# State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

# Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 7, 2023

## I. Call to order

Chairperson Corbb O’Connor called the regular meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind to order at 5:40 PM on Thursday, October 5, 2023, in person with some members attending via Zoom.

## II. Roll call

Corbb O’Connor conducted a roll call, and the following people were present:

**SRCB Members:** Corbb O’Connor, Chairperson; Judy Sanders, Vice Chair; Frank Eller; Samantha Flax; Tom Heinl; Rob Hobson, Catalina Martinez, Michael O’Day; Jennifer Points; and Ryan Strunk.

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

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

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023, meeting was made by Samantha Flax and seconded by Frank Eller. The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Open issues

A motion to approve meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year to be set for February 8, April 4, June 6, August 1, October 3, and December 5 was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Judy Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments through the Secretary of State's Office were discussed. It was suggested that an advocacy letter be drafted and sent to the Governor's Office that could make some movement on getting our appointments pushed through. Briley O"Connor volunteered to draft a letter. Suggestions to review by-laws in 2024 was made.

A motion to approve the VR Effectiveness Report –

*(full report included in transcript)* was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Ryan Strunk. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Annual Report was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the WorkPlan was made by Judy Sanders and seconded by Tom Heinl. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the recommendations put forth by the Community Partners Measures and Outcomes Committee to enact a comprehensive review of current survey responses was made by Judy Sanders and seconded by Rob Hobson. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New business

* 1. Chair’s report
     + A report was received from Ryan Strunk on the NCSRC, CSAVR and NCSAB conference attendee Ryan Strunk. *Full report is in the transcript.*
  2. Director’s Report- *full report included in transcript.*
* National Governors Association Disability Policy Action Lab – attended at the end of Oct
* Evolve: VR Updates Awareness and increased media hits
  + Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund is gaining traction
* Community Partners and other contract work continues to move forward
* Outreach to support language revitalization for Dakota and Ojibwe continues
* Facilities – feds approved the cafeteria remodel
* 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.
5. Deafblind Committee: a report was received by the Council.
6. Employment Committee: A 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: a report was received by the Council.
9. Senior Services Committee: a report was received by the Council.
10. Transition Committee Report: a report was received by the Council.
11. Partner Outcomes & Measures Committee: a 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. No comments were made.

## VIII. Adjournment

Chairperson Corbb O’Connor adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

1. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob Hobson and seconded by Frank Eller. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Kusz.

Minutes approved by: Judy Sanders