**California State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**

**Policy Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024, 10:00** **– 11:30 a.m.**

Location: Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Central Office, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 252, Sacramento, CA 95814

*Meeting Minutes (Approved on July 11, 2024)*

Note: This committee meeting was held in accordance with California Government Code section 11123.5. There may be members of the public body who participated in meeting who were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Attendance:

* SRC Policy Committee members in attendance (by Zoom): Ivan Guillen, Theresa Comstock, Candis Welch.
* SRC Policy Committee members absent: Chanel Brisbane, La Trena Robinson.
* DOR staff in attendance: Kate Bjerke (present at DOR’s Central Office), Zak Ford (by Zoom).
* Members of the public in attendance (by Zoom): Joyce Nagel.

# Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Ivan Guillen, SRC Chair, welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

**Item 2: Public Comment**

None.

# Item 3: Approval of the May 15, 2024 SRC Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved/seconded (Comstock/Welch) to approve the draft May 15, 2024 SRC Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented (Yes – Guillen, Comstock, Welch), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent – Brisbane, Robinson). It was noted that moving forward, public comments should be taken before a vote (instead of afterwards).

**Item 4: Master Plan on Career Education**

Guillen provided an overview of the agenda item, explaining that during the March 14, 2024 and May 15, 2024 SRC Policy Committee meetings, working sessions were held to develop preliminary feedback on the following Master Plan for Career Education core concepts: 1) creating stronger coordination mechanisms, 2) building skills-based pathways, 3) expanding work-based learning, and 4) increasing access to public benefits and career pathways. The focus of the SRC Policy Committee has been on addressing the following questions: What are the barriers for individuals with disabilities to access career pathways, apprenticeships, college, and high-paying jobs? What would make the biggest difference in terms of removing these barriers? As a result of these working sessions, a draft memorandum summarizing the SRC Policy Committee’s input on the Master Plan has been completed, which Bjerke presented -

*Core Concept 1: Create state and regional coordinating bodies that make it easier to access information, funding, and support.*

* *SRC Input: To increase awareness and coordination, it would be beneficial to develop a standard referral policy and process that is consistent throughout the numerous agencies and departments that offer education and training programs.*
* *SRC Input: Existing Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs) could be leveraged, utilized, and expanded when creating regional coordinating bodies. Provide the regional coordinating bodies with guidance, a uniform set of goals, and define the membership composition to ensure diversity and representation. Identify facilitators to lead and manage the development of regional coordinating bodies. Increasing access to benefits planning for individuals with disabilities should be a priority action item for the regional coordinating bodies.*
* *SRC Input: Have the statewide entity that will be responsible for providing information on regional labor markets also provide details on 1) how local job markets have changed, 2) how to increase and access training for current, in-demand jobs, 3) encourage sector-based programs, and 4) identify funding opportunities to support schools and training programs that need to obtain accreditation and/or licensure.*

*Core Concept 3: Create incentives and improve coordination to provide work-based learning opportunities for K12 students and adult learners.*

* *SRC Input: Ensure that employers offering work-based learning opportunities have the information and resources needed to provide reasonable accommodations. Increase access and awareness about reasonable accommodation and disability etiquette training that is available to employers.*
* *SRC Input: When designing work-based learning opportunities, encourage employers and agencies to look to model programs for best practices. These programs include DOR’s Demand Side Employment Initiative, the State of California’s State Internship Program*, the Individual Placement and Support model, and apprenticeships.

The SRC Policy Committee members agreed that the draft accurately summarizes the committee’s feedback. As the Master Plan for Career Education is implemented, the SRC Policy Committee would like to receive updates on progress and developments, including the status of the coordinating bodies and DOR participation. The Master Plan will be submitted in fall 2024.

Public comment: Zak Ford asked why the SRC Policy Committee focused on core concepts one and three, and not two and four. Bjerke explained that the SRC Policy Committee did thoroughly review all four concepts but provided feedback on concepts one and three.

It was moved/seconded (Comstock/Welch) to present the draft memorandum to the full SRC for consideration during the July 17 – 18, 2024 SRC quarterly meeting (Yes – Guillen, Comstock, Welch), (No – 0), (Abstain – 0), (Absent – Brisbane, Robinson).

# Item 5: Future Policy Committee Agenda Items

SRC Policy Committee members agreed upon the following future agenda items:

* Maintenance support for DOR consumers – what short-term living expenses and supports can, and cannot, be provided.
* Update on the SRC’s feedback regarding the DOR consumer application.
* Understanding CARF accreditation requirements – what are the regulations and policies, why DOR values accreditation, and how does accreditation benefit consumers. It was suggested to make network partners Jan Johnson-Tyler and Danny Marquez aware of this agenda item.

# Item 6: Adjourn

It was moved/seconded (Comstock/Welch) to adjourn the June 13, 2024 SRC Policy Committee meeting.