

SRC-DVR¹ Minutes

Date & Time: July 14th 2025, 1pm – 3pm²

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Council Members³					
P	Allison Wiest	P	Jennifer Kimble		
A	Lynn Feely	E	Megan Marquis		
P	Samantha Fenderson *	P	Jenny Ardito		
P	Joshua Weidemann	P	Dylan Sullivan		
P	Darcy Gentle	P	Andrew Smith		
P	Patty Ngara				
P	Sierra Wood *				

Guests: Katrina Ringrose

Scribe: Branden Densmore **Next Business Meeting:** August 11th 2025 **Minutes Approved:** **YES**

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Introduction	<p>The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm.</p> <p><u>A Quorum was established with 10 members in attendance.</u></p> <p>Members/guests were welcomed and participated in an ice breaker activity.</p> <p>The chair reviewed the Agenda, and a discussion of Informed Choice was added to Priority Topics section of the meeting's agenda.</p>	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>

¹ SRC-DVR: State Rehabilitation Council, Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation

² Pre-meeting Held From 1230pm – 1pm

³ *Indicates an Ex Officio non-voting member

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Minutes	<p>The council discussed the May 2025 Draft minutes.</p> <p><u>A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.</u></p> <p>The motion passed:</p> <p>In Favor: 7</p> <p>Abstention: 1</p> <p>Opposed: 0</p>	<p><i>Prepare the May 2025 draft minutes and post on website.</i></p> <p><i>Create draft July minutes and send to council members for review.</i></p>	<u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Branden Densmore</u>
How VR Helped Someone	<p>Account relayed about a homeless client in Bangor.</p> <p>This client had numerous positive interactions with police and started asking them for opportunities.</p> <p>With VR clients started exploring career opportunities; job shadowing, touring, thinking about what jobs are available.</p> <p>Client decided that they really wanted to become an officer, so VR paid for their test to apply to Police Academy.</p> <p>Client is fit, prepped, and ready to enter training phase at Academy.</p>	<p><i>Gather more "How VR Helped Someone" stories to share with council.</i></p>	<u>Samantha/Sierra</u>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Treasurer's Report	<p>The treasurer delivered report about SRC-DVR spending, sharing an excel spread sheet.</p> <p>SRC-DVR is 3 quarters of the way through the year and is significantly underspent.</p> <p>Budget is in good shape overall.</p> <p>SRC-DVR has overspent on three items: honorariums, administrative costs, and Website.</p>	<p><i>Create budget projections and proposed budget for ffy 2026 and send to council members for review.</i></p> <p><i>Meet with Jennifer Kimble to learn how to create budget projections.</i></p> <p><i>Determine deadline for budget spending and email Jennifer Kimble.</i></p>	<u>Jennifer Kimble</u> <u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Samantha Fenderson</u>
CAP⁴ Update	<p>Created and delivered presentation (about employment and reasonable accommodations) at the HOPE conference with 25 people in attendance.</p> <p>Outreach efforts continue to be a focus.</p> <p>DRM shared link for an online survey regarding Employment and disability in Maine.</p>	<p><i>For DRM Information resources, Click HERE.</i></p> <p><i>Send SRC-DVR/DBVI group email with link to survey.</i></p>	<u>Interested Parties</u> <u>Branden Densmore</u>
Representative Updates	<p>MPF⁵: Summer shift continuing with students out of school – allowing MPF to focus on other projects like their Health Care Transition Training.</p>	<p><u>NONE</u></p>	<p><u>NONE</u></p>

⁴ CAP -> Client Assistance Program

⁵ MPF -> Maine Parent Federation

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Representative Updates	<p>Also they are continuing to revise a Self-Advocacy Tool funded by the P2P Grant, which they piloted at one school so far. More schools will be granted access. The tool is called Empower The Learner, helping students explore their strengths, goals, learning style, etc. Still in the beginning stages.</p> <p>121 Program: Focus has been on organizing health fairs with the five tribes.</p> <p>Also organizing other events for 5 tribes with partners like DOE using WIOA funding, like vocational training for students.</p> <p>Maine Health: Delivering summer employment program currently with 15 kids in attendance, focusing on summer work experiences. Celebration and certifications will happen in August.</p> <p>Benefits counseling program still understaffed and overwhelmed – they have hired people but they have not been trained yet.</p>	<p><i>Check out Mawiomi of Tribes, an annual gathering for all people of mother earth using this link: HERE!</i></p>	<u>Interested Parties</u>

	In-person Benefits Navigator training going online in September, and also an in person training offered the same month.	<i>To register for the Benefits Navigator Training or to get more information, click HERE.</i>	
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Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
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Representative Updates	<p>Goodwill: Organization is the CRP provider for regions 1, 2, and 3, serving 1262 clients currently. Working with VR programs and summer work experiences bootcamp is in full swing.</p> <p>SILC⁶: working on trying to figure out who we need to speak with to expedite the membership approval process. Making sure everything is in order for the National Council on Independent Living conference in DC.</p>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Directors Report	<p>Waitlist: On 7-1-25 the DVR waitlist was ELIMINATED. Big win. All four categories are officially open.</p> <p><u>Summer Programs:</u></p> <p>College Bus Tour: Southern Tour was a success with 37 students attending. Northern Tour starts in two weeks.</p> <p>MAP⁷: Apprenticeship two day event at Safety Works</p>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>

