

**Approved Minutes**  
VERMONT STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (VTSRC)  
Thursday, April 7, 2022 1:00PM – 3:30PM  
Zoom

**Meeting called by:**

Chair Asher Edelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Ana Kolbach
- Andrea Bacchi
- Asher Edelson
- Bill Meirs
- Cara Sachs
- Cari Kelley
- Courtney Blasius
- Diane Dalmasse, ex-officio, non-voting
- Emily Marie Ahtúnan
- Helena Kehne
- Kevin Stapleton
- Laura Flint
- Laura Siegel
- Marlena Hughes
- Martha Frank
- Nick Caputo
- Rocko Gieselman, non-voting
- Rose Lucenti
- Sarah Sterling
- Sherrie Brunelle

**Members Absent:**

- Calla Papademas
- Lexia Stanley
- Robin Ingenthron

**SRC Liaison:**

- Amanda Arnold
- James Smith

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Position Vacant

**Interpreters:**

- Sarah

- Jen Rainey

**Speakers or Presenters:**

- Will Pendlebury
- Liz O'Neil

**Guests:**

- Heather Batalion
- Maria Burt

**1) Introductions** (Asher Edelson, Chair)

**Discussion:**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**Conclusions:**

Thanks to everyone!

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**2) Approval of Agenda** (Asher Edelson)

**Discussion:**

Asher asked for any proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Courtney moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded by Nick. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 16-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**3) Open for Public Comment** (Asher Edelson)

**Discussion:**

There was no public comment given.

**Conclusions:**

n/a

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**b4) Approval of Minutes for [February 3, 2022](#)** (Asher Edelson)

**Discussion:**

Asher asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the February 3, 2022 minutes. There were none. Sherrie moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Rose. No discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 16-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Minutes from February 3, 2022 were approved

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Upload approved minutes to SRC website, **Amanda Arnold, 4/25/22**

**5) Consent Agenda** (Asher Edelson)

**Discussion:**

Asher asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the following consent agenda items:

- [AOE Committee January 6, 2022](#)
- [Performance Review Committee December 2, 2021](#)
- [Policy & Procedures Committee January 6, 2022](#)
- [Steering Committee January 13, 2022](#)
- [Coordinator's Report February 3, 2022](#)

Cari moved to approve, and it was seconded by Martha. No further discussion. Vote unanimous 16-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Consent agenda items approved

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Upload to SRC website, **Amanda Arnold, 4/25/22**

**6) Director's Report** (Diane Dalmasse)

**Discussion:**

Diane shared the following [Directors Report](#) (link needs to be updated).

Diane added that one thing not in the Directors Report was that HireAbility is pursuing purchasing state owned fleet vehicles, prior to them going up for auction, for consumers.

**Conclusions:**

Thank you, Diane, for the update!

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

n/a

**7) Committee Chair Updates** (Asher Edelson)

**Discussion:**

**A. Advocacy, Outreach, & Education Committee**

Cari reported that the AOE has decided to put together a transportation sub-committee and wanted to extend an invitation to the rest of the SRC to see if anyone else wanted to join that team.

#### **B. Policies & Procedures Committee**

Sherrie reported that the P&P committee decided to separate the spending guidelines from the policy manual so that they can be updated without having to go through the public comment period. Chapters 201 and 202 were posted for public comment and we did receive feedback from RSA. James has made the necessary changes and the chapters will be posted to the website soon. Committee is moving forward with Self-Employment and Confidentiality chapters at the upcoming meetings.

#### **C. Performance Review Committee**

Nick shared that during the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting James and Amanda gave updates on the State Plan and reviewed the goals and priorities. It was well received by the committee and the results were impressive, despite COVID.

#### **D. Steering Committee**

Asher reports that the Steering Committee discussed the transition of the SRC executive coordinator position and the posting to hire for it. Also discussed meeting bylaws to make meetings go more smoothly.

#### **Conclusions:**

Thank you to the committee chairs for the updates!

#### **Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

n/a

### **8) VR Regional Manager Updates (Maria Burt)**

#### **Discussion:**

Maria Burt shared that:

Summer Career Exploration Program is underway and the region has a number of interested youth looking to participate. Transportation has been a priority this year and they have worked diligently to have options in place for this summer.

HireAbility presentations to local partners to help get the brand name out there. Partners and Customers have voiced being really happy about the rebranding. One of the local news papers reached out to Maria and she connected Diane and Hib to the contact who wrote an excellent article for the paper.

Bennington Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to host a "stay to stay" event happening Memorial Day weekend for individuals who are considering relocating to Vermont. This is a networking event that HireAbility has been

invited to participate in this year. Great opportunity to connect with local employers and potentially new consumers or employees.

Rutland has a Weatherization training happening in partnership with Vermont Adult Learning. Using Career Training Offset for HireAbility consumers to help offer wages during their training. Construction 101 is another training that will begin in May.

Region is back into a hybrid work model which has been a bit of a transition for everyone. Staff have been giving each other grace and options for consumers for types of meetings that work best for them. More consumers are beginning to request in person meetings. Delivering orientation has been shifting – offering both in person and virtual options to try to meet the needs of the consumers who want services.

One challenge has been that some businesses have been less receptive to the idea of progressive employment opportunities. Business Account Managers continue to explore options with businesses for light touch connections with consumers.

**Conclusions:**

Thank you, Maria , for the updates!

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**9) HireAbility Vermont’s DEIA Work (Liz O’Neill and Will Pendlebury)**

**Discussion:**

Liz O’Neill reviewed this presentation.

**Conclusions:**

Thank you, Liz!

Emily requested that the Social Contract team review materials for accessibility.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**12) Other Business (Asher Edelson)**

Martha reminded the SRC that there are two upcoming events:

[SAVE-THE-DATE-Youth-Summit-may-2022.docx \(live.com\)](#)

[Core Transition Teams - Vermont Family Network](#)

Cari mentioned that there is a VCDR Housing for All event on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Emily mentioned that the transportation bill passed in the House so there will be no transportation cuts in Chittenden county and will remain fare free until the end of this fiscal year.

Sherrie acknowledged the passing of Deborah Leasing Baker. The SRC took a moment of silence. There is an event to remember DLB through VCIL.

### **13) Round Table** (Group)

#### **Discussion:**

Attendees were asked to share their response to the following question:  
*What's one thing you appreciated about our time together today?*

Sherrie shared that she appreciated the presentation by Social Contract.

Asher shared that he appreciated the SRC for taking time to be together for our meeting today and that Sherrie acknowledged the passing of DLB.

Laura shared that she appreciates that:

- Amanda has stepped in to fill the SRC Coordinator vacancy
- Diane had shared information about the launch of DEIA work
- HireAbility is pursuing the Opioid Use grant
- The DEIA presentation

Marlena shared that she appreciated Maria Burt coming and sharing the exciting work happening in her regions.

### **14) Adjournment** (Asher Edelson)

#### **Conclusions:**

Sherrie made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Martha. Asher called the meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

#### **Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Draft minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Amanda Arnold**, 4/8/2022
- Draft minutes emailed to Committee members, **Amanda Arnold**, 4/8/2022
- Minutes approved, **Committee**, 6/2/2022
- Approved minutes uploaded to website, **Amanda Arnold**, 6/2/2022