# Item 4 Detail Sheet: Running List of Agenda Items

# *(updated 10/25/23)*

# Agenda 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?

## Agenda Items Requested by SRC Members

DOR Student Services

**New 9/7/23:** Invite a panel of youth who have received DOR Student Services to come and speak about their experience.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**New 9/7/23**: Update on DOR’s developing of a DEI plan and have a representative from one of DOR’s affinity groups come and speak.

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.

* **New 9/7/23**: It would be helpful to hear directly from an SVRP-QRP regarding their familiarity about benefits planning and if/when they share information about benefits planning with their consumers.

Updates on DOR Initiatives

* **New 9/7/23**: State Internship Program – overview information, update on utilization of the program by DOR and other Departments and job placement.
* 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

Board and Care Facilities

**New 9/7/23**: Explore the concept of running/staffing Board and Care facilities as a self-employment option for DOR consumers.

Executive Orders

**New 9/7/23**: Learn more about, and discuss, the Governor’s Executive Orders regarding the use of artificial intelligence, and the Master Plan on Career Technical Education.

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?

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.

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)?

Annual Review of Fair Hearing and Mediation Decisions

SRC Policy Committee Report Out

# List of SRC Policy Questions (updated 10/25/23)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

*(Identified as a priority by the SRC Policy Committee)*

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?
* 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

*(Identified as a priority by the SRC Policy Committee)*

* 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?
* **New 9/7/23**: Suggestions that the basics of benefits planning could be taught to all SVRC-QRPs who could then provide introductory benefits planning information to their consumers.
* **New 9/7/23**: Suggestion that DOR reconnect/partner with DB 101.
* **New 9/7/23**:Encourage DOR Work Incentives Planners (WIPs) share information about the Independent Living Centers (ILCs).
* **New 9/7/23**:Is there a way to incentivize CRPs to have WIPs on staff?

Student Services:

*(Identified as a priority by the SRC Policy Committee)*

* 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.
* Students with disabilities do not always receive the same guidance and support from high school college and career counselors. What are possible solutions?

Community Engagement: DOR welcomes the SRC’s thinking on: how can CalHHS and its departments do a better job of communicating directly to communities that have been historically marginalized and have a reason to be skeptical or suspicious of government. How to reach communities in a way that’s culturally and linguistically accessible?

Leveraging Programs: A number of initiatives are underway at the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) including: a proposal to renew the managed care organization fee through 2026; 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; additional funding for distressed hospital loans; CalRX – California’s prescription drug program to help create and compete for lower drug prices: additional funding for older adults with behavioral health needs; legislation proposing expanded access to childcare for low income families; and efforts to modernize the behavioral health system including the Mental Health Services Act. Although not directly related to VR, these programs and proposals impact the individuals served by DOR. How can DOR leverage these initiatives happening across systems?

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