



Department of Aging and Disability Services



Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

State Rehabilitation Council

Teams Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2025

1:00 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

SRC Members: Kate Travis, Joe Wendover, Brian Smith, Jill Larmett, Contessa Big-Crow Jenkins, Beth Reel, Linda Rammler, Carissa Decelles, Lauren Maurice, Tom Cosker, Stephanie Trelli, Andrea Richardson, Dave Doukas

SRC Liaison: Kerri Fradette

Visitors: Alicia Kucharczyk, Arlene Lugo, Alexa Soberal, Kathy Marchione, Lexie Beauchamp

Welcome and introductions: Chairperson, Kate T. – group introductions

Budget Review: Treasurer, Carissa D. – no changes to budget since last meeting.

1:15 – Policy Review:

Kathleen Marchione, BRS Bureau Chief

Alicia Kucharczyk, BRS Education Consultant

3 minor changes to BRS policy manual involving obtaining signatures and more involvement with counselors. The changes were made to decrease bureaucratic language and increase permissions. Policy pilot to increase college funding for 2 yr period and how it goes, we are in the first year of the pilot and will report back the results. This may result in future policy changes. Review of policy changes and the final document.

Foundational BRS training for BRS counselors was discussed and Linda R. would like to create a workgroup to review trainings and see if there is a training on informed choice. Workgroup will work with Alicia K. and determine next steps.

Client Assistance Program Updates: Tom C. – no significant changes since last report out.

2:30 – Marketing and Outreach Presentation:



Department of Aging and Disability Services



Arlene Lugo, BRS Education Consultant

Alexa Soberal, BRS Education Service Specialist – Alexa and Arlene discussed the BRS outreach and marketing strategies that have been ongoing for the past 3 years while working with Camelo communications group. There has been increased social media efforts and digital outreach. There will be a new website required by the State of CT that will change the efforts done by Camelo and BRS team. SRC members emphasized the importance of having CRP and consumers resources easily available on the new website.

SRC marketing and outreach was discussed as the SRC is not able to order any marketing materials to promote the SRC due to ADS agency directive. This complicates trying to create an ongoing diverse SRC. The SRC is limited as to what can be developed due to SRC not to be able to develop any materials unless it refers only to ADS. This creates a lot of confusion as to what the SRC/BRS stand for and completing the requirements according to section 105 of the Rehab. Act. The SRC has written a letter to Dave Doukas that outlines the confusion and frustration of conducting SRC outreach.

Committee Updates:

- **Legislation and Policy** – Linda R. Policy changes were already covered earlier in meeting. CRP's the need to advocate building capacity as consumers are waiting longer lengths of time for services.
- **Membership** – Jill L. is working on new members for the SRC.
- **Program Review**- no updates

Public Comment: All

Next Meeting: March 26, 2025 TEAMS