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

**Date & Time:** January 9th 2023, 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** | Cheryl Peabody, *Chair* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Kelly Osborn, *Vice/Treas* |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Libby Stone-Sterling\* |  |  |  |  |
| **E** | Mary Adley |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |
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**Guests:** Jennifer Kimble, Samantha Fenderson, Amanda Favreau, Chris Montagna, Allison Wiest, Ken Shapiro, Isaac Gingras, Sadie Donnell, & Julia Endicott.

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** March 13th 2023 **Minutes Approved: YES!**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | Meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm. Members/guests were welcomed, and introductions were provided. | NA | NA |
| **Director’s Report** | **Staff**: Sierra Wood Hickey has been promoted to Casework Supervisor in Augusta. Many RCI[[3]](#footnote-3) and RCII positions around the state are currently open due to resignations, retirements, and a tight labor market.  **Graduate Studies**: DVR will be sponsoring RCIIs to complete the USM Certificate of Graduate Studies. | *Speak with Libby about SRC writing letter to Governor’s Office about increasing salaries.* | Samantha Fenderson |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | The program contains foundational courses to rehabilitation counseling work, granting the Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community certification.  **Intake Unit:** Moving to roll out an intake unit, responsible for conducting intakes, determining eligibility and developing initial plans.  Libby, Sam, and Acting Special Projects Team Leader Sue Primiano are finalizing the process.  Three positions will post shortly (2 RCIs and 1 RCII) to kick off the unit. These will be statewide primarily remote positions.  **RSA[[4]](#footnote-4) Corrective Plan:** VR has identified a uniquely qualified individual to address the fiscal and forensic accounting tasks related to the findings of the CAP, entering into a contract soon.  While this will be a very expensive endeavor – costs are coming under projections. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **Budget**: State budget process is underway. It’s not yet known what will be funded. DVR has requested funding to eliminate the waitlist using two limited period Rehabilitation Assistant positions. They would conduct outreach to both those on the waitlist and those from underserved communities.  **CRP[[5]](#footnote-5) Meeting**: On January 24th VR will host interested provider stakeholders from 1 -2 pm to receive feedback for next steps in the competitive procurement process for community employment support services for VR clients. | NONE | NONE |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes & Financial Report** | Council **reviewed and accepted the November 2022 minutes as written.**  Council reviewed the SRC-DVR financial report. No comments or suggestions were made. | *Create January 2023 draft minutes and send to Kelly & Cheryl.*  *Distribute January 2023 draft minutes to members for review.*  *Send approved November 2022 minutes to webmaster for posting.* | Branden Densmore  Cheryl Peabody  Branden Densmore |
| **How VR[[6]](#footnote-6) Helped Someone** | A client applied with a transition counselor in high school.  Worked entry position at TJMAX, and then reapplied 2 years ago. | *Gather more How VR Helped Someone stories.* | Any VR Staff Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | Client had endured a lot of family trauma growing up, receiving counseling in high school but stopped.  VR helped him get more counseling, did vocational assessments, and he took trial course at KVCC[[7]](#footnote-7) which he finished.  Client ended up getting pulled over and charged with OUI a year later. Charges were dropped, and he got a job at hospital around drug addiction. Also was accepted to USM. | NONE | NONE |
| **CAP[[8]](#footnote-8) Update** | Reported there are gaps in communication for VR clients. Trying to find creative ways to communicate with clients in their preferred method. | NONE | NONE |
| **Membership** | In depth discussion about SRC-DVR membership. The question was posed: *how can we get people interested?*   * Help them see they are making a difference * Make meeting more digestible * Involve in committee work * Physically go to meetings where people with disabilities might be | *Spread word that SRC-DVR is looking for members with disabilities.*  *Create list of affiliated organizations and send to Cheryl for outreach purposes.*  *Compile organization list, contact, and invite people.* | Meeting Attendees  Meeting Attendees  Cheryl Peabody |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Membership** | * Make meeting times later * Create list of organizations for outreach purposes * Give examples of what SRC accomplished * Go on meet & greets * Make meetings fun by playing ice breaker games * Have DVR reach out to successful clients   Energetic conversation with many ideas. | *Update PowerPoint presentation about SRC for community presentation.*  *Ask Libby to add information about SRC in regular letters sent by VR.* | TBA  Samantha Fenderson |
| **Announcements** | Cheryl reached out to Governor’s Office Of Boards/Commissions but hasn’t heard back yet.  Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.  DRM[[9]](#footnote-9) Health Equity focus group held virtually on 18th. | *Reach out to Office Of Boards/Commissions again to follow up.*  *Contact Cheryl to receive Honorarium.* | Cheryl Peabody  Any Member Not Compensated |
| **Public Comments** | Time was provided for public comment but none were forthcoming. | NONE | NONE |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

**SRC-DVR Council Members:**

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

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

**Darcy Gentle – Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

**Kelly Osborn – Goodwill Industries NNE**

**Members Of The Public:**

**Sadie Donnell – Disability Advocate**

**Ken Shapiro – Disability Rights Maine (DRM)**

**Isaac Gingras – State Workforce Board**

**Jennifer Kimble – Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Maine Health**

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

**Julia Endicott – Disability Rights Maine (DRM)**

1. SRC-DVR 🡪 State Rehabilitation Council, Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \*Indicates an Ex Officio non-voting member. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. RC 🡪 Rehabilitation Counselor. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RSA 🡪 Rehabilitation Services Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. CRP 🡪 Community Rehabilitation Provider [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. VR 🡪 Vocational Rehabilitation [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. KVCC 🡪 Kennebec Valley Community Collage [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. CAP 🡪 Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. DRM 🡪 Disability Rights Maine [↑](#footnote-ref-9)