District is reducing their office spaces to reduce cost. Successes include referrals, increase in new applications, advancement in consumer training and degrees, the We Can Work Contract, the State Internship Program, and expedited enrollment.
* Redwood Empire: Theresa also connected with David Wayte, Regional Director, DOR Redwood Empire District. Challenges include counselor vacancies and the large geographic area of the district. Successes include expedited enrollment improvements, enrolling Transition Partnership Program students into VR services, and a father/son VR success story.
* Greater Los Angeles: Nick Wavrin, SRC Vice Chair, connected with Maria Turrubiartes, Regional Director, DOR Greater Los Angeles District. GLAD is preparing for their quarterly meeting with the Los Angeles Unified School District.
* Los Angeles South Bay: Benjamin Aviles, SRC Treasurer, connected with Sorath Hangse, District Administrator, DOR Los Angeles South Bay District. Planning efforts are taking place for an all-District training in August 2022. Community partnerships were mentioned. Challenges include technology to support a hybrid workforce, filling vacant positions, and upcoming retirements. Future opportunities include focusing on students with disabilities and collaborating with America’s Job Center of California (AJCCs).
* Inland Empire: Benjamin also connected with Robert Loeun, Regional Director, and Alfonso Jimenez, District Administrator, DOR Inland Empire District. The District is leading the State with successful employment outcomes and is collaborating with many community partners. A challenge in the District is identifying employers that offer competitive, good pay, and also finding American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. Inland Empire hopes to increase supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Self-employment opportunities are increasing in popularity amongst consumers. Inland Empire has a partnership with Hyatt Hotels.

## Recess

The SRC meeting recessed until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

## Item 13: Reconvene, Welcome, and Introductions

Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, welcomed SRC members back for day two of the quarterly meeting and a quorum was established.

## Item 14: Public Comment

Jennifer Gass and Miguel Venegas, members of the public, made public comment about their concerns with a vendor utilized by DOR in the Stockton area that provides services to individuals who are blind. These concerns have been shared with DOR Counselors in Stockton, but Jennifer and Miguel feel that their concerns have not been addressed in an appropriate or timely manner. Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, will submit this public comment to DOR Specialized Services Division leadership.

## Item 15: Career Pathways Grant (Pathways to Success)

Mark Erlichman, Deputy Director, and Trung Le, Assistant Deputy Director, from DOR’s VR Employment Division, provided the SRC with an overview of the Career Pathways Grant. This is a unique service delivery design by assigning, building, and serving statewide caseloads based on the identified goal in the consumer’s Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) rather than geography. Highlights included:

* Activities of this $18.3 million five-year grant are designed to increase competitive integrated employment outcomes, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion, through a unique service delivery design supported by sector-specific teams specializing in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers for individuals with disabilities.
* Online tools are being developed that can help facilitate communication between consumers and DOR staff.
* All the staff (five SVRC-QRPs and three sector specialists) for the sector specific teams have been hired. The sectors include health care, advanced manufacturing, construction and transportation, green energy, information technology, and biotechnology.
* Job seekers will have the opportunity to connect with peers via online cohorts.
* The Pathways to Success program is a National Innovation Grant and will include a detailed evaluation component.
* A goal is to have 200 individuals enrolled by the end of September 2022.
* A focus of the grant is ensuring there is diversity, equity and inclusion in opportunities, and that individuals with a variety of disabilities in underserved populations are participating.
* SRC members engaged in an interactive discussion and asked a range of questions about the Pathways to Success Program.

## Item 16: Unified State Plan Committee Meeting

Ivan Guillen, Chair, SRC Unified State Plan Committee, welcomed Alicia Lucas, Manager, and Avantika Sharma, Analyst, from DOR’s Planning Unit to the meeting. The Planning Unit team provided a brief overview of the State Plan, the 2022 modification, and then reported out on DOR’s progress in meeting the five State Plan goals. The Planning Unit team then presented plans for collecting qualitative data for the current Comprehensive Statewide Assessment and the options for SRC involvement. The SRC had the opportunity to provide their feedback and insight, and their suggestions included the following:

* Contacting the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), a statewide multicultural health advocacy organization, for information on underserved populations.
* The California Department of Aging may be able to provide insight on seniors looking to rejoin the workforce, and this may be a growing underserved population in terms of employment.
* SRC members Sara Abdrabou, Ivan Guillen and Kecia Weller expressed interested in participating on key informant interview panels.
* A survey of counselors to assess knowledge and understanding of the variety of DOR services that are available could be insightful.
* Through the Consumer Satisfaction Survey, data might be available on how consumers are learning about DOR.
* Connecting with college rehabilitation counseling programs may be a good source for key informant interviews.

