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

**Date & Time:** September 18th 2022, 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)** | | | | | |
| **E** | Kelly Osborn, *Chair* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Cheryl Peabody, *Treas* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Libby Stone-Sterling\* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Mary Adley |  |  |  |  |
| **E** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |
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**Guests:** Julia Endicott, Patricia Ngara, Peaches Bass, Heidi Holst, Allison Wiest, Sadie Donnell, Ken Shapiro, Isaac Gingers, Wes Uhlman, Tammy Taylor

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** October 17th 2022 **Minutes Approved: YES**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | Meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm. Members/guests were welcomed, and introductions were provided. | NA | NA |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes** | The council **accepted the July 2022 minutes** with corrections**.** | *Create September 2022 draft minutes and send to Kelly & Cheryl.*  *Distribute September 2022 draft minutes to SRC-DVR members for review.*  *Send approved July meeting minutes to webmaster for posting.* | Branden Densmore  Kelly Osborn  Branden Densmore |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Budget** | Council discussed the SRC-DVR Proposed budget for 2023.  **A quorum could not be established** so the approval of the budget was **tabled** for next business meeting. | *Review proposed budget and vote on its approval next business meeting.* | SRC-DVR Voting Members |
| **CAP[[3]](#footnote-3) Update** | Ken Shapiro was hired to take over CAP functions. He was introduced to council members.  Disability Rights Maine (DRM) held a successful training about Transition with 300 virtual attendees. They are currently turning this training into a video that will be posted soon.  CAP continues to hear from clients who can’t access Job Coaching Services. There have also been lapses in communication which raises the frustration level. | NONE | NONE |
| **How VR[[4]](#footnote-4) Helped Someone** | A man with seizures was demoralized when thinking about work because of the unpredictability of his disorder.  VR helped him find a job working with dogs for an employer who also suffers from seizures. His whole attitude and outlook shifted about work, and he found a new passion working with animals. | *Gather more How VR Helped Someone stories.* | Any VR Staff Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Directors Report** | **Re-allotment**: VR was approved to receive 1.4 million re-allotment dollars, money that other VR State agencies couldn’t spend. They are now looking at how to spend the money. An idea proposed was to open the categories 3 & 4 waitlist through hiring additional staff.  **Staffing**: DVR continues to work to fill a number of significant vacancies across the state in a very competitive labor market.  They were excited to hire a new data analyst who can generate useful data reports which will be shared with the council.  VR also recently filled their Navigator position to help with the Maine Apprenticeship Program, and a Rehabilitation Counselor 1 position in Presque Isle  **Summer Programs**: Wrapping up a busy summer of VR programs.  They just delivered a PowerPoint presentation for VR stakeholders, and attended a Transition Summit last month, talking about best practices, available resources, networking, etc. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Directors Report** | **LD 924:** Libby represented the Department Of Labor on the LD 924 taskforce. The group looked at services, connection vs. disconnection, etc. A report will be coming out soon.  **October**: This is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. They have set up multiple events, and are sharing information.  **Pandemic**: It was announced by president Biden that COVID-19 is no longer a pandemic, so we are entering a post-pandemic world. VR is increasing their work out in the field, but keeping the flexibility of doing some remote work.  **Monitoring:** The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has followed up on their monitoring visit back in 2017. They had never finished their Corrective Action Plan, and VR just received it. They are to hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss, and more information will be coming to the council about this in October. | *Share LD 924 report with council members.* | Libby Stone-Sterling |
| **Announcements** | The SRC Annual Training is happening on October 17th and 18th in the Francis Perkins Room at the Department Of Labor: 45 Commerce Dr. Augusta. People may attend in person or virtually. | *Send out Annual Training Agenda & Logistical info.* | Cheryl Peabody |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Announcements** | Elections for SRC Officers will happen during the Annual Training, and there was a need for a nomination chair.  Alison Wiest quickly and enthusiastically volunteered for the position.  BRS Stakeholders Forums happening to learn about programs being offered. Also an opportunity to give feedback on services. ASL and CART will be available. Tuesdays from 3- 4 pm. June 7, August 2, October 4 and December 6.  Still looking for individuals with disabilities to join the SRC.  Peaches Bass is retiring! We all appreciate her hard work and wished her a well-deserved congratulations!!!  Discussed changing SRC-DVR meeting dates to either the 2nd or 4th Monday of the month because of holiday conflicts. The group consensus was to move SRC meetings to the 2nd Monday of the odd numbered months. The next regular meeting will be November 14th.  Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance. | *Email Cheryl names of potential SRC members.*  *Contact Cheryl to receive Honorarium.* | Any Member  Any Member Not Compensated |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Public Comments** | Time was provided for public comment.  Sadie Donnell expressed her desire to become an official SRC-DVR member. | *Reach out to Sadie so she can apply for membership.* | Cheryl Peabody |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

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

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

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

**Kelly Osborn – Goodwill Industries**

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

**Julia Endicott – Disability Rights Maine (DRM), Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

**Allison Wiest – Maine Parent Federation (MPF)**

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. CAP 🡪 Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. VR 🡪 Vocational Rehabilitation [↑](#footnote-ref-4)