# Item 4 Detail Sheet:

# SRC Quarterly Meeting Planning

# Running List of Agenda Items

# Running List of Policy Questions

# SRC Quarterly Meeting Planning

## Background

To inform the August 14, 2023 SRC Executive Planning Committee (EPC) discussion to plan the September 6 – 7, 2023 SRC quarterly meeting agenda, below is a proposed meeting outline followed by a list of possible, additional agenda items and policy questions. *All proposed agenda items/topics and policy questions are for discussion and planning purposes only and should not be considered an invitation, commitment, or notice.*

## Proposed Meeting Structure

Hybrid meeting format with in-person (DOR Central Office Sacramento, Room 301), conference call, and Zoom participation options. The meeting will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day, with a 1 ½ hour lunch break, and 15-minute breaks in the morning and afternoon.

## Day 1 – Wednesday, September 6, 2023

* Item 1: Welcome and Introductions (9:00 – 9:15 a.m.)
* Item 2: Public Comment (9:15 – 9:20 a.m.)
* Item 3: Approval of the June 7 – 8, 2023 SRC Quarterly Meeting Minutes (9:20 – 9:25 a.m.)

* Item 4: Benefits Planning (9:25 – 10:00 a.m.)

Representatives from DOR’s VR Policy and Resources division will present on DOR’s pilot to expand Work Incentives Planning services. An update will be provided on DOR’s response to SRC recommendation 2021.4.

* Break (10:00 – 10:15 a.m.)
* Item 5: Unified State Plan Committee (10:15 – 11:30 a.m.)

The DOR Planning Unit will present the completed analysis and findings from the 2021 – 2023 Comprehensive State Assessment (CSA). Then, using the CSA analysis and finding results, a working session with the DOR Planning Unit and SRC members will take place to draft preliminary recommendations, priorities, and goals for the VR Services Portion of the Unified State Plan that will cover July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2028.

* Lunch 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
* Item 6: Celebration for Outgoing SRC Members: Benjamin, Nick, and Kecia (1:00 – 1:30 p.m.)
* Item 7: Directorate Report (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.)

Joe Xavier, DOR Director, and Victor Duron, DOR Chief Deputy 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 (2:30 – 2:45 p.m.)
* Item 8: American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting (2:45 – 4:00 p.m.)

A cross-division panel of DOR representatives will join the SRC to present an overview of how ASL interpreting services is provided to both DOR staff and consumers. A discussion will be held regarding current issues, barriers, and challenges, and possible solutions.

* Recess (4:00 p.m.)

## Day 2 – Thursday, September 7, 2023

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

Benjamin Aviles, SRC Chair

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

# Item 11: California Department of Education (CDE) Initiatives – Biannual Update (9:10 – 10:00 a.m.)

Nicolas Wavrin, SRC member, will provide update on current CDE initiatives. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss how these initiatives can intersect with vocational rehabilitation services.

# Item 12: Adopt-a-District Report Outs (10:00 – 10:45 a.m.)

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

* Break (10:45 – 11:00 a.m.)

# Item 13: SRC Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

The DOR Planning Unit will join the SRC for continued discussions on the Consumer Satisfaction Survey (CSS). As it relates to the 2022 CSS results, further exploration and understanding of 1) potentially eligible participants reporting “only somewhat satisfied with employment guidance (71.1% score) they received from their counselor”, 2) additional insight regarding the “lack of desired jobs” reported as a reason for unemployment, and 3) data on the average amount of time from when a consumer enters VR to obtaining employment. The SRC and Planning Unit will then discuss survey delivery and administration, including concerns regarding the 2023 CSS response rate and methods to increase survey participation.

# Lunch (12:00 – 1:30 p.m.)

# Item 14: SRC Bylaw Review (1:30 – 1:45 p.m.)

# Item 15: Debrief and Recommendations Discussion (1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

SRC members will debrief from the meeting discussions and potentially develop and/or adopt policy recommendations.

# Break (2:45 – 3:00 p.m.)

# Item 16: SRC Officers, Members, and Executive Officer Reports

* Item 17: Annual Election of the SRC Officers (3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

# Item 18: Future Agenda Items (3:40 – 4:00 p.m.)

# Adjourn 4:00 p.m.

# Running List of Agenda Items (updated 7/17/23)

## Items Requested by the Public

COVID-19: How can DOR prepare for an anticipated influx of individuals seeking services due to disabilities resulting from long COVID-19?

## Items Requested by SRC Members

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.

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.

Self-Employment

Members will receive information on the resources and information available to assist consumers with understanding the DOR process and guidelines to becoming employed in a self-employment setting.

Benefits Planning Cross-Advisory Workgroup

Members will receive updates on the progress of the Benefits Planning Cross-Advisory Workgroup, comprised of representatives from the following advisory bodies: the California Committee of Employment of People with Disabilities, the CalABLE Act Board, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the California Commission on Aging, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the State Rehabilitation Council, and the State Independent Living Council.

California Community Transitions (CCT) Project

Follow up discussion with program staff at the Department of Health Care Services Regarding the CCT project on questions such as:

* How could DOR become an information and referral partner?
* How can VR services and employment be incorporated into the CCT transition plans?
* Contractor Requirements – It would be helpful to understand how VR services could offered, perhaps within "habilitation" services?

Updates on DOR Initiatives

* Integrating Employment in Recovery (IER) initiative supported by opioid funding. How can success be defined and measured for individuals participating in the Integrating Employment in Recovery initiative at opioid treatment centers?
* Demand Side Employment Initiative
* VR Connections
* Labor Market Sector Specialty Teams

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.

DOR In-Service Trainings: as a follow up to the June 7, 2023 presentation on the in-service trainings that are offered to DOR employees, are there any gaps and/or additional training opportunities that should be considered?

## Standing Agenda Items

Coordination with DOR’s Independent Living and Community Access Division

Biannual Updates on California Department of Education Initiatives

* Alternative Pathway to a High School Diploma program
* Standardized Individualized Education Program template (IPE)
* Learning about the new IEP and 504 plans and the intersection with VR services.
* Reporting Requirements – Could it be possible to update reporting requirements to include the provision of VR services and/or a warm hand-off for VR services (when desired)?

SRC Policy Committee Report Out

# Running List of SRC Policy Questions (updated 7/17/23)

## Prioritized by the SRC Policy Committee:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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?

Follow up questions identified by the SRC Policy Committee:

* Updated data sets on what communities are underserved and unserved – especially from a regional perspective. How does DOR staffing impact underserved and unserved communities?
* What is DOR currently doing in terms of marketing and outreach?
* It is great to have all these DEI ideas and initiatives – but who at DOR is ultimately going to implement them?
* Need for DOR’s language policy to align with CalHHS’ updated DEI language access policy.

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?

Note: The benefits planning policy questions will be addressed through the Benefits Planning Cross Advisory Body Workgroup which SRC members Kecia Weller and Benjamin Aviles serve on. Efforts of the workgroup will result in a policy report.

Student Services:

* Follow up discussions based on the information received during the June 8 – 9, 2023 SRC quarterly meeting regarding DOR Student Services and Community Rehabilitation Programs, Local Education Agencies, CA Education Code 45125.1, and clarification on DOR’s Student Service goals.
* New – High school college and career counselors – students with disabilities do not always receive the same guidance and support from high school college and career counselors. What are possible solutions?

## Additional Policy Questions:

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.

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?

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 2022 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?
* New – what procedures might be impacting policy?
* New – DOR is reviewing department controls and policies that may have outlived their use. Consider SRC input before discontinuation.