## Item 17: Selection of Future Meeting Dates

SRC members reviewed scheduling options and selected the following SRC quarterly meeting dates for the 2022/23 federal fiscal year:

* November 30 – December 1, 2022
* March 8 – 9, 2023
* June 7 – 8, 2023
* September 6 – 7, 2023

## Item 18: Intersection of Retention Plans and Order of Selection

Jessica Grove, Deputy Director, DOR Vocational Rehabilitation Policy and Resources Division, joined the SRC to discuss the policy landscape and potential fiscal challenges that VR agencies may have to consider in the future. Jessica explained that this topic is being brought to the SRC as a policy consideration. She noted that California is not currently facing this challenge, however, DOR wishes to start discussions with advisory boards. Background information was provided on VR funding and ramifications if a state is unable to draw down all of their federal VR funds. This can occur for a variety of reasons, like if a state’s VR program is unable to spend the 15 percent set aside for student services, or the state match funding is not available. When a state cannot draw down all of its federal funds, the program must shrink their budget, and there are only a few ways in which this can be done. One way to reduce a budget is through order of selection, which requires a state to decide how they want to handle and prioritize consumer retention services. It is a challenging question, to consider which is higher priority – the consumers whose job can be saved through retention services, or the new consumer who needs VR services to obtain employment. To move forward on this topic and question, the SRC will hold future discussions regarding the prioritization of job retention services versus new VR services for consumers, and discussion questions may include: what stakeholders and perspectives need to be considered, what are the possible ramifications, and what policy decisions will need to be made?

## Item 19: Independent Living Program

## Item 20: Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Ana Acton, Deputy Director, and Megan Sampson, Chief, DOR Independent Living and Community Access Division, along with Lisa Hayes, SRC Member and Chair of the State Independent Living Council (SILC), provided information on the work of California’s Independent Living Centers (ILCs), the SILC, and the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program. Highlights included:

* An overview of the history of the independent living movement, philosophy, core services, and information on the SILC and the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was provided.
* ILCs are community based, nonresidential, cross disability, nonprofit organizations serving individuals of all ages, providing five core services. Primary sources of funding come from the federal Administration for Community Living and from the State of California.
* The SPIL establishes the priorities of the ILCs and is developed by the SILC Chair and Independent Living Center Directors, with public input.
* In California, many State departments provide a variety of different disability and aging services, and this can be complex and challenging for individuals to navigate.
* Information on the Aging and Disability Resource Connection, and the No Wrong Door initiative was provided.
* In California, many State departments provide a variety of different disability and aging services, and this can be complex and challenging for individuals to navigate. A discussion was held about the increasing coordinating between VR, employment services, independent living, and community services in California.
* There are nine centers in California that provide TBI services, with the potential to award up to three additional sites. Services include support and training services designed to maximize independence and the skills for the activities of daily living. Services also include community reintegration, designed to develop, maintain, and maximize independent functioning with the goal of living and participating in the community.
* The DOR TBI Advisory Board membership is 51% TBI survivors, and also includes caregivers, family members, rehabilitation counselors, professors and providers. A focus is ensuring that rural and minority communities are served, as those communities are impacted the most and the least likely to be served. The TBI state plan is also moving the program towards assisting victims or survivors of intimate partner violence and increasing outreach to the homeless population.
* Details on the specific services offered by the nine TBI centers was provided.

## Item 21: Debrief and Recommendations Discussion

SRC members debriefed from the meeting’s discussions and worked on the draft recommendations under consideration.

Contact Name on DOR Goods and Services Authorization Form

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Guillen/Weller) that the suggestion of adding a DOR contact name to the DR 297B Authorization for Vocational Rehabilitation Services form will be submitted as informal feedback by email, via Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, to the appropriate DOR program representatives instead of a formal policy recommendation, as the nature of this suggestion is operational. A roll call vote was taken. (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Henderson, Hayes, Aviles, Wavrin, Weller, Guillen, Lewis), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent for vote – Hasak)

*Addendum*: on June 28, 2022, Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, emailed the following suggestion to DOR program representatives –

Issue: The current authorization form only has the VR counselor name, phone number, and email address. Contractors (vendors and service providers) may have questions about items on the form that the VR counselor cannot answer. The contractors need a direct phone number to DOR staff, such as the service coordinator, to ask questions.

Suggestion: The DOR should ensure the DR 297B Authorization for Vocational Rehabilitation Services form clearly identifies the name(s) and contact information of DOR staff that the contractor (vendor or service provider) can contact with questions about the services or authorization.

DOR Student Services

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Henderson/Weller) to modify the draft recommendation language from “To increase awareness that all students with disabilities, including those without an Individualized Education Plan, are eligible for vocational services, the DOR should partner with local education agencies to *provide training* and information to all teachers, administration, counselors, parents and students” to instead read “…DOR should partner with local education agencies to *increase awareness*…”. Reference will be made in the recommendation to secondary transition resources. Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, and Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, will make final wordsmith edits before this recommendation is submitted to the DOR Directorate. A roll call vote was taken. (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Henderson, Hayes, Aviles, Wavrin, Weller, Guillen, Lewis), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent for vote – Hasak)

*Addendum*: On June 28, 2022, Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, submitted the following finalized recommendation to the DOR Directorate:

Recommendation 2022.2 – Working with Local Education Agencies to Increase Awareness of DOR Services

Issue

Information on DOR services to students with disabilities should be shared with all teachers, not only teachers in Special Education. There are students with disabilities that may not qualify for Special Education, such as those with 504 plans, that could potentially utilize DOR services.