⁶ SILC -> Statewide Independent Living Council

⁷ MAP -> Mane Apprenticeship Tour

	Learning Lab in Augusta, where 8 students did welding, visited a medical center, and learned oyster farming.		
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Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Directors Report	<p>VIBE⁸: Program started yesterday (July 13th) and ends next week. It involves a 2 day trip to Boston where students learn how to travel by train, bus, uber, etc.</p> <p>Orientation: Currently working on two VR orientations: one for providers and one for people in education.</p> <p>RFP⁹: Put out RFP for motivational interviewing. Got it back, made some tweaks, and put it back out. Committee is now scoring proposals.</p> <p>YesLMS¹⁰: system being developed with built in VR staff training. VR is working on new onboarding process for staff.</p> <p>Intern Program: Marget Chase Smith program – Karlyn Kinney is with VR until August</p>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>

⁸ VIBE -> Venturing into Independence and Building Skills for Employment

⁹ RFP -> Request For Proposals

¹⁰ LMS -> Learning Management System

	<p>15th, supporting several VR offices.</p> <p>Progressive Employment: Institute¹¹ is providing two community of Practice calls for staff involved in Progressive Employment.</p>		
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Priority Topics	<p>Bylaws: Executive committee has been discussing the Bylaws which were last updated in 2013.</p> <p>Numerous revisions have been identified, but the exact changes are still being discussed.</p> <p>Website: There were three concerns expressed about the new SRC-DVR website, and each of these were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website not showing up in google • Website still not current • Url contains “northstarworks” <p>There has been discussion of these issues with our webmaster Roger Fuller who is working on a resolution.</p> <p>The vision for the new website was mentioned: to</p>	<p><i>Look over and discuss proposed changes to Bylaws and bring formalized changes to the full council for review by the next meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Look into the obscure reimbursement policy mentioned in Bylaws.</i></p> <p><i>Check out the new SRC-DVR website using this link: HERE</i></p>	<p><u>Executive Committee</u></p> <p><u>Samantha Fenderson</u></p> <p><u>Interested Parties</u></p>
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¹¹ Institute -> Community Inclusion through UMass Boston

	<p>have an updated, useful, and accessible, website that can serve as an information resource and community hub moving forward.</p> <p>A plan was laid out (in order of priority) to make this vision a reality.</p>		
Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Priority Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fix Google Issue 2. Discuss url issue and determine best action 3. Review and update every page on website 4. Add relevant information like new member resources, satisfaction survey, etc. 5. Create monthly blog posts and share with council members 6. Promote site by sharing url in all emails, minutes, etc. 7. Promote page by giving url to providers, government agencies, etc. <p>Informed Choice: The importance of informed choice was highlighted, and the council discussed the topic.</p>	<p><i>Take action on the website development plan.</i></p> <p><i>Set up a meeting with Roger Fuller, Allison, and Branden to discuss issues with website.</i></p> <p><i>For more on how Informed Choice is supposed to be implemented by VR, click HERE.</i></p>	<u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Interested Parties</u>

	<p>An SRC member wanted to make the point:</p> <p><i>We need to be thinking about informed choice, and that client choices need to be honored.</i></p> <p>A staff training idea around informed choice was proctored.</p>		
Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Announcements	<p>Honorariums are offered to members not compensated for attendance.</p> <p>SRC-DVR will be sharing a table at Disability Pride Day with SILC on July 18th from 11am -2pm.</p> <p>SRC-DVR member Joshua Weidemann will be receiving an award from DRM at the event, recognizing his willingness to advocate for the disability community.</p>	<p><i>Contact Branden to receive an Honorarium at srcscribe@gmail.com.</i></p>	<u>Members Not Compensated</u>
Public Comments	Time was provided for public comment, but none were given.	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>

People & Organizations Represented

SRC-DVR Council Members:

Allison Wiest – Maine Parent Federation

Jennifer Kimble – Maine Health (Vocational Services)

Samantha Fenderson – Director Of Division Of Vocational Rehabilitation

Jenny Ardito – Goodwill Industries

Dylan Sullivan – Disability Advocate, University Of Maine Liaison

Lynn Feely – Disability Advocate

Sierra Wood – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Megan Marquis – Disability Rights, Client Assistance Program

Andrew Smith – Statewide Independent Living Council

Joshua Weidemann – Disability Advocate

Darcy Gentle – 121 Program Director

Patty Ngara – Disability Advocate, Career Center

Staff:

Branden Densmore – SRC Administrator