

NEVADA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (N.S.R.C.)
STATE PLAN MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Nuestro
Dawn Lyons
Alex Goff
Mary Brabant
Judy Swain
Raquel O'Neill
Drazen Elez

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shelley Hendren
Allison Stephens

GUESTS/PUBLIC:

Steven Cohen
Ace Patrick, Chair of the Nevada State Independent Living Council
Dora Martinez, Nevada Disability Peer Action Coalition
Jack Mayes, Executive Director of the Nevada Disability and Advocacy Center
Kacy Curry

STAFF:

Justin Taruc, Deputy Attorney General
Mechelle Merrill, Rehab. Division, Deputy Administrator
Javier Fernandez, Rehab. Division Liaison to N.S.R.C.
Trina Bourke, Rehab. Division District Manager
Sheena Childers, Rehab. Division, Bureau Chief
Jenny Casselman, DETR Deputy Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, AND VERIFY TIMELY POSTING OF AGENDA**

David Nuestro, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Javier Fernandez NSRC Liaison called the role.

Mr. Fernandez determined a quorum was present and verified that the posting was completed on time in accordance with Open Meeting Law.

2. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

3. **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORK GROUP, MEETING DATE AND TIME TO DETERMINE THE STATISTICAL DATA TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2021 NSRC ANNUAL REPORT**

Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Division, Deputy Administrator began the discussion by asking for any volunteers to be in the work group. David Nuestro, Raquel O'Neill, Mechelle Merrill, Drazen Elez, Mary Brabant all volunteered. The meeting date and time was scheduled for Friday, July 23, 2021 at 1p.m. The meeting will be conducted virtual only. Mechelle Merrill made a motion to establish the work group as to what was established during the meeting, Dawn Lyon's seconded the motion, all in favor, none-opposed, motion carried.

4. **OVERVIEW OF TITLE 34 CFR 361.17(H) FUNCTIONS AS IT RELATES TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL**

Drazen Elez, Rehabilitation Division, Deputy Director provided an overview of title 34 CFR as follows:
§ 361.17 - Requirements for a State Rehabilitation Council

- (h) Functions. The Council must, after consulting with the State workforce development board -
- (1) Review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the State unit's responsibilities under this part, particularly responsibilities related to -
 - (i) Eligibility, including order of selection;
 - (ii) The extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and
 - (iii) Functions performed by State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this part;
 - (2) In partnership with the designated State unit -
 - (i) Develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with § 361.29(c); and
 - (ii) Evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Secretary in accordance with § 361.29(e);
 - (3) Advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities carried out under this part and assist in the preparation of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Unified or Combined State Plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this part;
 - (4) To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with -
 - (i) The functions performed by the designated State agency;
 - (ii) The vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under the Act; and
 - (iii) The employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this part, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with those employment outcomes;
 - (5) Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary no later than 90 days after the end of the Federal fiscal year an annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public through appropriate modes of communication;
 - (6) To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under chapter 1, title VII of the Act, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the State mental health planning council established under section 1914(a) of the Public Health Service Act, and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998;
 - (7) Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and
 - (8) Perform other comparable functions, consistent with the purpose of this part, as the Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.
 - (i) Resources. (1) The Council, in conjunction with the designated State unit, must prepare a plan for the provision of resources, including staff and other personnel, that may be necessary and sufficient for the Council to carry out its functions under this part.
 - (2) The resource plan must, to the maximum extent possible, rely on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the plan.
 - (3) Any disagreements between the designated State unit and the Council regarding the amount of resources necessary to carry out the functions of the Council must be resolved by the Governor, consistent with paragraphs (i)(1) and (2) of this section.

- (4) The Council must, consistent with State law, supervise and evaluate the staff and personnel that are necessary to carry out its functions.
- (5) Those staff and personnel that are assisting the Council in carrying out its functions may not be assigned duties by the designated State unit or any other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

5. **DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF THE 2020 CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY**

Mechelle Merrill, Rehabilitation Division, Deputy Administrator reviewed specific highlights of the survey that was prepared by Market Decision Research that include:

Over the calendar year 2020 there were 1,428 surveys completed. 1,119 General VR Consumers provided feedback. 221 for Youth in Transition Consumers. 88 for Older Individuals who are Blind Consumers.