Recommendation

To increase awareness that all students with disabilities, including those without an Individualized Education Program, are eligible for vocational services, the DOR should partner with local education agencies to increase awareness and information to teachers, administration, counselors, parents, and students.

Strategy

Including additional details about DOR Student Services in secondary transition planning handbooks and resources may be an effective strategy to increase awareness. Examples of these resources include the California Transition Alliance Handbook, the Individualized Education Program template, the universal referral form, and the California Department of Education website.

VR and Local Behavioral Health Agency Partnerships

Motion: It was moved/approved (Guillen/Aviles) to update the recommendation to read as follows: “In order to increase and sustain successful employment outcomes for individuals with mental illness, the SRC recommends that DOR consider developing a blueprint that-

1) Identifies barriers, challenges, and successful programs,

2) Identifies the key stakeholders and leaders on the state and local level, and,

3) increases communication, resources and training for agencies and organizations.”

Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, and Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair will make final wordsmith edits before this recommendation is submitted to the DOR Directorate. A roll call vote was taken. (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Henderson, Hayes, Aviles, Wavrin, Weller, Guillen, Lewis), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent for vote – Hasak).

*Addendum*: On June 28, 2022, Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, submitted the following finalized recommendation to the DOR Directorate:

Recommendation 2022.3 – Expanding Partnerships between Vocational Rehabilitation and Behavioral Health Agencies

Issue

Local behavioral health agencies could benefit from a state level partnership model like the Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint. A formalized process (example: local partnership agreements) could help enhance services and increase opportunities for employment for individuals with behavioral health disabilities.

Recommendation

To increase and sustain successful employment outcomes for individuals with mental illness, the SRC recommends that DOR develop a blueprint that:

1. Identifies barriers, challenges, and successful programs;
2. Identifies the key stakeholders and leaders on the state and local level; and,
3. Increases communication, resources and training for agencies and organizations.

**Item 22: Adopt-a-Region Reports, (part 2 of 2)**

San Jose: Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, gave SRC member Jonathan Hasak’s report on his behalf. Challenges for the DOR San Jose District include vacancies and the need for new vendors. A success is the San Jose District’s closure rates.

San Francisco: Chanel Brisbane, SRC member, connected with Theresa Woo, Regional Director, DOR San Francisco District. Challenges include vacancy rates, high cost of living, and loss of contractors. The district is making progress with self-employment cases, the We Can Work Contract, and a focus on serving those who have experienced homelessness and reentry.

Van Nuys/Foothill: Kecia Weller, SRC member, connected with Wan-Chun Chang, Regional Director, DOR Van Nuys/Foothill District. Chang is retiring on June 30, 2022, after working 45 years with DOR. Challenges include transitioning staff to working in the office again, and high counselor caseloads.

Northern Sierra: Elizabeth Lewis, SRC member, connected with Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia, Regional Director, DOR Northern Sierra District. Successes include the districts strong leadership team, knowledge of regulations and policies, and ability to adapt to change. A challenge is vacancies; however, vacancies are typically due to promotions. Another challenge is there are less candidates in the SVRC-QRP candidate pool. Lewis reported out on the district’s local initiatives.

San Diego: Ivan Guillen, SRC member, spoke about his recent opportunity to connect with Peter Blanco, Regional Director, DOR San Diego District, and the team managers. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce a new Disability Rights California (DRC) advocate in San Diego, and the district was encouraged to collaborate and view DRC as a resource.

Greater East Bay: Susan Henderson, SRC member, connected with Della Randolph, Regional Director, DOR Greater East Bay District. A challenge for the district is staff vacancies. Successes include the Summer Steps Program, expedited enrollment, and connecting with youth.

## Item 23: SRC Officers, Members, and Executive Officer Reports

Theresa Comstock, SRC Chair, expressed appreciation for the hybrid in-person/virtual meeting format.

Nick Wavrin, SRC Vice Chair, provided updates from the California Department of Education (CDE). Highlights included information on the Alternative Pathways to High School Diploma initiative, the standardized statewide IEP, Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint, Assembly Bill 2427, and transition planning in elementary schools.

Benjamin Aviles, SRC Treasurer, reported that the SRC budget continues to have less expenditures as there is less member travel due to the availability of a hybrid meeting format. An update was provided on the CalABLE program recently increasing the savings limit.

Susan Henderson, Chair, SRC Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, noted that an update may be available at the next SRC meeting.

Ivan Guillen, Chair, SRC Unified State Plan Committee, reported that the DOR Planning Unit team is working on the Comprehensive Statewide Assessment and other activities mentioned during the presentation that was given. DRC is offering more self-advocacy trainings and tools for clients.

Kecia Weller, SRC member, no report.

Chanel Brisbane, SRC member, reported that Best Buddies is recruiting for Employment Consultants.

Lisa Hayes, SRC member, noted that staffing is a challenge for many Independent Living Centers.

Elizabeth Lewis, SRC member, no report.

