



**Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting**

Friday, July 12, 2019  
 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (EST)  
 Bosma Enterprises  
 Training Room  
 7225 Woodland Drive  
 Indianapolis, IN 46278

**MEETING MINUTES**

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome

The meeting was called to order by James Michaels –VR Commission Chair at 10:00 a.m.

- a) James Michaels and Commission expressed gratitude to Nancy Davisson for her many years of service on the Commission, and this is her last meeting as an appointed member. Welcome to Rebecca McCuaig who will be filling the seat vacated by Nancy Davisson.

P	Dawn Adams	P	Theresa Koleszar	P	David Spradley
P	Scott Beauchamp	P	Rebecca McCuaig	T	Traci Taylor
P	Sarah Chestnut	P	James Michaels	P	Frederick Vaiana
P	Christine Dahlberg	A	Daneil Mize		
P	Nancy Davisson	A	Michelle Oja		
P	Donna Elbrecht	P	Richard Propes		
A	Eric Heeter	P	Karen Rusk		

(A=Absent, P=Present, T=Teleconference)

III. Call to Order, Roll Call – Attendance James Michaels

IV. Public Comment – No comments

V. Approval of the May 10, 2019 meeting minutes

**Motion:** Scott Beauchamp

**Second:** Donna Elbrecht

**The Commission voted unanimously in favor.**

VI. Employment First Committee – (ad-hoc committee) Christine Dahlberg & Nancy Davisson

- a) Commission members discussed and reviewed language changes in the Employment First Plan.
  - Overall recommendations
  - Promoting effective school-to-careers transition
  - Aligning government policies and funding to promote employment outcomes
- b) Updates were made to some of the language in the draft vision and strategies after discussion with the commission members.
- c) Changes will be incorporated by committee and presented at the next meeting.

**Motion:** Approve the Employment First Vision Statement: Scott Beauchamp

**Second: Traci Taylor**  
**The Commission voted unanimously in favor.**

VII. Committee Updates

a) Policy & Oversight (sub-committee) – Dawn Adams

- The sub-committee held a meeting on July 12, 2019 prior to the Commission meeting to conduct a review of the appeals.
  1. Sub-committee made the recommendations:
    - a. Recommendation that VR offer a referral for a benefits counseling when students are in need of additional resources for postsecondary costs or experience any changes that are financial based.
    - b. Recommendation to look at book fees; book rates posted by colleges are reflective of a trend for students to move toward use of books in digital format. Students with disabilities may need paper books due to disabilities and therefore may have a higher cost.
    - c. Sub-committee noticed in one of the appeals that the ALJ did not consistently use people first language and may need some guidance in appropriate language.

VIII. Ability Indiana – Presentation – Wes Bickers & Katy Stafford-Cunningham

IX. BRS Director Update – Theresa Koleszar

a) New case management and claims payment systems were implemented on May 20, 2019.

b) New VR Staff

- In process of hiring ten (10) new positions which will be VR Youth Counselors with primary responsibilities related to pre-employment transition services (pre-ets). Six (6) of those positions have been filled by internal staff that wanted to shift into this new role. These counselors have been trained and are now carrying out their new roles. The remaining four (4) positions are posted and VR is working on filling those positions.

c) There are two (2) upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) Opportunities:

- RFP for Training.
  1. VR staff training
  2. VR employment service provider training
  3. Technical assistance
  4. Collaboration with the Bureau of Development Disability Services (BDDS) for BDDS provider and case manager training.
- RFP for carrying out Pre-Employment Transition Services Statewide.

- d) Restructuring of the VR regions to return to 5 regions instead of 4, with a new regional manager candidate pending. This will allow for better equity across the state and improvements in the consistent implementation of services.
  - e) Reviewed data highlights from the draft Indiana Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, and reviewed priorities shared at the previous meeting.
- X. Staffing Updates – Jeff Russell, VR Director of Operations (Field Services)
- a) Presented new regional map showing the restructuring and addition of a new region.
  - b) Currently nineteen (19) vacancies statewide for VR counselors and working to fill these positions.
  - c) Recognition of approximately 95 staff who worked on the implementation of the new VR claims payment and case management systems through spot bonuses.
- XI. A new Doodle poll will be sent out for a special meeting for the month of October to continue to work toward development of Employment First recommendations and plan.
- XII. September 13, 2019 Meeting – Bosma Enterprises, 7225 Woodland Drive, Indianapolis
- XIII. Meeting Adjourns 1:00 PM
- Motion:** Christine Dahlberg  
**Second:** Frederick Vaiana  
**The Commission voted unanimously in favor.**

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location	Address
September 13, 2019	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bosma Enterprises	7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
November 1, 2019	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bosma Enterprises	7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278