The data collection was conducted from January to December 2020 but underwent changes: Trimester 1 data collection ended early in April due to COVID and a VR service pause. Data collection resumed in August, remaining annual data collection combined into a single trimester. Overall response rate was 43%.

Overall satisfaction and expectations. Experience with staff and counselors was at 86%. The Older Individuals, who are blind, was 90%, this is something that is historically true. They are more vocal about their pleasure with services.

Would you tell your friends with disabilities to go to the VR program for help? (% yes). 90% overall satisfaction.

General VR consumers are positive overall but continue to praise their experience with VR staff and counselors. Compared to the North and South, **Rural** consumers continue to report a more positive experience with VR. Those **in-service individual plan of employment to 6 months** are more positive about that their counselors are easy to contact.

Trends to watch: The least positive domain in the general VR was overall satisfaction and experience was 74%. Fewer consumers would recommend VR now as compared to this time last year. General VR consumers consistently experience more problems than any other population. Feedback from dissatisfied General VR consumers included that they did not meet their goals or getting employment which greatly was affected due to the pandemic.

Types of problems experience by General VR consumers. Counselors did not return calls, emails or follow-up was 13%. Listening to customer, their needs, wants and abilities was 10%. Counselors would not listen and dismissed concerns was 7%.

Employment job satisfaction, 77% of employed consumers are satisfied with their job. Trends to watch, positive aspects of the consumer experience. Experience with VR staff and counselors is the **most positive** aspect of their experience. Nearly all youth consumers would recommend the VR program to their friends with disabilities. The least positive domain is ease of the application process. VR has now gone to an on-line application consisting of 1 ½ pages.

Youth in Transition Services: Almost all those receiving services found them valuable. Counseling on opportunities to attend college, learn a trade, or get a professional certification after high school was at 94%. Work based learning experiences including a job, internship, or volunteering was at 99%.

Problems experienced: 19% of youth consumers reported experiencing a problem with VR or the services they were provided. Of those experiencing a problem, 55% indicate that VR worked to resolve the problem.

Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) consumers report the most positive consumer experience of all populations. The **most positive** part of their experience is working with the OIB program staff and counselors. Overall satisfaction and expectations, ease of the application process, experience with staff and counselors, experience with services.

Less Positive Aspects of the Consumer Experience: OIB program consumers report challenges with the application process and rate it more negatively than other populations. Communication with the OIB program as a challenge throughout 2020 but did improve later in the year.

New questions were added: In what ways has the coronavirus pandemic affected your experience with VR/OIB? Have you put VR/OIB services on hold or stopped looking for work? Asked of those unemployed: Did you lost or leave a job due to the coronavirus pandemic? Were you laid off, furloughed, or concerned for your safety and left work voluntarily? VR being closed became a barrier. 25% of consumers put their services on hold due to the pandemic. Just over one in ten General VR consumers (15%) and Youth (12) stopped looking for work. Among those currently unemployed, 20% of general VR and 11% of youth in transition lost a job because of COVID-19. Among general VR, 48% were laid off while only 23% of youth experienced a layoff. Very few left a job because of concern for the health.

Data collection will continue in three trimester data collection periods. January – April, May – August, September – December.

A separate report will be provided to VR that compares results on the core metrics, problems, and consumers feedback to five other agencies. Florida, Maine, North Dakota, Vermont, and Vermont OIB.

6. **DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF THE FFY18 REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RSA) MONITORING NEVADA CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Mr. Elez reviewed the current plan and indicated that VR had 7 findings some programmatic and some fiscal. Out of the 7 there are 2 remaining to finalize the correction action. He reviewed those 2 remaining only as the others had already been reviewed at a previous NSRC council meeting.