Sara Abdrabou, SRC member, spoke about the Rehabilitation Counseling Advisory Board at Cal State University, San Bernardino, and a research study in progress to determine training needs for transition professionals.

Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, reported on SRC recruitment and, the hiring of an Office Assistant, information sharing, and upcoming SRC meetings.

## Item 24: Identification of Future Agenda Items

The following future SRC quarterly meeting agenda items were identified.

* Update on DOR’s transition to the CDSS State Hearing Division.
* Strategies on how VR Counselors can transition potentially eligible case types to VR case types and the need for a universal/seamless process.
* Information on the order of selection and job retention services.
* Presentation from the Department of Health Care Services on the “Money Follows the Person, California Community Transition” program.
* Update on expedited enrollment.
* Update on DOR’s use of Individual Service Providers.
* Information on the consumer reimbursement process, in response to this being a trend in administrative hearings.
* Update on the DOR Consumer Payment card.
* Information on how DOR engages with consumers and stakeholders through social media.

## Adjourn

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Weller/Guillen) to adjourn the June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC quarterly meeting.

# Item 9 Detail Sheet: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Item Type: Information and Discussion**

**Background:**

The August 31, 2022 SRC agenda item on diversity, equity and inclusion is a follow up discussion to the information received during the June 8 – 9, 2022 SRC meeting on efforts by the California Health and Human Services Agency to assess what participant data is being collected by the various departments, and what initiatives are taking place to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion. DOR anticipates that the Department will be asked to develop an equity action plan, and the SRC is asked to consider the following questions:

* How can inequities in DOR’s programs and services be identified, and what methodologies can be used to address these equity gaps?
* What communities are unserved and underserved, and how can DOR effectively reach them?
* What methods and models should DOR consider to address these inequities?

To help inform this agenda item, Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, will review portions of the DOR’s 2020 Comprehensive Statewide Assessment (CSA) results. The CSA is mandated by the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and studies the VR needs of individuals with disabilities in California. The CSA is developed by DOR in partnership with the SRC. The research conducted through the CSA informs DOR’s understanding of its consumers and their service needs and contributes to the goals and priorities of DOR’s State Plan. Specifically, Bjerke will review the following CSA findings and themes results that may inform the diversity, equity and inclusion discussion:

**2020 CSA Findings**

Section III: Individuals with disabilities who are minorities and individuals with disabilities who have been unserved or underserved by the vocational rehabilitation program.

Caseload Findings

* The race/ethnicity represented with the highest percentage for all DOR consumers is Latinx, and the lowest percentage is Pacific Islander. Individuals who identify as Asian also appear to be underserved as DOR consumers. Cultural resistance may influence the number of Asian individuals, as well as other cultures, that seek DOR services. Reluctance to seek help from outside the family can be driven by several major factors, such as a fear of community stigma, and shame and guilt associated with having a disabled family member.
* Although the Asian race/ethnicity group was determined to be underserved when comparing rates by race or ethnicity in the DOR data to rates with a disability represented in the ACS data, Asian consumers had the highest rehabilitation rate for all categories with 33.7% of all closed cases being successful closures. For SFY 2019-20, African American, American Indian, and Multiple appear to be underrepresented with rates lower than the average rate for all race or ethnicities. A portion of the consumers (14.1%) did not report their race or ethnicity.
* White individuals have a 4.2% higher rate of successful case closures when compared to all DOR consumers. Latinx individuals have a 3.0% lower rate of successful case closures when compared to all DOR consumers.
* Asian consumers were represented with the highest percentage for individuals with an ID/DD and Deaf/Hard of Hearing but represented with the lowest percentages for both Physical and Psychiatric disabilities. African Americans were represented with a low percentage for Deaf/Hard of Hearing disabilities.

Key Informant Interview Findings

* The following groups were expressed by key informants as unserved or underserved:
	+ Homeless individuals with disabilities.
	+ Individuals with the dual diagnosis of substance abuse and a behavioral health disability.
	+ Individuals with behavioral health disabilities.
	+ Individuals with ID/DD, including those with the most significant disabilities who may need personal care assistance while on the job.
	+ Non-English-speaking individuals with disabilities.
	+ Youth ages 16-25, in particular those with dual diagnoses of substance abuse and a behavioral health disability.
	+ Formerly incarcerated individuals with disabilities, in particular individuals who are African American.
	+ Justice-involved individuals with behavioral health disabilities.

# Item 10 Detail Sheet: Adopt-a-Region Reports

**Item Type: Information**

During this agenda item, SRC members will report out from their recent Adopt-a-Region discussions.

**Background:**

Through the SRC’s “Adopt-a-Region” program, each SRC member is paired up with a DOR Regional Director (assignments listed in the table below). The goal is for SRC members and Regional Directors to meet once a quarter to build connections and to learn about local issues, activities, and opportunities.

