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

**Date & Time:** November 13th 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** | Kelly Osborn, *Vice/Treas* | **P** | Jennifer Kimble |  |  |
| **P** | Issac Gingras\* | **P** | Patty Ngara |  |  |
| **P** | Libby Stone-Sterling\* |  |  |  |  |
| **E** | Mary Adley |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Allison Wiest |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Sierra Wood |  |  |  |  |

**Guests**: Sadie Donnell, Julia Endicott, Janet DiBiase, Holly Gomez, & Megan Marquis.

**Scribe:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** January 8th 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 |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | Young man worked job at Sam’s Club, placed there by Goodwill. Wasn’t going well – ended up getting fired for “safety” reasons.  Meet with a Career Advisor and started getting other opportunities. He is an extrovert and impressed potential employers.  Took a job at the Gardiner Service Plaza and is closing with Goodwill soon. | *Collect other How VR Helped Someone Stories.* | Any Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | He found strong natural supports at his new job, and came to understand the difference between paid and natural supports. Now he knows what he wants out of a work culture. | NONE | NONE |
| **Director’s Report** | **Joint Training:** Looking at ways to present information to get feedback from SRC-DVR members.  **Lewiston:** The mass shooting in Lewiston has been effecting the deaf community and counselors they work with. Plus the holidays are hard for many, and events in Lewiston make it worse. People are unsettled, so looking at best ways to give support.  **P2P[[3]](#footnote-3) Grant**: Heard back from RSA**[[4]](#footnote-4)** that they received the 5 year grant worth 7.6 million dollars.  Had first meeting in October with partners like Department Of Education, Alpha One, et el.  Grant is for providing and improving transition services, and starts with 10 year old students which is younger than normal. | *Think about what data would be helpful to the council and email Libby.*  *Create detailed presentation for council about the P2P grant.* | All Members  Kelly & Libby |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **State Plan:** Starting to have meetings about the State Plan. The plan includes a VR portion, and they need feedback from council members.  Staff are meeting this afternoon to look at goals and strategies.  **Staff:** North Area manager moving to central office into new role, so they need to fill that position.  New case work supervisor hired in Lewiston. Hired a Statewide Trainer for staff as well, and they are developing new trainings currently.  There are a number of VR counselor positions open.  **Intake Unit***:* New unit has been a tremendous success in helping VR meet federal guidelines for Time To Plan and Time To Eligibility. VR heard back from RSA that they are in compliance now.  **RSA Corrective Plan:** Forensic Accountant finished laborious task, going through all transaction – 2017 to present. Submitted findings to RSA. VR has new internal controls in place and a new fiscal handbook. | *Check out the VR portion of the State Plan* [*HERE*](https://www.maine.gov/rehab/docs/2022/dvr/2023_VRPortion_draftclean_022522.docx)*.*  *Message Libby or Isaac with any questions, concerns, or recommendations.*  *Check out the following link for posted job opportunities:* [*HERE*](https://www.maine.gov/bhr/state-jobs)  *Contact Sue Primiano to present to SRC about the Intake Unit.* | Any Member  Any Member  Any Member  Libby Stone-Sterling |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **CAP[[5]](#footnote-5) Update** | No new problematic trends reported. However, staff turnover continues to be an issue.  Megan Marquis was introduced – she is the new contact person for the CAP.  New Assistive Technology & Social Security Advocacy videos are up on the DRM[[6]](#footnote-6) website. | *Visit* [*drme.org*](https://drme.org/) *for more information on attending the reception.* | Any Member |
| **Election Of Officers** | The time for electing officers has arrived.  Cheryl stepped down as chair.  Will return to this next meeting. | *Send out email about the nomination process to council members.*  *Send any nominations to Kelly Osborn.* | Kelly Osborn  Members |
| **Work Plan** | Next meeting there will be a detailed discussion about creating a work plan around the VR portion of the State Plan.  It was noted that this is an important part of the “Y” of the SRC. | *To review the current State Plan use the following link* [*HERE*](https://www.maine.gov/swb/reports/state_plan/2020-2023_state_plan/index.shtml)*.* | Members |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes** | Council reviewed the September 2023 minutes.  One correction was identified. *A motion was made* *and seconded* to approve the minutes. | *Send corrected September 2023 minutes to Webmaster for posting.*  *Create draft November minutes and send to Kelly Osborn.* | Branden Densmore  Branden Densmore |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes** | *The motion carried* with 5 in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 opposed. | *Distribute November 2023 draft minutes to members for review.* | Kelly Osborn |
| **Announcements** | Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.  The next SRC-DVR meeting will be on January 8th 2024. | *Contact Kelly to receive Honorarium.*  *For the coming new year, think about what guest speakers, topics, and data the council wants, and discuss next meeting.* | Any Member Not Compensated  All Members |
| **Public Comments** | Time was provided for public comment. None given. | NONE | NONE |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

**SRC-DVR Council Members:**

**Kelly Osborn – Goodwill Industries**

**Libby Stone-Sterling – Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Isaac Gingras – State Workforce Board**

**Allison Wiest – Maine Parent Federation**

**Patty Ngara – Disability Advocate**

**Darcy Gentle – Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

**Mary Adley - Department of Education**

**Sierra Wood – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**

**Jennifer Kimble – Community Rehabilitation Provider**

**Members Of The Public:**

**Sadie Donnell – Disability Advocate**

**Julia Endicott – Disability Rights Maine**

**Megan Marquis – Disability Rights Maine**

**Janet DiBiase – Disability Advocate**

**Holly Gomez**

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. P2P 🡪 Pathway To Partnership [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RSA 🡪 Rehabilitation Services Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. CAP 🡪 Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. DRM 🡪 Disability Rights Maine [↑](#footnote-ref-6)