Finding 3 - Prior Approval Not Obtained

Finding Headline Prior Approval Not Obtained

Finding NBVR must obtain prior written approval from RSA before purchasing items requiring prior approval in accordance with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.407 and 200.439.

Mandated Corrective Action NBVR must demonstrate it meets the prior approval requirements pursuant to the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. § 200.407) and develop and implement written procedures for determining the allowability of costs in accordance with Subpart E — Cost Principles within Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. § 200.302(b)(7)).

RSA Focus Area

Agency Planned Corrective Action Steps

Corrective action 3.1

Action: Develop and implement policies and procedures, as well as a written internal control process, including a monitoring component, to ensure ongoing compliance with the prior approval requirements, including those in RSA Technical Assistance Circular (TAC) - 18-02.

Standard to be met and method of evaluation: NBVR contracted with Strategic Progress, LLC, an entity that provides grant development & management. They are developing a Prior Approval policy, guidelines, and internal controls document for NBVR, as per federal laws, regulations, and the recent FAQ. • A draft version of the Prior Approval policy/internal controls document with some of the elements completed will be provided to RSA for review and feedback. A final policy/internal controls document will be provided to RSA for review and approval.

Planned start date: 01/02/2020

Actual start date: 01/02/2020

Projected completion date: **12/31/2021**

Actual completion date:

Quarterly updates:

- April 30, 2020 - Please see attached draft Prior Approval policy, guidelines, and internal controls document called, "Policy Implementation Tool-kit - 06 March 2020." This document is still in development.
- July 31, 2020 – Due to the nationwide pandemic and Nevada's declaration of emergency, work on the Prior Approval policy, guidelines and internal controls document by Strategic Progress, LLC was paused. It has since restarted, but a final Prior Approval document is not yet complete. NBVR should be able to provide the complete document in its next quarter's response to RSA.
- October 31, 2020 - NBVR has begun the development of internal control documents outlining the process it will follow regarding prior approval as it relates to evaluating and monitoring compliance. Specific roles within our agency are being identified. These roles will be responsible for determining when prior approval will be required, who will be approving/submitting/tracking/monitoring requests (both aggregate and individual), who will be determining the appropriate federal award to charge, etc. NBVR is also in the process of developing internal control documents for non-compliance. This document will outline the necessary action needed to take place when non-compliance is identified, such as additional staff training, reviewing/updating current processes and returning federal funds. Please see attached draft procedures: "Prior Approval Internal Procedures DETR Rehab-Draft_v2" and "Federal Prior Approval Requirements – Instructions – DRAFT v.2." This finding is anticipated to be resolved by March 31, 2021.
- January 31, 2021 – NVBR continues to develop internal control documents outlining the process it will follow regarding prior approval. Please see attached "Federal Prior Approval Requirements – Instructions" Word document and "DRAFT DETR PRIOR APPROVAL FORM" pdf document. Anticipated completion date remains to be March 31, 2021.
- **July 13, 2021 – NVBR continues to develop internal control documents outlining the process it will follow regarding prior approval. The Nevada legislative session has slowed our progress of late. We now anticipate completion by December 31, 2021. Upon approval, we will implement for FFY 2022.**

Finding 6 - Internal Control Deficiencies

Finding Headline Internal Control Deficiencies

Finding NBVR did not maintain effective internal control over the Federal award to provide reasonable assurance that the agency is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations,

and the terms and conditions of the award.

Mandated Corrective Action NBVR must develop and maintain effective internal controls over the Federal awards necessary to provide reasonable assurances that it is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award, as required by 34 C.F.R. §§ 361.3(a) and 361.12, and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.302 and 200.303. Specifically, NBVR must develop sufficient mechanisms to monitor and reconcile the value of TPCA cooperating agency staff time, including those certified as match for the VR program or reimbursed with Federal funds, to ensure that expenditures reported are accurate, allocable and allowable, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.405, or to track, account and report program and fiscal data for service provision accurately on the RSA-2 or RSA-911 reports.