**Adopt-a-Region SRC Member Assignments (updated on July 26, 2022)**

| DOR District/Region | DOR Regional Director | Assigned SRC Member |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Northern Sierra | Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia  | Elizabeth Lewis |
| Greater East Bay | Della Randolph | Susan Henderson |
| San Jose | Sorath Hangse | Jonathan Hasak |
| Santa Barbara | Brian Winic  | Theresa Comstock |
| Inland Empire | Robert Loeun | Benjamin Aviles |
| Van Nuys/Foothill | Wan-Chun Chang retired on July 1st; Robert Loeun is acting.  | Kecia Weller |
| Greater Los Angeles | Maria Turrubiartes | Nicolas Wavrin |
| Los Angeles South Bay | Susan Senior | Benjamin Aviles |
| Redwood Empire | David Wayte  | Theresa Comstock |
| San Joaquin Valley | Shayn Anderson  | Lisa Hayes |
| San Francisco | Theresa Woo | Jonathan Hasak |
| San Diego | Peter Blanco  | Ivan Guillen |
| Orange/San Gabriel | Sherri Han-Lam  | Chanel Brisbane |
| Blind Field Services | Peter Dawson | Sara Abdrabou |

# Item 14 Detail Sheet: Money Follows the Person, California Community Transitions Project – Background Information

**Item Type: Information and Discussion**

**Background:**

During the August 31 – September 1, 2022 SRC meeting, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) representatives George Fleischmann, Nichole Kessel, Marion Rinkel, and Rudy Acosta will provide the SRC with an overview of the “Money Follows the Person, California Community Transition” program that assists individuals on Medi-Cal to transition from institutional settings to community living. The SRC members and DHCS representatives will have an interactive discussion to potentially identify opportunities for collaboration.

For reference, background information on this project is available on the [DHCS website](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/CCT.aspx#:~:text=%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8BConsolidated%20Appropriations%20Act%20of%202021&text=The%20Act%20authorized%20an%20extension,funding%20for%202021%20through%202023.). As of August 22, 2022, the online project overview is as follows:

“On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) into law. The Act authorized an extension of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration (known as California Community Transitions (CCT)) and appropriated additional funding for 2021 through 2023. In response, CCT transitions have been authorized to continue through at least December 31, 2023, and potentially through 2027 if federal grant funding remains available.

The CAA reauthorized funding for the MFP program through federal fiscal year (FY) 2023 and made other statutory changes to the program. In particular, the CAA allows participating states to provide community transition services earlier for an eligible individual's inpatient stay leading to an increased number of MFP-funded transitions to the community, and provides programmatic support to improve MFP performance under technical assistance and evaluation contracts.

In addition, the Act reduces the number of days a person must be in an institution before they become eligible to enroll in the MFP/CCT Demonstration, from 90 to 60 days. The new eligibility criteria began on January 26, 2021.

California Community Transition Project. In January 2007, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) was awarded special federal grant number 1LICMS30149 to implement a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration, known as “California Community Transitions" (CCT).

DHCS works with designated CCT Lead Organizations to identify eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have continuously resided in state-licensed health care facilities for a period of 90 consecutive days or longer. \*Facility stays for short-term rehabilitation services reimbursed by Medicare are not counted toward the 90-day required period.

CCT Lead Organizations employ or contract with transition coordinators who work directly with willing and eligible individuals, support networks, and providers to facilitate and monitor beneficiaries' transitions from facilities to the community settings of their choice. Eligible individuals of all ages with physical and mental disabilities have an opportunity to participate in CCT. Refer to the link below for information on specific CCT Lead Organizations and their service areas.

* [California Community Transitions Lead Organization​s​](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Documents/List-of-CCT-LOs-April2022.pdf)

The MFP Demonstration was amended by section 2403 of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019; the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019; the Sustaining Excellence in Medicaid Act of 2019; the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020; and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

In December 2020, the federal government extended the term of the MFP grant and appropriated additional funding for allocation to state grantees. CCT transition services are currently available through December 31, 2023 and potentially through 2027 if federal grant funding remains available.

DHCS works with designated CCT Lead Organizations to identify eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have continuously resided in state-licensed health care facilities for a period of 60 consecutive days or longer. \*Facility stays for short-term rehabilitation services reimbursed by Medicare are not counted toward the 60-day required period.

CCT Lead Organizations employ or contract with transition coordinators who work directly with willing and eligible individuals, support networks, and providers to facilitate and monitor beneficiaries' transitions from facilities to the community settings of their choice. Eligible individuals of all ages with physical and mental disabilities have an opportunity to participate in CCT. Refer to the following link for information on specific CCT Lead Organizations and their service areas.

Upon transitioning to the community, the transition coordinator follows the participant for 365 days, this is known as the demonstration period. The demonstration period allows participants and transition coordinators to respond to needs that are identified post-transition, CCT participants live in their own homes, apartments, or in approved community care facilities, and receive long-term services and supports included in their individual comprehensive service plans. At the end of the demonstration period, individuals who remain eligible for Medi-Cal continue to receive Medi-Cal and other home and community-based services (HCBS) where they live.

