



State Rehabilitation Council Quarterly Meeting April 26, 2022 | Meeting Minutes

Present

Council Chair Janice Carson, Council Vice-Chair Darin Lindig, Tim Blonsky, Emily Carlisle, Randi Cole, Jami Davis, Jane Donnellan, Pam Harris, Ramona Medicine Horse, David “Max” Maxwell, Christine Meeuwesen, Nathan Ogden, James Pegram, Danielle “DR” Reff, Stephanie Taylor-Silva, Sarah Tueller, and David White.

Guests

Teresa Pitt

Absent

Ron Oberleitner

Welcome & Introductions

Council Chair Janice Carson called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members. Council Chair Carson explained the decision to hold the quarterly meeting over a period of two days instead of one was based on feedback collected from council members. **Council Secretary Emily Carlisle** called the roll; there was not a quorum present. Council Chair Carson delayed decision on the Approval of Minutes until a quorum would be present. She reviewed the agenda with council members and welcomed the first speaker.

Ali Breshears – Deputy Attorney General, State of Idaho

Ms. Breshears introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her presentation. She explained the purpose of her time with the council was to relay the importance of government transparency. She commented that since the Idaho State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) falls under the Executive Branch, Open Meeting Law is applicable to the council. The rest of her briefing was spent providing definitions and clarification on Opening Meeting Law, specifically how it pertains to the SRC. She facilitated a brief question and answer session, then concluded by reminding council members government transparency is one of Governor Little’s priorities. In a final word of guidance, she commented it is best practice for the council to be fully transparent.

Approval of Minutes – October 25, 2021

A quorum having been established; the council took up Approval of Minutes.

Motion:

Tim Blonsky moved to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, October 25, 2021.
James Pegram seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2022**Motion:**

Danielle “DR” Reff moved to approve the Minutes of Tuesday, January 25, 2022.
Christine Meeuwsen seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2022**Motion:**

James Pegram moved to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 2, 2022.
Tim Blonsky seconded the motion. **Christine Meeuwsen** abstained from the vote.
The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Christine Meeuwsen – Attorney, DisAbility Rights Idaho

Mrs. Meeuwsen introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her presentation. She explained the purpose of her time with the council was to provide a brief, informative overview of the Client Assistance Program (CAP). She explained the history of the program and outlined its goals. She then described the cooperative relationship between the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and CAP. In closing she provided an overview of CAP’s metrics that are directly related to IDVR customers and cases. Council members expressed their appreciation for CAPs work and remarked they were pleased that such a valuable service was available to the public. **Teresa Pitt**, Planning and Evaluation Manager for IDVR, expressed her continued support for the program and support for continued collaboration with DisAbility Rights. In closing, the council thanked Mrs. Meeuwsen for her time.

Priorities and Strategies

Jane Donnellan, Administrator for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and **Teresa Pitt** gave an overview of the IDVR/SRC Priorities and Strategies meeting. They informed the council of where the priorities and strategies have been embedded into IDVR's state plan, strategic plan, and other guiding documents. They outlined the following priorities:

- hiring and retaining staff
- expanding and monitoring Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- improving the quality of Community Rehabilitation Partner services
- providing a comprehensive array of services
- evaluating agency structure to better serve customers

They shared there have already been positive developments taken to make progress on some of the priorities, and to conclude, they expressed appreciation for the council's participation in the meeting.

Adjourned

Prepared by Council Secretary, Emily Carlisle