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

**Date & Time:** September 11th 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* | **E** | Jennifer Kimble |  |  |
| **P** | Kelly Osborn, *Vice/Treas* | **E** | Patty Ngara |  |  |
| **P** | Libby Stone-Sterling\* | **E** | Issac Gingras\* |  |  |
| **E** | Mary Adley |  |  |  |  |
| **E** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Allison Wiest |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | Sierra Wood |  |  |  |  |

**Guests**: Sadie Donnell, Railey Guthrie, and Julia Endicott

**Scribe:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** October TBA **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.  The follow people received governor approval and became full SRC-DVR members:   * Sierra Wood * Alison Wiest * Jennifer Kimble * Patty Ngara * Issac Gingras | NA | NA |
| **Guest Speaker** | Railey Gutherie presented to the council about what she does as a State Accessibility Coordinator. | *Contact Railey with questions: 207-592-2057 & railey.b.gutherie@maine.gov.* | Any Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **Reallotment:** Applied and notified that Maine VR will receive an extra one million dollars, which must be spent on VR services.  **P2P[[3]](#footnote-3) Grant**: Submitted application through RSA for 5 year grant worth 7.6 million, left over unspent VR dollars.  Expecting to hear back by the end of September.  **RSA[[4]](#footnote-4) Corrective Plan:** Still expecting to finish the forensic accounting project by the end of September. Made some small adjustments, and more info to come once finished. Putting some updated internal controls in place.  **Recruitment**: DVR has a number of positions that are posted as well as upcoming openings.  Lost Secretary Associate; interviewed but hired no-one yet. Position has been reposted.  Also lost two rehabilitation consultants, and they have a number of VR councilor positions posted as well. | *Checkout the following link for posted job opportunities:* [*HERE*](https://www.maine.gov/bhr/state-jobs) | Any Interested Party |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **October:** This is national disability employment awareness month, and there will be a calendar sent out with a list of all the events happening. Also expecting a proclamation from the president and governor.  **SUFU[[5]](#footnote-5):** Attending SUFU conference this year. Will have an information table to let community know about VR services.  **Progressive Employment**: Been using since 2014 and they just completed a fidelity review. Will be receiving feedback and will share with council.  **Intake Unit***:* Has gone very well. VR is adding additional position to expand the unit because of the success.  **VRS[[6]](#footnote-6)***:* Starting in October. These are all virtual and anyone may attend. One per month, statewide. Will be on Career Center calendars.  **RFP[[7]](#footnote-7)**: Put out to community providers. Goodwill and Living Innovations were awarded. | *Send out October activity schedule to council members.* | Libby Stone-Sterling |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **RSA[[8]](#footnote-8)**: Launching new dashboard currently which will provide some new quality data. Real time information. | *Ask Libby for specific data reports as needed for committee work.* | Council Members |
| **Acceptance Of Minutes** | Council reviewed the July 2023 minutes.  No corrections identified, so the July minutes were accepted as distributed. | *Send July 2023 minutes to Webmaster for posting.*  *Create draft September minutes minutes and send to Cheryl Peabody.*  *Distribute September 2023 draft minutes to members for review.* | Branden Densmore  Branden Densmore  Cheryl Peabody |
| **Financial Reports** | Discussion of the financial report was tabled for next meeting. | NONE | NONE |
| **CAP[[9]](#footnote-9) Update** | No new problematic trends.  *Success story* conveyed about long term client, many issues with past VR councilors, mostly due to communication problems and staff turnover.  Had a productive conversation and were about to resolve the issue.  Ken no longer at DRM, and Julia is filling in as needed.  DRM appetizer reception being held on October 12th. | Visit [drme.org](https://drme.org/) for more information on attending the reception. | Any Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | Creative VR councilor and client working for LOWS. The job wasn’t filling their needs, so they applied to other jobs. Received many offers. Client told their LOWS employer about the offers from other companies, and LOWS gave them a full time position with benefits at $19 an hour. | *Gather more how VR helped someone stories.* | VR Staff Members |
| **Announcements** | Discussed October training dates – the 16th and 18th are definite possibilities. Also talked about bringing in people with disabilities and employers to share their experiences.  It was decided not to have a regular SRC-DVR business meeting during a training day.  Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.  Cheryl stepping away from SRC. However, she will be involved until new offers are elected. | *Email Cheryl with ideas.*  *Contact Cheryl to receive Honorarium.* | Any Member  Any Member Not Compensated |
| **Public Comments** | Time was provided for public comment. None given. | NONE | NONE |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 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**

**Mary Adley - Department of Education**

**Members Of The Public:**

**Sadie Donnell – Disability Advocate**

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

**Isaac Gingras – State Workforce Board**

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

**Patty Ngara – Disability Advocate**

**Sadie Donnell – Disability Advocate**

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. SUFU -> Speaking Up For Us [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. VRS -> Virtual Orientation Sessions [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. RFP 🡪 Request For Proposal [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. RSA 🡪 Rehabilitation Services Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. CAP 🡪 Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-9)