For more information, contact the Integrated Systems of Care Division at (833) 388-4551, or e-mail: California.CommunityTransitions@dhcs.ca.gov”

# Item 17 Detail Sheet: Debrief and Recommendations Discussion

**Item Type: Information, Discussion and Possible Action**

**Background:**

The SRC’s policy recommendations reflect the Council’s efforts to review, analyze and advise DOR on the performance and effectiveness of California’s VR program, a function of the SRC required by federal law. The following topics and questions are examples of prompts that can help generate and facilitate discussions regarding policy recommendations:

* Considerations related to diversity, equity and inclusion, and gun violence (as mentioned in DOR Director Xavier’s June 8, 2022 report to the SRC).

* 2023/24 Budget: If DOR was going to make a budget ask, what should that ask be, and why? Would need to be a new initiative – cannot be a request to do more of the same.
* How can DOR provide coordinated “no wrong door” services to address the whole person whether they enter the systems through the VR or independent living programs?
* How can DOR improve employment services and outcomes for individuals with traumatic brain injuries?
* How can success be defined and measured for individuals participating in the Integrating Employment in Recovery initiative at opioid treatment centers?
* Before developing a new initiative or program what are the core, guiding principles that need to be identified and established?
* If DOR had an opportunity to make a legislative policy change, what would that change be, and why should DOR ask for that change?
* What can the data and trends from the Consumer Satisfaction Survey, administrative hearings and Comprehensive Statewide Assessment tell us about the impact of DOR’s programs and the opportunity to improve service delivery?
* What are some of the core principles that should guide efforts to integrate health and human services programs?
* What systems and policies are outdated and need to be modernized? Or instead, do we need to let go of them?

# Item 19 Detail Sheet: Annual Election of the SRC Officers

**Item Type: Action**

On August 17, 2022, the SRC Nominating Committee (members Theresa Comstock, Chanel Brisbane, Jonathan Hasak, Kecia Weller, and Ivan Guillen) convened. The purpose of this meeting was to recommend a slate of candidates for the upcoming annual SRC officer elections. During the meeting, it was moved/seconded (Weller/Brisbane) to recommend the following slate of candidates for the SRC officer election:

**Slate of Candidates**

Chair: Benjamin Aviles

Vice Chair: Ivan Guillen

Treasurer: Kecia Weller

A roll call vote was taken (Yes – Comstock, Brisbane, Hasak, Weller, Guillen), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent – 0). The motion carried.

The election of SRC Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer will take place during the August 31 – September 1, 2022 SRC quarterly meeting. Member votes will be taken by roll call. At this meeting during which the election is held, and subsequent to the announcement of the slate, the floor shall also be open to nominations.

**Attachments (below):**

* Applicable SRC Bylaw excerpt, Article V Officers
* SRC Membership Roster

## SRC Bylaw Excerpt - Article V Officers

1. The SRC Officers shall be Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, with duties and responsibilities as follows:
2. The Chair shall:
a. Preside as Chair of SRC meetings in order to facilitate discussion, planning and decision making;
b. Select and appoint, from among the SRC membership, Chairs and members of all SRC Committees and taskforces, with the exception of the Nominating Committee; and
c. Coordinate SRC activities and maintain communication with the SRC Executive Officer, DOR leadership and SRC leadership.
3. The Vice-Chair shall:
a. Preside at meetings of the SRC in the absence of the Chair;
b. Assume the Office of Chair if, for any reason, the Chair is unable to complete the term;
c. Serve as SRC Parliamentarian, ensuring that SRC meetings operate in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations and these bylaws; and
d. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Chair.
4. The Treasurer shall:
a. Work together with the SRC Executive Officer to ensure:
 1) Maintenance of accurate and timely financial records
 2) Appropriate development and allocation of SRC budget
 3) Periodic review of SRC expenditures/financial status;

b. Present a financial report to the SRC at each quarterly meeting; and

c. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Chair.

1. Officers' Election and Terms:
2. The election of Officers shall take place during the final full SRC meeting of the federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30).
3. The Officers of the SRC shall be elected by a majority of the voting SRC members. The Nominating Committee's slate of candidates shall be provided to the SRC members at least one week prior to the Election of Officers. At the meeting at which the election is held, and subsequent to the announcement of the slate, the floor shall also be open to nominations.
4. The term of Office shall be for one year, from October 1 - September 30.
5. Officers may serve for no more than two consecutive full terms in any one Office.

