Arkansas State Rehabilitation Council  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Hot Springs, Arkansas (ACTI)  
June 15, 2017

Attendees

Council Members: Christopher Paslay, Chair; Keith Vire; Alex Scott; Martin McDonell; David Maples; Wesley Eddington; Robert Fagan; Lisa Haley; Frances Johnson; Alan McClain, Commissioner.

ARS Staff: Carl Daughtery; Ashley Cross; Chip McAfee; Jonathan Bibb; Joe Baxter; Judy Smith; Rodney Chandler; Nathan Winter; James McCune; Jim Moreland; Otis Dixon; Bernice Gunter.

Guest(s): Dr. Charisse Childers, Director of Arkansas Department of Career Education; Tenille Hunter, Goodwill Industries

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 and thanked Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) Administrator, Jonathan Bibb and his team for hosting the meeting.

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 welcomed all council members and thanked them for convening at ACTI. He also thanked Mr. Bibb for hosting the meeting. He expressed a hope that Council members would become more familiar with what was required to operate ACTI as a result of the meeting. Commissioner McClain introduced Dr. Childers, Director of Department of Career Education, to Council members and thanked her for her attendance.

Agency Updates

Arkansas Business Leadership Network – Ashley Cross, Business Relations Representative: Ms. Cross provided Council members an update regarding ARS’s efforts to help establish the Arkansas Business Leadership Network (BLN). She indicated that the purpose of the BLN was to better make the business case for inclusion of individuals with disabilities within the workplace. Ms. Cross stated that now is the time for Arkansas to be a part of a Business Leadership Network. She discussed the process of creating Arkansas’s BLN and the timeline of its development. She stated that within the next two weeks
the BLN would submit the final paperwork to proceed with the process of becoming a non-profit for the State of Arkansas, with the title Arkansas Business Leadership Network. She indicated that the initial BLN partnership includes 5 major corporations and that they were in the process of forming a Board of Directors. Ms. Cross reported that the initial partners include Walmart, Tyson Foods, Marshals/TJ Maxx/Home Goods, JB Hunt and Sears Corporation. She also reported that Regions Bank, CVS Pharmacy, Kroger and Maples Insurance were in the process of being added. Council member David Maples of Maples Insurance shared with the Council his experience in being a part of the BLN effort. He also related his success in recruiting other businesses in joining this effort.

**Jonathan Bibb, ACTI Administrator:** Mr. Bibb welcomed Council members to ACTI. He informed the Council that the meeting area was a training room for ACTI students and was used for many different activities. Mr. Bibb informed the Council that this building where the meeting was being held used to be an Armory. He indicated that in working with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) ACTI was able to receive funding to transform the building into a state of the art facility. Mr. Bibb communicated his appreciation for the partnership with Carl Daughtery and Field services as well as Judy Smith with the Transition Employment Program. He provided the Council an update regarding Pre-Apprentice training at ACTI, ACTI’s partnership with National Park Community College, and a new partnership in the works with CVS Pharmacy. Mr. Bibb invited Council members, guests, and interested ARS staff to take part in a tour of ACTI following lunch.

**Carl Daughtery, Chief of Field Services:** Mr. Daughtery provided the Council an update of the Field Program’s activities. He reported that the goal for FY 2017 for successful employment closures was 2,400. He indicated that current fiscal year-to-date the number of successful closures being 1,624. He provided information regarding other statuses that lead to successful closures. Mr. Daughtery provided the Council an update regarding the Transition Vision for 2017-1018 with him indicating that there was a lot going on in Transition. As part of his presentation he informed the Council of the partnership with Inclusion Films (actor Joey Travolta) and of the week-long STEM camp held April 24-28 where 50 students from across the State were brought together to learn about the film industry. As part of the event students also learned how to work together, advocate for themselves, and develop better social skills. He provided a film highlighting some of activities held during that week. Mr. Daughtery also informed the Council of the upcoming Community Connections Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be held June 23rd at the North Little Rock Field Office from 10:00-2:00 p.m. He also reported on the recently held Community Connections held at the Fayetteville Field Office. Mr. Daughtery highlighted the Teacher Transition Workshop held in Ft. Smith on Wednesday, June 7th. He also provided the Council an update regarding the Field Program revising its Order of Selection policy.

**Nathan Winter, Access & Accommodations:** Mr. Winter introduced himself to the Council as the newly appointed Associate Commissioner for Access & Accommodations. He provided the Council information regarding the reorganization of Access & Accommodations and the newly formed Community Service Programs Division, headed by Lynn Franquemont. Mr. Winter’s report included an update regarding activities of some of programs within Access and Accommodation to include Increasing Capability Access Network (ICAN), Telecommunications Access Program (TAP), Alternative Financing Program (AFP), and the Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC). He provided information regarding the Assistive Technology at Work (AT@Work) program’s efforts to support the ARS Field Program. Mr. Winter informed the Council of the partnership with the Arkansas Insurance Department’s Public Employee Claims Divisions (PECD) to develop a training curriculum for front line supervisors within State Government addressing Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work (SAW/RTW) practices, workplace accommodations, and workers’ compensation claims processing. He related that AT@Work and PECD was working closely with the Department of Finance and Administration’s Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in this initiative with a goal of OPM sponsoring and hosting the training. Mr. Winter
expressed the opinion that as a result of this training him anticipating an increase in agency referrals. He also related the potential for the training to be modified to meet the needs of other employers.

**AR PROMISE Grant, Project SEARCH and Transition Employment Program (TEP) – Judy Smith:** Ms. Smith provided the council updates regarding the PROMISE grant, Project SEARCH, and the ACTI TEP program. She informed the council that Project Search has expanded in Arkansas from 2 sites in 2013 to a total of seven sites. She indicated that last year’s Project Search graduates had achieved 100% employment by September 14th of last year and that out of the 48 that graduated 47 of them continue to be employed in competitive integrated jobs. Ms. Smith stated that 228 high school students had applied for the ACTI TEP program representing 75 high schools. She indicated the initial recruitment goal was 150 students. She indicated that 592 PROMISE youth participants were scheduled to receive a paid work experience this summer and that 250 participants were scheduled to take part in weeklong summer camp on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

**Announcements**

Chairman Christopher Paslay informed the Council that the next SRC meeting would tentatively be September 21, 2017.

**Adjournment**

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