# State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

# Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 22, 2024

## I. Call to order

Vice Chairperson Judy Sanders called the regular meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind to order at 5:40 PM on Thursday, February 8, 2024, on zoom.

## II. Roll call

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

**SRCB Members:** Judy Sanders, Vice Chair; Frank Eller; Samantha Flax; Ryan Haenze, Tom Heinl; Rob Hobson, Corbb O’Connor, Jennifer Points; Ryan Strunk, Kyle Van Acker.

**SSB Staff:** Natasha Jerde, SSB Director; Susan Kusz, SRC-B Staff Liaison; Jon Benson, SSB Deputy Director; Dave Andrews; Jennifer Beilke; Tae Mack, and Lisa Rogers.

**Members of the Audience:** Diane Dohnalik, Jennifer Dunnam, Steve Jacobson, Theresa Gfroerer, Sue Fager, Rocky Hart, and Briley O’Connor.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023, meeting was made by Samantha Flax and seconded by Ryan Strunk. The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Open issues

A motion to postpone elections for chair and vice chair until the April meeting Was made by Rob Hobson and seconded by Frank Eller. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Ryan Strunk, Jennifer Points, Corbb O’ Connor to the Budget Task Force was made by Ryan Strunk and seconded by Kyle Van Acker. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve up to 4 attendees (Rob Hobson, Corbb O’Connor and 2 additional members) to the NCSRC, CSAVR and NCSAB Conferences was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Samantha Flax as Chair, and Rocky Hart to the Professional Development Task Force was made by Samantha Flax and seconded by Frank Eller. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the 2024-2027 Combined State Plan and the Statewide Assessment Report was made by Corbb O’Connor and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New business

* 1. Chair’s report
     + No report was received from Chair or Vice Chair.
  2. Director’s Report- *full report included in transcript.*
* National Governors Association Disability Policy Action Lab – Lay out a map then propose legislation changes to promote employment for people with disabilities.
* Evolve: process changes, eligibility policy, impediments to employment

Key Results:

* Increase; applicants, numbers from underserved youth and adult populations, include a fuller range of disabilities populations, interested in career advancement.
* Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund – 32 applicants to date, $57,708
* Community Partners – the team developed a strategic plan
* Outreach – several projects for the upcoming year to involve communications.
* Facilities – several projects for this year are under way full details in the report.
* Program services details are included in the full report

**VI. Committee Reports**

1. State Rehabilitation Council: no report was received.
2. State Independent Living Council: a report was received by the Council.
3. Communication Center Committee: a report was received by the Council.
4. Customer Satisfaction Goals and Priorities Committee: a report was received by the Council during the meeting.
5. Deafblind Committee: a report was received by the Council.
6. Employment Committee: no report was received by the Council.
7. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: no report was received by the Council.
8. Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment Task Force: no report was received by the Council.
9. Senior Services Committee: a report was received by the Council.
10. Transition Committee Report: no report was received by the Council.
11. Partner Outcomes & Measures Committee: no report was received by the council.
12. Professional Development Task Force: A survey will be sent to council members about potential topics for professional development.

## VII. Public Comment

1. A scholarship program application period is in process for the NFB of Minnesota. Two $2,000 scholarships will be given away with a deadline of April 15. To apply visit nfbmn.org/scholarship/program.
2. There is also an $8,000 scholarship details are on the same page.

## VIII. Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Judy Sanders adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

1. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sam Flax and seconded by Ryan Strunk. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Kusz.

Minutes approved by: Judy Sanders