##  SRC Membership Roster and Appointment Chart – as of August 22, 2022

| **Member Name** | **Term** | **Appointment Date** | **End****Date** | **Member Type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theresa Comstock | Second | Sep 8 2019 | Sep 7 2022 | Disability Advocacy Group |
| JoeXavier | Third | Sep 8 2019 | Sep 7 2022 | State VR Director (non-voting) |
| Chanel Brisbane | First(Partial Term) | Sep 25 2020 | Sep 7 2022 | Community Rehab Program  |
| Jonathan Hasak | First(Partial Term) | Sep 25 2020 | Sep 7 2022 | Business, Industry, and Labor |
| Susan Henderson | First(Partial Term) | Sep 25 2020 | Sep 7 2022 | Parent Training and Information |
| Lisa Hayes | First(Partial Term) | Mar 30, 2022 | Sep 7, 2022 | State Independent Living Council |
| Benjamin Aviles | Second  | Sep 8 2020 | Sep 7 2023 | Applicant of or Recipient of VR Services |
| Nicholas Wavrin | Second  | Sep 8 2020 | Sep 7 2023 | State Education Agency |
| Kecia Weller | Second  | Sep 8 2020 | Sep 7 2023 | Disability Advocacy Group |
| Ivan Guillen | Second | Oct 11 2021 | Sep 7 2024 | Client Assistant Program |
| Sara Abdrabou | First | Mar 30, 2022 | Sep 7. 2024 | Voc. Rehab Counselor(non-voting) |
| Elizabeth Lewis | First | Mar 30, 2022 | Sep. 7, 2024 | Business, Industry, and Labor |

# Item 20 Detail Sheet: Identification of Future Agenda Items

**Item Type: Information and Discussion**

The SRC members will provide input on future agenda items.

**Background:**

To help plan for upcoming SRC quarterly meetings, below is a list of requested updates, discussions and presentations:

**Items Requested by the Public**

None at this time.

**Items Requested by DOR Staff**

* Unified State Plan Committee: The DOR Planning Unit will provide the SRC Unified State Plan Committee with quarterly updates on the progress of the State Plan goals and objectives (November 2022).
* Monitoring and Evaluation Committee: The DOR Planning Unit will provide the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee with the preliminary results of the most recent Consumer Satisfaction Survey (November 2022).
* Annual Report: Review and approval of the 2021/22 federal fiscal year SRC Annual Report (November 2022).
* ILCAD Standing Item (Ongoing): Request from DOR’s Independent Living and Community Access Division (ILCAD) to have a standing item on the SRC agenda for program overviews, updates, and opportunities for collaboration. This aligns with the SRC’s requirement to coordinate efforts with the State Independent Living Council (SILC).

**Items Requested by SRC Members**

* Updates on DOR Initiatives
	+ Integrating Employment in Recovery (IER) initiative supported by opioid funding.
	+ Demand Side Employment Initiative
	+ VR Connections
	+ Labor Market Sector Specialty Teams
* Recommendations Review: The SRC will review the SRC recommendations adopted from the past five years. Then, the SRC will prioritize which recommendations to revisit and request updates on (November 2022 specific).
* Fair Hearing and Mediation Statistics and Overview of Hearing Summaries: SRC members will learn about the fair hearing and mediation statistics and receive an overview of hearing summaries (Last update received in January 2022).
	+ State Hearing Division: Members will receive an update on DOR’s transition to utilizing the California Department of Social Services, State Hearings Division to conduct fair hearings for DOR consumers. SRC members are interested in learning if this transition has resulted in positive changes, increased engagement and neutrality, and if it is more user friendly for DOR consumers.
* Regulations: Update on efforts to update DOR regulations so they better align with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
	+ DOR Student Services: Members will engage in an interactive discussion with DOR representatives regarding Student Services. Topics will include strategies for seamlessly transitioning potentially eligible case type students to a vocational rehabilitation case type, and how to increase understanding at schools about the various DOR programs (examples: Transition Partnership Programs, Student Services, and the We Can Work program).
* Individual Service Providers (ISP): Members will receive an update on DOR’s use of ISPs. ISPs are independent contractors who assist individuals with disabilities to participate in vocational rehabilitation services and to achieve and maintain an employment outcome. DOR did not discontinue authorizations for ISPs and their services by September 1, 2021, as previously communicated.
* Adult Work Experience: Members will receive an update on the availability of Adult Work Experiences for DOR consumers. Work experiences are intended to be temporary placements to gain experience in the workplace.

