



Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

May 12, 2023
 10 a.m. (Eastern)
 Bosma Enterprises
 7225 Woodland Drive
 Indianapolis, IN 46278
 Also on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Michelle Oja

V	Ron Brown	V	Brian Carnes	P	Jennifer Diaz
P	Shawn Fulton	P	Theresa Koleszar	V	Danie'l Mize
V	Michelle Oja	P	Richard Propes	A	Marc Ruiz
A	Erin Sheridan	V	Stacey Smith	V	David Spradley
P	Willaine St. Pierre-Sandy	P	Mike Thibideau	V	Krista Anderson
V	Amanda Bagwell	A	Kate Barrow	P	Kristina Blankenship
A	Bonnie Bomer	A	Katie Connell	A	Mason Ellis
A	Abby Fleenor	A	Kate Heger	A	Kelly Mitchell
V	Ian Ragains	A	Jeff Russell	A	Karen Smith
P	Barbara Thompson				

(A=Absent, P=Present, T=Teleconference, Virtual =V, I=Invited Guest)

- II. Public Comments
 - a) There were no members of the public who made comment
- III. DDRS Strategic Plan and Cross Council Summit – Kyle Ingram
 - a) Systems Transformation
 - Vision and Primary Goal
 1. Vision: All people have the right to live, love, work, learn, play, participate and pursue their dreams in their community
 2. Primary goal: Increasing achievement of Competitive Integrated Employment outcomes
 - a. DDRS and Advisory Council set goal of 38% employment rate by 2027
 - Design and intent of plan
 1. Focused on establishing and communicating clear framework for employment systems transformation activities
 2. Comprehensive look at needed system changes

3. Intended as living document (will continue to build out as planning and activities occur)
 4. Represents five-phase approach to organize our transformation efforts over next 5-6 years
- Devising a comprehensive plan
 1. Sources of activities
 - a. ARPA Medicaid spend plans
 - b. Current and planned VR initiatives
 - c. Existing Planning Documents (e.g. 1102 Report and Employment First Plan)
 - d. Enhancing ongoing DDRS initiatives and existing contracts
 - e. Other sources (including legislative directives)
 2. Many planned activities require intra-division and inter-division coordination
 - Enhancing data strategies
 1. Develop more robust understanding of individual outcomes through data
 2. Build data systems that drive sound policymaking
 3. Improve how we communicate data to stakeholders
 4. Work with key agencies to develop fuller data picture of statewide outcomes
 - Refocusing waiver services
 1. Redesign waiver services array supporting CIE
 2. Eliminate policies that incentivize non-integrated service delivery
 3. Clarify provider expectations for delivering quality services
 4. Empower individuals to direct planning for community employment
 - Supporting individuals/families
 1. Enhance feedback mechanisms on DDRS' vision for CIE outcomes
 2. Enhance access to services that support informed choice
 3. Ensure transition-aged youth have expectation that employment is possible
 4. Build up peer mentoring and family engagement strategies to reach individuals
 - Building provider capacity
 1. Incentivize provider transformation
 2. Test innovative service delivery with Innovation Pilot Projects
 3. Support provider access to LifeCourse and Open Futures Learning accounts
 4. Establish core competencies, service expectations, training, and quality processes
 - Aligning state programs
 1. Align DDRS programs to streamline access and coordination

2. Develop shared mission on community employment
3. Establish ongoing collaboration discussions with key state partners
4. Address state policies creating barriers to Competitive Integrated Employment

b) Employment Collaboratives

- Employment Transformation Collaborative
 1. 23 providers currently delivering pre-vocational services in a facility setting (sheltered workshop) and exploring or planning for transition
- Leadership Network on Employment Innovation
 1. 10 providers who have already transitioned away from sheltered work and are ready to explore innovative service delivery leaving to Competitive Integrated Employment
- Cohort participation
 1. 12-month commitment to cohort
 2. Quarterly virtual meetings
 3. In-person meetings (twice annually)
 4. Onsite training and technical assistance
 5. Webinars and other virtual training offerings
 6. Work to support 4 individuals in achieving Competitive Integrated Employment outcomes
- Supports and Resources
 1. \$50,000 per year participation stipend
 2. On-site technical assistance (Year 1 – Value Stream Mapping)
 3. Transformation Grant Opportunity (up to \$400,000 per agency)
 4. Supports to adopt LifeCourse Framework

c) Cross-Council Summit

- Supporting Council Capacity
 1. Planning Cross Council Summit
 - a. Engaging DDRS advisory Council and State Commission on Rehabilitative Services
 - b. Build Capacity of Appointed Councils to understand role in promoting Employment First and supports across the lifespan
 - c. To be held in late August
 - d. Inviting councils from state systems across lifespan