RSA Focus Area

Corrective action 6.2

Action: Develop and implement a mechanism to ensure costs for all pre-employment transition services required activities provided through TPCAs and VR services are allocable and allowable in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.405 and Sections 110(d)(1) and 113 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Standard to be met and method of evaluation: NBVR to monitor web portal & review Tech Manual for Fiscal Processes: Pre-ETS & ensure costs for Pre-ETS in TPCAs are allocable & allowable. "Group" authorization payment type will be created in AWARE. Management will review & approve authorizations in AWARE. • NBVR will submit written policies & procedures including process for use of & monitoring the portal & for approval of authorizations & any revisions to NBVR's Tech Manual for Pre-ETS. NBVR will provide a monitoring report demonstrating the new process is working.

Planned start date: 01/02/2020

Actual start date: 01/02/2020

Projected completion date: **7/30/2021**

Actual completion date:

Quarterly updates:

- April 30, 2020 - A work group will update our Pre-ETS fiscal manual "Pre-ETS procedures - Final 07.01.2019." Nevada's Transition Coordinator team work closely with our vendors to verify the Pre-ETS services being provided prior to approval. Group authorization payment types are now used in our case mgmt. system, and include Pre-ETS clients, services, and payments. Specific account coding has been created to use at time of payment to identify & track required Pre-ETS activities ("Pre-ETS Activities Coding").
- July 31, 2020 – NBVR will begin coordinating for a full internal monitoring with an anticipated completion date of October 1, 2020. RSA will be provided the monitoring report to demonstrate compliance.
- October 31, 2020 – Deputy Administrator of Operations met with the RSA liaison on September 29, 2020 to discuss the group authorization process that NBVR utilizes in AWARE. NBVR is moving away from the group authorization process as it is not appropriately meeting our needs to comply with federal regulations to appropriately authorize/obligate federal funds. NBVR will provide an updated procedure when complete. Please see attached "Pre-ETS (1)." This is a document we have been using during our internal discussions to outline how/what will need to be done to move from group authorizations to individual authorizations. Anticipated date of completion by March 31, 2021.

- January 31, 2021 – New procedures have been developed and implemented as of December 2020. Individual authorizations are now being drafted and issued for Pre-ETS. Please see attached pdf documents: “AWARE Adding Pre-ETS Participants,” “AWARE Pre-ETS authos,” and “No auth after service.” With these procedures being very recently implemented and depending on the amount of Pre-ETS activity over the coming months, NBVR will do it’s best to provide a monitoring report to RSA demonstrating compliance by the next quarterly CAP submission on April 30, 2021. Otherwise, the compliance report will be submitted no later than the subsequent CAP submission on July 31, 2021.
- **June 30, 2021 – NVBR continues to follow the recently implemented procedures with positive progress. NVBR will conduct self-monitoring of these issues in the next quarter. The monitoring report will be submitted to RSA at the next quarterly CAP submission. We anticipate resolution at that time.**

7. **DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF THE CURRENT PROGRAM YEAR 2020 STATE PLAN GOALS, STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Ms. Merrill and Mr. Elez reviewed the current goals, strategies, and performance measures as follows:

Goal 1

Increase number of successful employment outcomes.

Strategies:

- Training
 - Utilize person-centered career planning activities.
 - Identify key employers and increase partnerships with them to develop work readiness training programs.
 - Educate employers about the opportunities and benefits of hiring persons with disabilities.
 - Provide employers with training on disability related topics.
 - Ensure consumers are aware of travel training and transportation options and that they are able to utilize the appropriate options.
 - Explore the use of technology and training earlier in plan development.
 - Incorporate career-readiness content into educational curriculum, linking with colleges via Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCAs).
 - Support counselor continuing education training, including on assistive technology.
 - Services are provided using all modalities, as needed by the client.
- Employer Engagement
 - Increase access to quality job development services including utilizing Vocational Rehabilitation’s internal job developer.
 - Increase the utilization and promotion of the 700-Hour program and Schedule A.
 - Identify federal employment opportunities.
 - Explore apprenticeships.
 - Utilize Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG), Career and Technical Education (CTE) and other partners for work based learning.
- Advocacy
 - Continue to create and implement marketing strategies.
 - Consider self-employment and home employment options.
 - Provide access to resources in support of self-employment including business plan development.
 - Promote peer to peer support networks.
 - Determine the historical use of rehabilitation technology (assistive technology) and ensure continuity and access to equipment and services.
 - Utilize Business Development Team as a statewide workgroup to collectivize best practices and identify emerging practices; and to communicate and collaborate for increased cross utilization of resources.

