**SRC-DVR[[1]](#footnote-1) Minutes**

**Date & Time:** January 25th 2021, 1pm – 3pm

**Location:** Department Of Labor, 45 Commerce Dr., Augusta Maine, Francis Perkins Room

**Attendance Key: P = Present, E = Absent (Excused), A = Absent (Unexcused), TEL = Telephone**

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| **Council Members[[2]](#footnote-2)** | | | | | |
| **P** | Kelly Osborn, *Chair* | **P** | Mary Adley |  |  |
| **P** | Jodie Hall, *Vice Chair* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Cheryl Peabody, *Treas* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Libby Stone-Sterling\* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Suzanne Primiano\* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Josh Howe |  |  |  |  |

**Guests:** Foxfire Buck, Peaches Bass, Nicholas Alexander, Julia Endicott, Wes Uhlman

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** March 15th 2021 **Minutes Approved: YES**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | Meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm. Members and guests were welcomed. Introductions were given. | NA | NA |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes** | The November 2020 draft minutes were discussed, and corrections were identified.  **A motion** was made to accept the minutes as corrected.  The **motion was seconded** and then **passed with all in favor**. | *Correct November draft minutes and send to webmaster.*  *Create draft January 2021 minutes and send to Kelly & Cheryl.*  *Distribute draft January minutes to SRC members.* | Branden Densmore  Branden Densmore  Kelly Osborn |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director Report** | *Peer Mentoring*: Moving forward this month with peer mentoring initiative in western Maine. They have two providers who want to provide the service, which will be offered to clients ages 14-21, and will be aimed at both employment and post-secondary education.  Those interested in being a peer mentor will have to do a certification process which includes a background check. Working closely with the University of Maine in Orono.  *Diversity*: LGBTQ workgroup looking at VR[[3]](#footnote-3) practices and policies to offer suggestions, and also looking at it from racial and tribal perspectives.  Examining how to create a welcoming and inclusive environment, and looking at hiring practices to attract diverse employees from multiple backgrounds.  *State Plan*: Anticipating posting the draft revision of the State Plan this week, for the Order Of Selection. The hope is to move from 3 to 4 categories, and to meet the federal guidelines without disrupting those who have already been found eligible for services. | *Send State Plan (Order Of Selection) revision via email to Kelly Osborn.* | Libby Stone-Sterling |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director Report** | *Youth Advisory:* Not moving forward with anything physical because of COVID. They attempted to bring folks together online, but it was not very successful. Hoping to be able to meet in person over the summer.  *Apprenticeship:* Working to make sure clients have more opportunities. Cooperating with Maine Apprenticeship to build capacity within VR, making sure that people with disabilities are considered.  There is currently a chance to receive innovation funding which they will hear more about this week. Discussing how to use apprenticeship to build solid career pathways for those with disabilities.  *Survey:* Market Decisions finished collecting responses for the client survey. They will be presenting the results to the council before next meeting.  *University:* Research project happening with University of Maine about social skills called PEERS. This will be piloted via. Zoom, and will help people on the autism spectrum. The first pilot program is 16 weeks and for ages 14 -19, but they just put in a request to include 20 - 24 year olds. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director Report** | *Staff:* Application rates are at half what they would be without COVID. There are numerous vacancies, and VR has struggled to get positions posted, qualified applicants, and to keep staff who have received other opportunities. While this has been a challenge, it has helped the overall funding/budget because costs are down due to lower personnel costs.  Been working with VR counselors to change their performance indicators. Have generating some measures which will help support the work being done in the field. These should take effect in March. | *Send info about potential VR counselor applicants to* *Libby Stone-Sterling for consideration.* | Any Member |
| **DRM/CAP[[4]](#footnote-4) Update** | Forming a DRM team to look at Employment First. Looking at offering trainings to organizations, and conducting community outreach, about what Employment First services are. | *For a training about Employment First or CAP, reach out to Foxfire Buck.* | Any Member |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | VR worked with a client with anxiety and depression, as well as back pain. He had a career moving boxes for beverage industry, and could no longer do hard physical labor. VR helped him explore his options (…) | *Gather more How VR Helped Someone Stories.* | Any DVR Staff Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | (…) They worked jointly in researching the labor market and exploring possible options. His dream was to be a truck driver, and they looked into trucking jobs, which was a long and involved process.  This client is now training on Zoom to get his class A license. Furthermore, this client was not good with computers, and he has been making progress in using them, which is terrific considering that computer skills are needed for this new trucking career pathway. | *Gather more How VR Helped Someone Stories.* | Any DVR Staff Member |
| **New Business** | *Committees:* The membership committee meet to discuss outreach efforts. Discussed what they have been doing to attract new members, and how those activities have not been translating to increasing membership.  They generated a list of agencies they can contact for recruitment purposes, and are developing a new brochure about what the SRC is, and why one might want to join. | *Reach out to other committees to see how they are doing.*  *Contact Executive Committee members to set up a meeting.*  *Send out new SRC draft brochure to members.* | Kelly Osborn  Kelly Osborn  Kelly Osborn |
| **Announcements** | Cheryl finished the 2020 Annual Report, which can be found on the SRC website. Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance. (…) | *Contact Cheryl to receive Honorarium.* | Any Member Not Compensated |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Announcements** | (…) The next Council meeting will be on March 15th 2021 via. Zoom.  The new DVR Consumer Handbook is now available on maine.gov. | NONE | NONE |
| **Public Comments** | Cheryl Peabody was thanked for all the work she has done for the council by multiple members. | NONE | NONE |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

**Cheryl Peabody – Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**Jodie Hall – Maine Parent Federation (MPF)**

**Josh Howe – State Workforce Board**

**Libby Stone-Sterling – Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

**Mary Adley – Department Of Education (DOE)**

**Kelly Osborn – Goodwill Industries**

**Suzanne Primiano – Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

**Wes Uhlman – Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

**Foxfire Buck – Disability Rights Maine (DRM), Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

1. State Rehabilitation Council, Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \*Indicates an Ex Officio non-voting member. See last page for list of organizations represented. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Vocational Rehabilitation [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Disability Rights Maine & Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-4)