# Glossary

| Acronym  | Term |
| --- | --- |
| ACE | Achieving Competitive Employment |
| ACSED | Association of California State Employees with Disabilities |
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| ADRC | Aging and Disability Resource Connection |
| AFN | Access and Functional Needs |
| AJCC | America's Job Center of California |
| ALJ | Administrative Law Judge |
| APSEA | Asian Pacific State Employees Association |
| ASL | American Sign Language |
| AT | Assistive Technology |
| ATAC | Assistive Technology Advisory Committee |
| AWARE | Accessible Web-based Activity Reporting Environment |
| BAC | Blind Advisory Committee |
| BFFR | DOR Budgets, Fiscal Forecasting and Research Section |
| BFS | DOR Blind Field Services |
| CalAIM | ​California Advancing and​ Innovating Medi-Cal |
| CalATSD | CA Assistive Technologies, Services, and Devices Supplier Directory |
| CalHHS | California Health and Human Services Agency |
| CalPIA | California Prison Industry Authority  |
| CalWORKS | CA Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids |
| CAP | Client Assistance Program |
| CaPROMISE | Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income  |
| CARF | Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities |
| CASRA | CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies |
| CCEPD | California Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities |
| CCIR | Career Counseling and Information and Referral Services |
| CCORE | Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity |
| CCR | California Code of Regulations |
| CCT | California Community Transitions Project |
| CDE | California Department of Education |
| CDOR | CA Department of Rehabilitation |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations  |
| CHHS | California Health and Human Services Agency |
| CIE | Competitive Integrated Employment |
| COOP | Cooperative Program |
| CPEHN | California Pan-Ethnic Health Network |
| CRP | Community Rehabilitation Program  |
| CSA | California State Auditor |
| CSA | Comprehensive Statewide Assessment |
| CSAVR | Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation |
| CSA | Comprehensive Statewide Assessment |
| CSS | Consumer Satisfaction Survey |
| CSU | DOR Customer Service Unit |
| CWDB | California Workforce Development Board |
| DA | DOR District Administrator |
| DAC | Disability Advisory Committee |
| DDS | California Department of Developmental Services |
| DHCS | California Department of Health Care Services |
| DHH | Deaf and Hard of Hearing |
| DEI | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  |
| DGS | California Department of General Services |
| DRC | Disability Rights California |
| DOF | CA Department of Finance |
| DOL | US Department of Labor |
| DOR | Department of Rehabilitation |
| DSEI | Demand Side Employment Initiative  |
| DVBE | Veteran Business Enterprise |
| ED | US Education Department |
| EDD | California Employment Development Department |
| EPC | SRC Executive Planning Committee |
| FAST | Functional Assessment Service Team |
| FCCC | Foundation for California Community Colleges |
| FFY | Federal Fiscal Year  |
| FPL | Federal Poverty Level |
| GAO | U.S. Government Accountability Office  |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| GSM | Grant Solicitation Manual  |
| HHS | US Department of Health and Human Services |
| IA | Interagency Agreement |
| IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act |
| IER | Integrated Employment in Recovery Program |
| IEOCC | CA Improving Educational Outcomes of Children in Care |
| IEP | Individualized Education Plan |
| IL | Independent Living |
| IL/ILC | Independent Living/Independent Living Center |
| ILCAD | DOR Independent Living and Community Access Division |
| IPE | Individualized Plan for Employment |
| IPS | Individual Placement and Support |
| ISP | Individual Service Providers  |
| JEDI | Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion |
| LEA | Local Education Agency |
| LEAP | Limited Examination and Appointment Program |
| LGBTQ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer |
| LGP | Loan Guarantee Program |
| LMI | Labor Market Information |
| LMS | Learning Management System  |
| LPA | Leveraged Purchase Agreement |
| LWDB | Local Workforce Development Board |
| MH | Mental Health |
| MHSA | Mental Health Services Act |
| MOE | Maintenance of Effort |
| NCSAB | National Council of State Agencies for the Blind |
| NCSRC | National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils |
| NDEAM | National Disability Employment Awareness Month |
| OAH | Office of Administrative Hearings |
| OAL | Office of Administrative Law |
| OIB | DOR Older Individuals who are Blind  |
| OIB | Older Individuals who are Blind |
| OJT | On the Job Training |
| OOS | Order of Selection  |
| OSDS | Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services |
| OSF | Opioid Settlements Fund |
| Pre-ETS | Pre-Employment Transition Services |
| Project E3 | Educate, Empower, Employ Targeted Communities Project |
| PTIC | Parent Training and Information Center |
| Q&A  | Questions and Answers |
| RA | Reasonable Accommodation |
| RAM | DOR Rehabilitation Administrative Manual |
| RFAs | Request for Applications |
| RFI | Request for Interest |
| RFP | Requests for Proposal  |
| ROI | Return on Investment |
| RSA | Rehabilitation Services Administration |
| RSA 911 | federal Case Service Report for the State VR and Supported Employment Programs  |
| SB | CA Certified Small Business |
| SCM | State Contracting Manual |
| SE | Supported Employment |
| SED | Supported Employment Demonstration  |
| SELPA | Special Education Local Plan Area |
| SFY | State Fiscal Year  |
| SILC | State Independent Living Council |
| SIO | DOR Strategic Initiatives Office |
| SLAA | State Leadership Accountability Act |
| SPS-AT | State Price Schedule for Assistive Technology |
| SRC | State Rehabilitation Council |
| SSDI | Social Security Disability Insurance |
| SSI | Supplemental Security Income |
| SSP | State Supplemental Program  |
| STEPS | Summer Training and Employment Program for Students |
| SIP | State Internship Program |
| SUD | Substance Use Disorders |
| SVRC-QRP | Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor - Qualified Rehabilitation Professional |
| TA | Technical Assistance |
| TANF | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families |
| TAP | Talent Acquisition Portal |
| TBI | Traumatic Brain Injury |
| TPP | Transitional Partnership Program |
| VR | Vocational Rehabilitation |
| VRED | DOR Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Division |
| VRPRD | DOR Vocational Rehabilitation Policy and Resources Division |
| VRSD | Vocational Rehabilitation Services Delivery Team |
| WDS | DOR Workforce Development Section |
| WIOA | Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act |
| WIP | Work Incentives Planning |
| YLF | Youth Leadership Forum |