# Attachment 1: SRC Policy Questions (Updated April 7, 2023)

**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 SRC’s current list of policy questions under consideration are summarized below:

Intersection of Retention Plans and Order of Selection: Per federal regulations, State VR agencies may elect to serve individuals at risk of losing employment outside the order of selection and provide VR services needed for the individual to maintain employment.

* If DOR implements an Order of Selection with closed categories, would DOR support the provision of VR services to individuals who reapply and require services to maintain/retain employment even though the individual would otherwise be assigned to a waiting list?

SRC Recommendation Review: Which SRC recommendations from the past five years should the SRC revisit and request updates on?

Gun Violence: The California Health and Human Services Agency is calling upon Departments, including DOR, to recognize gun violence as a public health and public safety crisis, and for Departments to do more to act on this issue.

* How can DOR contribute to the strategies and actions that address this crisis?
* What are examples of those strategies?

Rehabilitation Administrative Manual (RAM) Chapter 3078.1: Review of DOR’s policy for addressing threatening or harassing behavior by applicants or consumers.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): The California Health and Human Services Agency is leading many initiatives to improve DEI and as a result, DOR will likely 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, and,
* What methods and models should DOR look to and consider to address these inequities?

Independent Living and Traumatic Brain Injury Programs:

* 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 (TBIs)?
* How can TBI be more openly included in discussions, both at DOR and with community-based organizations?
* How can TBI stigma be reduced?

Benefits Planning and Employment:

* How can DOR increase awareness for consumers about available benefits?
* There is a need to include vocational rehabilitation and the benefits of employment when community supports are being discussed. Where and when does employment fit into the conversation?

Student Services:

* What strategies could help DOR double the number of students receiving DOR Student Services?
* How is DOR going to ensure that youth with disabilities leave high school with either 1) a family sustaining wage, or 2) enrolled in VR services?

Budget Change Proposal (BCP) Concepts

* If DOR was going to make a budget ask, what should that ask be, and why? Requests should be new initiatives, not a request to do more of the same. The DEI analysis requirements in Executive Order N-16-22 should be considered when developing BCP concepts.

Legislative Policy Change: If DOR had an opportunity to make a legislative policy change, what would that change be, and why should DOR ask for that change?

Information and Data Analysis: What can the data and trends from the Consumer Satisfaction Survey, fair hearing and mediation decision trends, and Comprehensive Statewide Assessment tell us about the impact of DOR’s programs and the opportunity to improve service delivery?

Program Development

* Before developing a new initiative or program what are the core, guiding principles that need to be identified and established?
* 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?