# State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

# Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2024

## I. Call to order

Chairperson Judy Sanders called the regular meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind to order at 5:40 PM on Thursday, October 3, 2024, on zoom.

## II. Roll call

Judy Sanders conducted a roll call, and the following people were present:

**SRCB Members:** Judy Sanders, Chair; Ryan Haenze; Sue Fager; Samantha Flax; Hannah Harriman; Tom Heinl; Rob Hobson; Thea Kramer; Patricia McGee; Jeff Milhelich; Corbb O’ Connor; Justin Salisbury, Ryan Strunk; Patrick Vellia.

**SSB Staff:** Natasha Jerde, SSB Director; Nyia Vang, SRC-B Staff Liaison; Jon Benson; Dave Andrews; Brianna Holeman; Lisa Rogers; Jennifer Beilke and Isaac Hanninen.

**Members of the Audience:** Jennifer Dunnam, Steve Jacobson, Briley O’ Connor, Steve Sawczyn, Dacia VanAlstine and Rocky Hart.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024, meeting was made by Rob Hobson and seconded by Pat McGee. The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Open issues

A motion to appoint Ryan Strunk, Chair, Rob Hobson, and Briley O’ Connor to the Workplan Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Maya Larson to the DeafBlind Committee was made by Patrick Vellia and seconded by Rob Hobson. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to vote that the budget task force retain the same budget that we currently have for the next year was made by Ryan Strunk and seconded by Rob Hobson. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New business

* 1. Chair’s report
     + February term there will be elections for council chair and vice chair.
  2. Director’s Report- *full report included in transcript.*
* State Services for the Blind was one of 27 agencies out of 200 to receive a Disability Innovation Fund Grant around $9.1 million.
* There are three groups: Incumbent workers at risk of or experiencing recent job loss. New Americans, particularly the Somali community in St. Cloud and the Twin Cities, and those who have been out of the workforce for more than 27 weeks are also affected.
* Three goals; Implement a rapid engagement coordinated team approach, build a sector-based approach for advanced technology, and pilot an enhanced progress employment model in two communities (St. Cloud and Twin Cities).
* Three tiers of services; Universal, Target and Intensive services.
* There will be 12 new hires.
* SRC-B Evolve Employment Advisory Task Force.
* Evolve Employment Steering Committee.
* Customer Service and Technology Advisory Task Force.

**VI. Committee Reports**

1. State Rehabilitation Council: no report was received.
2. State Independent Living Council: a report was received.
3. Communication Center Committee: a report was received.
4. Community Partner Outcomes & Measures Committee: a report was received.
5. Customer Satisfaction Goals and Priorities Committee: no report was received.
6. Deafblind Committee: a report was received.
7. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: no report was received.
8. Employment Committee: a report was received.
9. Senior Services Committee: no report was received.
10. Transition Committee Report: a report was received.

## VII. Public Comment

* National Federation of the Blind Fall convention is from November 1st to 3rd at the DoubleTree Saint Paul East.
* Braille challenge in Minnesota on February 8, 2024, for students in grades 1st through 12th.

## VIII. Adjournment

Chairperson Judy Sanders adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

1. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Corbb O’ Connor and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Nyia Vang

Minutes approved by: Judy Sanders