- Leverage resources from Governor's Workforce Development Board and Local Workforce Development Boards.

Measures:

Increase the number of Successful Employment Outcomes. The Division's performance goal in FFY20 will be at least 822 participants with cases closed successfully. (FFY17 total was 746, projected FFY18 is 768, chose a 7% increase to 822. This goal of 822 was not met in FFY19. Therefore, goal remains the same for FFY20).

Goal 2

Increase participation and increase successful outcomes in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) transition services and ensure participants receive as appropriate Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Strategies:

- Collaboration between School Districts and VR to assess, plan and deliver pre-employment transition services for eligible student-clients with disabilities, as required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), via the Social and Emotional Learning Program. Learning is verified for example using pre-and post-tests.
- Services are provided using all modalities, as needed by the client.
- Explore the utilization of social and Web-based media as a communication and marketing tool for clients and their families, caregivers and advocates.
- Improve special outreach efforts to Transition Students, i.e. camps, Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit, Internships and trainings.
- Encourage successful transition students to provide peer support to those considering enrollment in Pre-ETS.
- Develop referral mechanisms with charter schools and private schools.
- Embed transition coordinators within school districts to build, maintain and manage pre-vocational programs, provide guidance and monitoring of students with disabilities during service provision and perform outreach to businesses, families, caregivers, and advocates.
- Increase number and variety of curriculum of summer camps.
- Increase communication through educating teachers, 504 Coordinators, parents, caregivers, advocates, and youth with disabilities regarding the Vocational Rehabilitation process, programs, and referral services.
- Work with youth with disabilities, the Nevada Department of Education, local education authorities, parent organizations, and families to encourage early discussions with students about the expectations of employment and their skills, abilities, and talents that will empower them to achieve self-sufficiency.
- Vocational Rehabilitation participates in more Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.
- Expand Work Based Learning opportunities for students to explore employment options.
- Expand Job Shadowing and mentorship programs.
- Adopt career planning using evidence-based person-centered planning tools.
- Encourage and support family participation.
- Work with school personnel to streamline and clarify the referral process for transition students.
- Explore the use of technology and training earlier in plan development.
- Coordinate with Nevada Centers for Independent Living to explore options for participation in Transition Services.
- Work more closely with Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) to explore customized employment options.

Measures:

- Increase participation of Transition Students in the Program to 1,014 with open cases. (Participation in FFY17 was 749, projected for FFY18 is 874, chose a 16% increase to 1,014. This goal of 1,014 was not met in FFY19. Therefore, goal remains the same for FFY20).

- 400 Transition Students will either be enrolled in Postsecondary education programs or successfully employed. (Postsecondary Education in FFY17 was 156. Postsecondary projected for FFY18 is 104). (Successfully Employed in FFY17 was 148 projected for FFY18 is 180. This goal of 400 was not met in FFY19. Therefore, goal remains the same for FFY20. However, we will illustrate in this measure whether transition students are Supported Employment (SE) clients or not SE clients).
- Ensure Transition Students receive Pre-ETS. The Division's performance regarding delivery of Pre-ETS to students in FFY19 will increase by 10% over FFY18. (For FFY17 1,065 received Pre-ETS. For FFY18 1,725 received Pre-ETS. Goal for FFY20 is 1,898, which is a 10% increase).

Goal 3

Increase participation and successful outcomes of supported employment (SE) consumers in a competitive, integrated setting.

