

**Vermont State Rehabilitation Council Annual Retreat
Thursday, October 7th
9:30am - 2:30pm**



GOALS

To plan and focus our work we will:

- Welcome /build engagement and input from all
- Celebrate accomplishments
- Choose priorities for this coming year
- Reaffirm the key role that SRC members play in this work
- Enjoy each other

Prep Work

In advance of our time together, set aside 15 minutes of time to randomly flip [to anywhere in this guidebook](#). As you read that section or section(s), we invite you to reflect on and jot down your thoughts to these questions:

- *What makes for a strong SRC?*
- *How do SRC members bring value to the work of the council and committees?*
- *What questions does it provoke for you about the role of the SRC and members?*

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome from Sarah
- Agenda review and approval
- Public comment
- Welcome from Diane (value of the SRC, examples from past year of how SRC brought value to DVR, and lessons learned from the past year)

9:45 a.m. Getting to Know You (paired conversations)

Three rounds of paired conversations, with a different question each round:

- *What's your favorite autumn activity?*
- *What brought you to the SRC?*
- *What's one talent, skill, or driving value that you bring to this work?*

10:15 a.m. Break

(As we go into break, ask people to bring back their notes with them from the pre meeting task.)

10:20 a.m. The Role of the SRC and Members

(5 mins) Sarah to provide a brief history/overview of the SRC.
(20 mins) Move into small groups with a committee chair as discussion facilitator/notetaker in each breakout room to facilitate the following questions:

Based on what you read:

- *What makes for a strong SRC?*
- *How do SRC members bring value to the work of the council and committees?*
- *What questions does it provoke for you about the role of the SRC and your role as a member?*

(15 mins) Come back to large group. Each group to share highlights from their conversations. And answer any questions in the large group.

11:00 a.m. Break

11:05 a.m. VR's Big Priorities in the Year Ahead (Panel/Presentations)

Diane and Amanda to do kickoff to set framing.

Panel to consist of:

- Progressive education
- Marketing (rebranding and Our Time is Now)
- TBA (Ex. WorkVT 2.0, school-based services, tech coach, etc.)

Note: As you listen to the presentations, jot down your thoughts to the following question:

- *How might this inform the work of the SRC and your committee?*

11:55 a.m. Lunch (VABIR to send gift cards in advance \$25 lunch)

12:55 p.m. Ice breaker (What did you have for lunch?)

1:00 p.m. Committee Breakouts

Facilitated by committee chairs.

(5 mins) Start by having participants individually read through the committee description and list of committee accomplishments for the year.

(25 mins) What would you like the priorities of your committee to be in the year ahead?

(15 minutes) What are the goals and action steps to get there, and what should be the roles of committee members?

1:45 p.m. Break

1:50 p.m. Committee Report Outs (large group)
(30 minutes) Report outs from each of the three committees including priorities, goals, and member roles for reactions from the larger group (10 minutes per committee total).

2:20 Closing (round robin)

Each participant invited to share response to this question:

- *What are you feeling energized about in terms of the work of the SRC and your role in the year ahead?*

2:30 Adjourn

SRC Committee Accomplishments

Advocacy, Outreach, and Education Committee

- Collaborated with Statewide Independent Living Council and Agency of Education on SRC presentations.
- Followed relevant federal bills including the ABLE Age Adjustment Act and MFP authorization/extension.
- Followed administrative actions including SSA rulings and Civil Rights Commission report.
- Followed state legislation including unfreezing of attendant services program, hearing aid insurance mandate, and first responders commission.
- Kept abreast of upcoming events including the Governor's Transportation Summit, SRC Annual Card Room Event, VFN Youth Summit, SILC Olmstead webinars and networking breakfast.
- Provided information about grant opportunities including Transitioning to Economic Self-Sufficiency (TESS) and precluding SSDI enrollment by providing employment services.
- Supported roll-out of "Working with Disability" project with Public Assets Institute and other partner organizations.
- Provided advocacy for Vermont VR in filling vacant positions and importance of employment services as the economy opens up.
- Provided education on COVID impacts to specific programs, services, and benefits.

Performance Review Committee

- Met our statutory obligation to review and provide feedback on VR's goals, priorities, and performance updates with regards to the WIOA Unified and Combined State Plan.
- Met our statutory obligation to review and provide feedback on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.
- Reviewed the Rehabilitation Needs of Youth and Students with Disabilities Prevalence and Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Students and Youth Pre-ETS.
- Reviewed statewide data on disability and employment in Vermont.
- Reviewed state and national data before and after WIOA.
- Reviewed data on the need for VR services for students and youth.

Policy & Procedures Committee

- Extensive review and revision of Post-Secondary Training and Education policy to bring into compliance with WIOA.
- Review and revision of Audiology policy.
- Continued work on Self Employment policy.
- Initial review of WIOA Requirements Related to SSI/SSDI Beneficiaries and decision to develop separate chapter focused on SSI/SSDI.
- Began review of Transportation policy.
- Review and revisions to Maintenance policy.
- Reviewed and commented on COVID-19 Guidance for VocRehab staff.

Steering Committee

- Planned for and held four full SRC meetings and the annual retreat.
- Ensured that the SRC met membership requirements through appointments and reappointments.
- Transitioned the SRC Coordinator role from contractor to VR staff member and provided feedback on workplan.
- Approved member recruitment materials, a membership directory, and a plan for onboarding and training materials.
- Transitioned all SRC meetings to virtual meeting platforms to continue our work uninterrupted during COVID.