IV. Pre-ETS Update – Jonathan Kraeszig

a) By the numbers

- Total students currently in service: 9,930
- Pre-ETS JAG students currently in service: 2,195

b) JAG by the numbers

- Prior to access to Pre-ETS funding, 4% of the students participating in the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program had an IEP or 504 plan compared to 20% during the last completed year.
 - c) Pre-ETS spend requirement
 - Pre-ETS 15% spend requirement was met for FFY 2021
 - Previous funds were carried over from FFY 2021 and we were able to spend them on Pre-ETS throughout the 2022 fiscal year
 - Stipends were introduced October of 2021 and greatly increased through summer programming last year
 - Most of our providers were able to increase their work-based learning activities and provide stipends to the students involved
 - d) Youth Counselors
 - Working on a student representative for commission
 - Set up work-based learning experiences for students
 - Streamline referral process from schools to VR
 - Provide training and technical assistance to providers
 - e) Summer Programs 2022 – one example program
 - Mondays, Wednesdays were sessions for Life Skills students
 - Tuesdays, Thursdays were sessions for diploma track students
 - Fridays were a day that everyone could volunteer at the Tri-State Food Bank to get their hours for Graduation Pathways
 - Field trips were planned based on students’ interests and abilities
 - Connecting with many local businesses
- V. Approval of the March 10, 2023 meeting minutes
 - a) The Commission voted unanimously in favor
- VI. Commission Officer Elections – Identify a Slate of Officers
 - a) The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the slate of officers
 - Chair – Marc Ruiz
 - Vice Chair – Danie’l Mize
 - Secretary – Jennifer Diaz
- VII. Employers’ Perceived Liability Discussion
 - a) Action steps
 - Theresa will meet with legal team to look at contract language
 - Theresa and Brian will meet to discuss INARF gathering input from providers
 - b) Discussion was tabled until the July or September meeting based upon feedback from Brian and Theresa
- VIII. BRS Director’s Update to Include Update on RSA Monitoring Visit

- a) Order of Selection Update
 - 1349 on OOS waitlist as of 4/26/23
 1. 269 (20%) Priority Category 2
 2. 1080 (80%) Priority Category 3
 - 9 releases to date (most-recent April 2023) with approximately 3000 moving off waitlist
 1. Anticipate 1 final release for Priority Category 2, and then opening Priority Category 2 by end of summer
 2. Anticipate beginning to release Priority Category 3 from waitlist this fall
- b) Rehabilitation Services Administration Monitoring Visit
 - RSA on site May 9-11 to conduct a monitoring review
 - Takeaways
 - Next Steps
 1. Draft report of findings
 2. BRS response
 3. Final report
 4. Corrective action plan
 5. Strategic action plan
- c) Thank you
 - VR Commission members completing their two, 3-year terms (6 years total)
 1. Michelle Oja
 2. Richard Propes
 3. David Spradley
 4. Theresa Koleszar
 - Bonnie Bomer will be retiring in July

IX. Committee Updates

- a) Customer Satisfaction Committee – No update
- b) Employment First Committee – Cross Council Summit will be held in August, committee will need a new chair
- c) Recruitment, Public Outreach, and Commission Development Committee – Krista Anderson, Amanda (Mandy) Bagwell, Mason Ellis, and Barbara Thompson have applied for appointments
- d) Policy & Oversight and Planning & Evaluation Committee – No update
- e) Awards Committee – VR staff awards nominations have been decided, ceremony will take place in June, names will be shared during the July meeting
- f) Transition Committee – No update

X. Other Business

XI. Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location
July 14, 2023	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
September 8, 2023	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
November 3, 2023	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual Click here to join the meeting