Supported Employment is: competitive integrated employment (including customized employment, or employment in an integrated work setting in which an individual with a most significant disability, including a youth with a most significant disability, is working in a short-term basis toward competitive integrated employment) that is individualized and customized, consistent with the unique strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choice of the individual, including with ongoing support services for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Strategies:

- Work more closely with Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) to explore customized employment options.
- SE services are provided using all modalities, as needed by the client.
- Partner with existing public and private State entities that provide Supported Employment.
- Provide appropriate, quality training to staff, State Rehabilitation Council Members and consumers on Supported Employment.
- Identify and support best practices that encourage high-wage/career track employment.
- Utilize the Vocational Rehabilitation Business Development Team of 10 to improve Supported Employment services outcomes.
- Continue participation on the Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Committee and the State Employment Leadership Network.
- Develop a plan and collect data regarding the needs of individuals for Supported Employment to help drive future goals.
- Explore the use of technology and training earlier in plan development.
- Determine the historical use of rehabilitation technology (assistive technology) and ensure continuity and access to equipment and services.
- Expand job shadowing and mentorship programs.
- Increase access to quality job development services including utilizing Vocational Rehabilitation's internal job developer.
- Encourage employers to implement job carving, job sharing, and part-time/non-traditional shift offerings.
- Create customized employment options.
- Develop a pathway for long-term supports and services, as needed.
- Explore apprenticeship opportunities.

Measures:

- The number of consumers participating in Supported Employment will be 660 participants in FFY19. (FFY17 503 participated in Supported Employment (SE). FFY18 523 participated in SE. FFY19 684 participated in SE with only 3 quarters of the FFY19 reported. Goal for FFY20 is 786, which is a 15% increase).
- Increase Successful Employment Outcomes. The Division's performance goal in FFY19 will be that at least 166 Supported Employment cases are closed as successful employment outcomes.

(FFY17 126 cases closed as successful employment outcomes. FFY18 132 closed successful. This goal of 166 was not met for FFY19. Therefore, goal remains the same for FFY20).

- Increase Successful Employment Outcomes for Transition age students with disabilities (up to age 22) who are SE clients. (Currently collecting data. No goal was set).

Goal 4

Collaborate with other resources to support participants with mental health disabilities to obtain and maintain successful employment. (May include: Depression and other mood disorders, alcohol abuse or dependence, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, drug abuse or dependence, mental illness not listed elsewhere, personality disorders, schizophrenia, and other psychotic disorders).

Strategies:

- Increase collaboration with Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS), Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) and State Rural Mental Health Clinics.
- Collaborate with private mental health/substance abuse treatment facilities.
- Increase vendor base with private mental health practitioners for service/referrals.
- Outreach to major hospital mental/behavioral health programs.
- Collaborate with Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and local IL centers.
- Collaborate with Juvenile Justice.
- Trainings and tools for staff on:
 - Dialectical Behavior Therapy strategies.
 - Substance Abuse.
 - Borderline Personality Disorders.
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.
- Increase usage of tele-health for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with Parole and Probation.
- Increase VR's social media postings on mental/behavioral health issues and associated Vocational Rehabilitation services.
- Develop a pathway for long-term mental health support and services, as needed.
- Services are provided using all modalities, as needed by the client.
- Explore collaboration with National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) and attend monthly speakers' presentations and annual conference, when able
- Participate in available mental health consortiums and related organizations.
- Embed a rehabilitation counselor at both the SNAMHS and NNAMHS campuses.

Measures:

- The Division's performance goal in FFY20 will be that at least 330 individuals with Mental Health Disabilities are closed as successful employment outcomes. (10% over FFY18 projected. This goal of 330 was not met in FFY19. Therefore, goal remains the same for FFY20).
- Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities will have a successful case closure rate similar to other Disabilities groups by FFY23. (Current successful closure rate is 32% with only 3 quarters of the FFY19 reported. A similar rate would be 41%).

Goal 5

Work with eligible government and community partners to maximize utilization of resources and federal funds.

Strategies:

- Collaborate with Department of Health and Human Services, and State commissions related to populations concerned with sensory (blindness, deafness), mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities; including the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities, the Nevada Commission on Behavioral Health and Community Training Centers (CTCs).

