# State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

# Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023

## I. Call to order

Corbb O’Connor called the regular meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind to order at 5:40 PM on Thursday, June 1, 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, Ryan Haenze, Tom Heinl, Rob Hobson, Catalina Martinez, Michael O’Day, Kristen Oien, Jennifer Points, Ryan Strunk.

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

**Members of the Audience:** Jennifer Dunnam; Steve Jacobson, Wendy Devore, Jessica Burke, Graham Sisson, Rocky Hart, Briley O’Connor, Sue Fager, Jan Bailey.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2023, was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Open issues

A motion to accept the report from the Committee Structure Task Force and change the name of the Minority Outreach Committee to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee was made by Frank Eller and seconded by Samantha Flax. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New business

* 1. Chair’s report
     + Discussion of committee structure – Added one member to the transition committee a student ages 14 -21.
     + Professional Development Presenter will join us in October.
  2. Director’s Report
     + Legislative Updates:
       - State Appropriation Increase of 4 million dollars will be given to SSB.
       - Employer Reasonable Accommodation Program – House omnibus bill $4m for the biennium one-time funds and will launch Sept 1st.
     + Ending the Order of selection to end by summer’s end.
     + DEED’s SFY 24 OKR’s
       - 1. OKR #1: Empower Minnesota to create an economy rooted in equity- across every race, identity, and ability.
         2. OKR #2: Drive growth that puts Minnesota at the forefront of innovation in technology, high-tech manufacturing, and health & wellness.
         3. OKR #3: Meet the moment for Minnesota’s historic workforce shortages, with collaborative efforts towards high-wage jobs with strong growth potential.
     + Community Partner Highlights – Next Meeting July 11th at 10 am
     + Pre-ETS and Transition –22 students are going to STP many others attending a variety of programs.
  3. Report from Management Analysis & Development, Jessica Burke. Internal independent consultants to identify barriers that customers are facing and trying to find ways to either reduce them or eliminate them.
  4. Report from the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) about membership and signing the resolution. There are no dues to join. They offer training and best practices. They offer two trainings a year around the conferences.

## VI. Committee Reports

1. State Rehabilitation Council: no report was received.
2. State Independent Living Council: Report was received by the Council.
3. Communication Center Committee: Report was received by the Council.
4. Customer Satisfaction & Goals and Priorities Committee: no report was received.
5. Deafblind Committee: no report was received.
6. Employment Committee: a report was received by the council. A report on successful closures was given.
7. Minority Outreach Committee: no report was received by the council.
8. Senior Services Committee: a report was received by the council.
9. Transition Committee Report: a report was received by the Council.
10. Vendor Outcomes & Measures Committee: no report was received.

## VII. Public Comment

1. The Statewide Longitudinal Educational Data System or SLEDS.mn.gov collects data and breaks it down by disability categories.

## VIII. Adjournment

Corbb O’Connor adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

Minutes submitted by: Susan Kusz

Minutes approved by: Corbb O’Connor