Arkansas State Rehabilitation Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018

Attendees

Council Members: Christopher Paslay, Chair; David Maples, Co-Chair; Craig Reinhardt; Lisa Tyler; Keith Vire; Tom Masseau; Frances Riley, Conference call; Albert Glover; Alan McClain, Commissioner.

ARS Staff: Deputy Commissioner Joe Baxter; Carl Daughtery; Ashley Cross; Chip McAfee; Jonathan Bibb; Robert Trevino; Nathan Winter; Jim Moreland; James McCune; Judy Smith; Yvonne Murphy; Lynn Franquemont; Tim Moffitt; Freddie Harshaw; Bernice Gunter

Guest(s): Sha’ Anderson-ARSILC; Caroline Boch, Disability Rights AR.

Call to Order:
State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Chair, Christopher Paslay, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Paslay welcomed all present.

Approval of Minutes
At the request of Mr. Paslay, council members reviewed the minutes of the most recent meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Comments from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Commissioner – Alan McClain:
Commissioner McClain also welcomed Council members and thanked them for their commitment to assist ARS in addressing the needs of those the agency serves. As part of his comments, the Commissioner briefed the Council on the agency’s requirement to update its Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan.

State Plan – Deputy Commissioner Joseph Baxter:
Deputy Commissioner Baxter provided the Council an overview of updates made to the ARS section of the WIOA State Plan. As part of discussion, Council Member Glenn Glover recommended that language on pages 41 and 43 be changed. After additional discussion, the Council concurred with the proposed changes. Deputy Commissioner Baxter informed the Council that he would incorporate the recommended changes into the State Plan and indicated the changes would be made before the release of the document for public comment. With no additional discussion, the Council voted to approve the State Plan with corrections.
Agency Updates:

Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI):
Jonathan Bibb, ACTI Administrator, provided the Council an update on ACTI’s Pre-Apprenticeship program. He indicated that ACTI had been looking at the program for some time. He related efforts in this area had started back in 2012 as part of a small partnership with the National Apprenticeship Claiming Foundation. He stated that some of ACTI’s auto mechanic students had worked with local automobile dealerships to get hands on experience. Mr. Bibb informed the Council that two individuals who went through the training had received advanced certification through the dealership with them provided in-depth training to work on certain cars with both individuals hired by the dealerships. Mr. Bibb reported that in 2016 there were 20 students who applied for ACTI’s Pre-Apprenticeship program with 19 completing the program. Of those completing, 14 found employment with 10 finding jobs in the skill trades. He indicated ACTI paid for the cost of the students to attend ACTI while the cost for the training was provided through a grant from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. After much discussion, Mr. Bibb concluded his presentation.

Business Engagement:
Ms. Ashley Cross, Corporate Accounts Representative for Business Engagement provided the Council an update on the Arkansas Business Leadership Network. She reported that the organization had its first strategic meeting on February 13, 2018 with representatives from JB Hunt, Tyson, Walmart, Regions Bank, and TJ Maxx which includes Marshal Home Goods participating. She reported Cox Communications and Mercy Hospital being new Arkansas Business Leadership Network members. Ms. Cross informed the Council that the USBLN was getting ready to go through a major change that would affect everyone, including the Arkansas affiliate. She reported that surveys have revealed not having “disability” in the name was an issue. She indicated that not only will the USBLN have a name change, but the State BLN name will also change. Ms. Cross indicated that the Arkansas BLN had discussed doing a road show having 2 or 3 sessions per quarter at different locations across the state informing other businesses of the organization with them surveying those businesses in attendance to gather information regarding the community needs. Ms. Cross recognized Council member David Maples who is a member of the Arkansas BLN and thanked him for his support.

Yvonne Rowland, Business Engagement Administrator, informed the Council that the Business Engagement section was revamping, recreating and updating its brochures to better appeal to businesses. As part of her presentation, she provided the Council an overview of Business Engagement’s new Inclusion Etiquette booklet that is a reference guide for Arkansas employers on understanding and interacting with individuals who have various types of disabilities. There was much discussion and suggestions from Council members and agency staff.

Field Services:
Carl Daughtery, Chief of Field Services, informed the Council that two months ago Field Services’ new case management system update went into effect to address WIOA performance measures that included elements in the agency’s 911 data report to RSA, our federal partner/funder. He reported Field Services had established a goal of 2,750 successful closures for the current fiscal year, an approximate 5% increase over last year. He informed the Council that within the ARS budget 15 million dollars goes directly for client services and that as of the end of February 53%
of that budgeted amount had been spent. He indicated that fiscal year to date Field Services had successful closed 884 individuals in competitive integrated employment. He reported Field Services having approximately 13,750 clients with the average counselor caseload being 151. Mr. Daughtery concluded his presentation by distributing a handout that identified dates/locations of upcoming Field Service events.

**Announcements**
Chairman Christopher Paslay informed the Council that the next scheduled meeting would be June 21, 2018.

**Adjournment**
With no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.