**California State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**

**Policy Committee Meeting**

**Monday, April 17, 2023, 1:00 – 2:15 pm**

Meeting Minutes (approved on February 2, 2024)

In Attendance (note – all participants joined via Zoom)

* SRC Policy Committee members: Chanel Brisbane, Jonathan Hasak,

Nick Wavrin, and Kecia Weller

* SRC members: Benjamin Aviles
* DOR staff: Kate Bjerke
* Members of the public: none

# Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

A quorum was established and Kate Bjerke, SRC Executive Officer, called the meeting to order. Bjerke explained that she would facilitate the meeting to help get the committee established, and that a committee chair would be identified later in the meeting during agenda item number four. SRC members introduced themselves.

# Item 2: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

# Item 3: Review and Prioritization of the SRC’s Policy Questions

Bjerke explained that a function of the SRC is to review, analyze, and evaluate DOR on the performance of California’s VR program. The SRC adopts policy recommendations which are submitted to DOR for consideration. Bjerke explained that over the past several quarterly meetings the SRC has received many presentations, data, and engaged in interactive discussions, and a robust list of policy questions has been developed. To help the SRC move forward, the SRC Policy Committee was re-established and will 1) review the list of SRC policy questions, 2) prioritize which policy questions to address first, and 3) identify the information, data, and/or resources needed to start responding to the prioritized policy questions.

Bjerke reviewed the list of policy questions and the committee members provided feedback and asked questions. A member suggested that the policy questions be viewed from the lens of “what will be most impactful for DOR consumers?”

After review and discussion, the Policy Committee reached consensus and agreed to prioritize the following three policy topics/questions:

* DOR Student Services: There are a lot of good recruitment practices right now, post pandemic, for reaching more youth. There are frequent discussions at both the California Department of Education (CDE) and DOR about increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities, and work experience programs have some of the biggest impacts on student readiness for entering the workforce and succeeding. As a next step, it was requested that DOR provide a report out on student services to the full SRC during the June 7 – 8, 2023 quarterly meeting to cover the questions and points below.
  + Request for DOR to provide an update on the January 2023 roll out of having Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) provide student services:
    - How many CRPs are providing DOR student services? What is working well, and what challenges have been encountered?
    - CRD managers have reported that group services are rolling out. How has this been going, and what has been learned so far?
    - Data on the growth/expansion of student services since bringing on the CRPs in January 2023.
    - How are student services being marketed in the different regions throughout California? Is DOR marketing to service providers?
  + How many Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are actively participating with DOR to provide student services?
  + There was a recent addition to the California Education Code 45125.1a requiring entities that contract with an LEA to have those individuals on the contract fingerprinted if they are going to be working with students outside of the direct supervision of LEA staff, and this has had a chilling effect on work experience programs. Can DOR advocate on this issue and/or perhaps bring forth a legislative proposal to amend the law?
  + During the August 31 – September 1, 2022, SRC quarterly meeting, DOR reported the following goals had been established: 1) double the number of students served from 30,000 to 60,000, and 2) focus on ensuring that youth with disabilities leave high school with either a family sustaining wage or are enrolled in VR services.
    - Ensuring that students leave high school with a wage that can support a family is an extremely high bar – can DOR provide an update, explanation, and/or clarification on this goal?

Following the update provided during the June 2023 quarterly meeting, the SRC Policy Committee will reconvene, debrief, and continue discussing and considering the student services policy questions.

* Benefits planning: 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. In addition, it is anticipated that DOR representatives will attend a future SRC quarterly meeting to provide an update on DOR’s response to the 2021 SRC recommendation regarding benefits planning and DOR’s efforts to analyze work incentives planning services. This will be an opportunity for SRC members to ask DOR questions about benefits planning.
* Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI): The SRC Policy Committee will begin working through the DEI policy questions at the next Policy Committee meeting. The following information was requested:
  + 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?

It was confirmed that the role of the SRC Policy Committee is to develop draft policy recommendations for presentation to the full SRC for review, edit and approval/adoption.

# Item 4: Identification of the Policy Committee Chair

Bjerke reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the SRC Policy Committee Chair position. Kecia Weller volunteered to serve as the SRC Policy Committee Chair. Benjamin Aviles, SRC Chair, appointed Weller to the position.

# Item 5: Identification of Future Meeting Dates

The next SRC Policy Committee meeting will take place on Monday, June 26, 2023, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (addendum: the June 26th meeting was cancelled).

# Item 6: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.