- Encourage discussion with Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) executive leadership, the Governor's office and Nevada legislators.
- Pursue alternate/complimentary funding sources such as through private foundations and grants and utilize grant writing resources across agencies.
- Participate in Disability Awareness Month activities.
- Collaborate with other agencies to hold Town Hall outreach meetings.
- Continue participation on appropriate taskforces, boards, committees and commissions.
- Collaborate with the Division of Health and Human Services for interagency transfers of funds to pay for services for joint clients.
- Continue marketing to inform about the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program through vrnevada.org and VR's social media outlets.
- Dedicate a staff member to be responsible to Third Party Cooperative Arrangement (TPCA) partners as a single point of contact to provide technical assistance and oversight for those programs, and develop new TPCA partners. Current partners include: Clark County School District, Washoe County School District, Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College.
- Provide outreach to other government entities about the VR program and opportunities to partner with VR.

Measures:

Document additional financial resources brought into the program in FFY19 via collaborative efforts, and measure in dollars:

- Additional non-General Fund match.
- Federal Section 110 grant dollars generated from the additional match.

*Note: Performance Measures data will include data for FFY17, FFY18, FFY19, and the addition of FFY20.

8. **ESTABLISHMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2022 & 2023 (OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023) STATE PLAN GOALS, STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

Mr. Nuestro began with asking if there were any modifications to Goal 1. Goal 1 to remain the same. The new measure is to be 500 to 600 successful employment outcomes. Recommended to remove the strategy for TPCAs as they have ended. Add a new strategy "Work to ensure all vacancies are filled as quickly as possible. With the understanding that existing counselors in place are the only way VR will achieve this goal". A motion was made by Dawn Lyons modifications as discussed. Judy Swain seconded, all in favor, none-opposed, motion carried.

Goal 2. Mr. Nuestro asked if there were any modifications to Goal 2. Goal 2 to remain the same. Measures to remain the same for next fiscal years. A motion was made by Dawn Lyons modifications as discussed. Judy Swain seconded, all in favor, none-opposed, motion carried.

Goal 3. Mr. Nuestro asked if there were any modifications for Goal 3. Goal 3 to remain the same. Add to the last bullet point to read: "Explore apprenticeship with non-traditional work with opportunities". Current number of consumers participating in SE is 798. The suggestion to follow at the September meeting to establish the goal by the full council. A motion was made by Dawn Lyons modifications as discussed. Mary Brabant seconded, all in favor, none-opposed, motion carried.

Goal 4. Mr. Nuestro asked if there were any modifications for Goal 4. Goal 4 to remain the same. Add strategies bullet point 1, virtual service deliveries. Add to bullet point 5 regarding collaborate with SILC to add "quarterly". Drazen suggested to add a strategy to collaborate with foster youth centers. Dawn suggested to include to collaborate with regents for higher education for mental health. Raquel suggested adding training to employers' human resources on mental health. To continue to provide virtual resources

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pro-pandemic. Outreach for collaboration for mental health for Tribal Partners and Reservations and minority organizations. A motion was made by Dawn Lyons modifications as discussed. Mary Brabant seconded, all in favor, none-opposed, motion carried.

Goal 5. Mr. Nuestro asked if there were any modifications for Goal 5. Drazan indicated strategies related to TPCA's and possible future ones. At this point it is unknown what the impact is going to have on Federal Funds. It's suggested to eliminate this goal and/or replace with something more meaningful. Raquel suggested a new potential goal and strategy making everything more accessible to everyone. Improving the satisfaction rate of the contact is suggested. Retention of counselors. Motion made by Raquel O'Neil motioned as discussed, Judy Swain seconded. All in favor, none-opposed.

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Lyons and Ace Patrick both thanked the subcommittee for allowing them to participate.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Edited By:

Javier Fernandez

Javier Fernandez, N.S.R.C. Liaison

Approved By:



David Nuestro, Vice-Chair