



Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

January 13, 2023

10 a.m. (Eastern)

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

MEETING MINUTES

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

A	Greg Bedan	V	Brian Carnes	V	Jennifer Diaz
V	Shawn Fulton	V	Theresa Koleszar	V	Danie'l Mize
V	Michelle Oja	V	Richard Propes	V	Marc Ruiz
A	Erin Sheridan	V	Stacey Smith	V	David Spradley
V	Willaine St. Pierre-Sandy	V	Mike Thibideau	V	Kate Barrow
V	Ron Brown	V	Abigail Fleenor	V	Bonnie Bomer
V	Katherine Connell	V	Ian Ragains	I,A	Kelly Mitchell
I,V	Jeffery Russell	I,V	Karen Smith		

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

- II. Approval of the November 4, 2022, meeting minutes
 - a) The Commission voted unanimously in favor
- III. Public Comment
 - a) There were no members of the public who made comment
- IV. Review of Commission Bylaws
 - a) The Commission reviewed the bylaws and discussed suggested additions and revisions
 - b) Theresa will reach out to schedule a time to meet with officers to discuss further
- V. BRS Director's Update – Theresa Koleszar
 - a) 2022 Highlights
 - Exceeded 4/5 WIOA federal performance measures, and within .03% of the 5th. RSA considers measures to be met if cumulatively within 90% of target.
 - Increased exits with employment by 31% (1200 to 1570)
 - Modernization of employment service provider directory
 - Launched YesLMS, modernizing web-based training for VR staff
 - Notable progress with moving toward ending order of selection
 - Exceeded 15% pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) reserve requirement
 - No formal findings from State Board of Account audit
 - Established postsecondary VR Counselor leads – 1 per region

- Began roll-out of Discovery cohort recommendations
 - Indiana VR representation on national boards and workgroups
 - Steve Upchurch, VR Training Director, received Family and Social Services DE&I award
 - Awarded \$13.9M RSA grant
 - Awarded third round of Dept. of Labor technical assistance to support employment for individuals with mental health conditions
 - State Budget Agency approved proposal to invest VR dollars in provider rate increases and added VR staffing
 - Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment completed
- b) Challenges and Opportunities
- Outcomes are improving, however still below historical levels
 - Number of people served remains below pre-pandemic levels
 - Vendor/Provider capacity challenges
 - Opportunities to improve participant engagement/reduce attrition
 - Opportunities to streamline processes for more timely service delivery
 - The percent of VR participants enrolled in postsecondary training in Indiana is below the national VR average
- c) Order of Selection Update
- Released from waitlist – approximately 2,600
 1. Most-recent release January 3, 2023
 2. Targeting 3-4 releases in CY2023
 - Current waitlist count – 1,526 as of 1/4/23
 1. 340 (22%) priority category 2
 2. 1186 (78%) priority category 3
- d) Annual Report
- Submitted and posted to VR Commission webpage

VI. Employment First – Revisit Plan and Identify Priorities

- a) The six main goals were reviewed
- b) Michelle will take feedback received during the meeting and meet with the Committee in February to create the priority tracking sheet

VII. Committee Updates

- a) Customer Satisfaction Committee – No update
- b) Recruitment, Public Outreach, and Commission Development Committee – No update
- c) Policy & Oversight and Planning & Evaluation Committee – No update
- d) Awards Committee – No update
- e) Transition Committee – No update

VIII. Other Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting dates:	Time	Location
March 11, 2022	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
March 11, 2022, virtual link option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83167957947?pwd=eUc5K3o4K1JMN2FxaStHZ2VXdG1WZz09		
May 13, 2022	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
July 8, 2022	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
September 9, 2022	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
November 4, 2022	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	BOSMA 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278