**California State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**

Executive Planning Committee (EPC) Meeting

Friday, January 20, 2023, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

*Draft Meeting Minutes*

**In Attendance**

Note: all attendees participated virtually by Zoom.

**SRC EPC Members**

Benjamin Aviles, Chair

Ivan Guillen, Vice-Chair and Unified State Plan Committee Chair

Kecia Weller, Treasurer

Susan Henderson, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Chair

**DOR Staff**

Kate Bjerke

**Members of the Public**

Candis Welch

La Trena Robinson

# Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Benjamin Aviles, SRC Chair, welcomed members and attendees to the meeting. A quorum was established. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

# Item 2: Public Comment

There were no public comments.

# Item 3: Approval of the October 5, 2022 EPC Meeting Minutes

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Weller/Henderson) to approve the October 5, 2022 SRC EPC meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was conducted. (Yes – Aviles, Guillen, Henderson, Weller), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0). Motion was approved 4-0-0.

# Item 4: Quarterly Meeting Planning

The EPC members reviewed and prioritized the list of possible agenda items for the March 8 – 9, 2023 SRC quarterly meeting. Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, reviewed the proposed meeting format. A question was raised regarding AB 2449 (Rubio) and teleconferencing requirements. Executive Officer Bjerke explained that AB 2449 applies only to local agencies subject to the Brown Act. The following feedback was given on the proposed agenda items:

Career Pathways

The SRC EPC members agreed this agenda item suggested by Danny Marquez should be prioritized. The following feedback and suggestions were offered:

* DOR is required to help clients advance in their employment and/or support advanced training. Perhaps provide an update on DOR’s Career Pathways initiative and the roles of partnering entities, like San Diego State University.
* Share information on how consumers get involved and what services and supports they receive. Typically, when a consumer gets a job, their VR case is closed.
* Weave in information on adult work experience.

Agenda Items Identified by DOR Staff

Executive Officer Bjerke reviewed the following agenda items suggested by DOR staff:

* Workforce development
* State digital equity plan
* DOR in-service training

There was agreement amongst the EPC members that these three agenda items are of importance and to include them on the March 2023 agenda.

Fair Hearings Decision Summaries

Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report Out

Update on State Hearings Division

It was agreed to have these items on the March 2023 agenda, but to have the CAP report out be its own item.

DOR Initiatives

It was suggested that updates on the CalDOR Payment Card and other new DOR initiatives like the Demand Side Employment Initiative and VR Connections can take place at a future quarterly meeting.

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Susan Henderson, Committee Chair, asked if the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will have Consumer Satisfaction Survey (CSS) data ready to review during the March 2023 quarterly meeting. Executive Officer Bjerke explained that the CSS will not be available in time for the March 2023 quarterly meeting but will be available late in the spring.

Benefits Planning

* The SRC will have benefits planning as an ongoing discussion item and updates will be provided on the progress of the Benefits Planning Cross-Advisory Body Workgroup being led by the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.
* It was noted that the SRC’s policy recommendations should be specific, realistic, and manageable for DOR. The ask is for benefits planning to be provided to consumers at the start of their VR journey, to alleviate fear of losing benefits.

# Item 5: SRC Recommendations

The EPC members reviewed the SRC recommendations from the past five years and the list of the SRC’s current policy questions under consideration.

* Chair Aviles noted that two areas stand out for him: the order of selection/retention services policy question and expanding student services.
* Kecia Weller, SRC Treasurer, identified benefits planning as a priority.
* It was suggested to ask DOR to 1) provide an update on the status of the analysis identified in DOR’s response to recommendation 2021.4 – Work Incentives Planning, and 2) engage in a follow up discussion with the SRC on this topic at a future quarterly meeting.
* It was noted that the scope of the SRC’s benefits planning recommendation should be narrowed down.

Members then discussed next steps for convening an SRC Policy Committee. The following points were discussed:

* The SRC, as a full Council, should keep discussing benefits planning and receive updates on the efforts of the Benefits Planning Cross-Advisory Body Workgroup.
* The SRC Policy Committee should review the policy question and data regarding the order of selection and retention services topic.
* The SRC Policy Committee can review additional resources provided by the UC Davis California Firearm Violence Research Center. It may be helpful to examine DOR’s existing policy on utilizing the California Highway Patrol.
* Questions and interest regarding DOR Student Services seemed to be raised at each SRC quarterly meeting and it may be helpful for the SRC Policy Committee to examine policy questions related to Student Services.
* Executive Officer Bjerke will send an email to the SRC regarding next steps for the Policy Committee.

# Item 6: SRC Officer Reports

Vice-Chair Guillen acknowledged the SRC’s role with adopting recommendations on DOR’s transportation regulations. He mentioned that having the SRC Unified State Plan Committee convene during the SRC quarterly meetings is working for now and it’s helpful for all SRC members to receive the information. The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is helping clients access resources and learn tools so they can engage in self-advocacy.

Treasurer Weller is participating in a podcast and developing curriculum for the youth leadership academy.

# Item 7: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.