The General Agency
State Rehabilitation Council
New Member Orientation

VR/SRC Partnership- Working Together Works
Pat Tomlinson & Tom Jennings

Career NJDVRS - Retired

George Washington University
Technical Assistance & Continuing Education Program (TACE) - Retired
Now we want to get to know you

- Who are you?
- Who do you represent on the Council?
- What questions do you have that you would like us to talk about?
TRAINING OBJECTIVES

To provide SRC members with a working understanding of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 2014, so that they:

→ feel comfortable entering into discussions concerning policy, procedures, long and short range agency planning; &

→ have a basis for WIOA related discussions.
To provide in-depth understanding of Section 105/361.17 of the Rehab Act/Regulations & their mandates for the SRC.

To instill in SRC members a passion for excellence in implementing the philosophy and intent of the Rehabilitation Act.
Where does VR reside in the Federal structure?

- Department of Ed.
  - OSERS
    - RSA
      - VR General
      - VR Blind
      - VR Combined
Now let’s talk about
The Rehabilitation Act
WIOA
(Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act)

Title IV of WIOA
(Rehabilitation Act)

Title I (Subtitle B) of Title IV
(VR Services)

Section 105 of Title 1 (SRC)

CFR 361.17
Policy must be consistent with-

- Respect for individual dignity, personal responsibility, self determination, & pursuit of meaningful careers based on informed choice.
- Respect for individual privacy, rights, & equal access
- Inclusion, integration, & full participation
- Authorized representative, if needed
- Advocacy & community involvement
Purposes of the Act are-

- Empower to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, inclusion & integration into society.
- Maximize opportunities for competitive, integrated employment.
- Fulfill aspirations for meaningful & gainful employment.
- Increase employment opportunities & employment outcomes through employers and service providers.
- Ensure transitioning opportunities.
The 2014 Amendments of the Rehab Act

Emphasis on-

- Transition of youth & students with disabilities
- Competitive integrated employment
- Economic self-sufficiency
Scope of Act

- **Title I - VR Services**
- **Title II - Research & Training**
- **Title III - Professional Development: Special Projects & Demonstration**
- **Title IV - National Council on Disability**
- **Title V - Rights & Advocacy**
- **Title VI - Employment Opportunities**
- **Title VII - Independent Living**
Title I (Subtitle B) of the Rehab Act- VR Services

- Declaration of policy, authorizations, & appropriations
- VR Services Portion of the Unified State Plan
- Eligibility & Individualized Plan for Employment
- VR Services
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Evaluation standards & performance indicators
- Monitoring & review
- Training & Services for Employers
- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Pre-employment transition services.
- American Indian VR services
Title IV- Section 105 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

Section 361.17 of the Regs
• VR must have a SRC to be eligible for federal funds

• Members appointed by Governor after recommendations from: organizations representing broad range of individuals with disabilities; organizations interested in individuals with disabilities; consider minority representation.
Mandated Members

Must have minimum of 15 members representing:

♦ SILC Representative
♦ Parent Training & Info. Center Representative
♦ Client Assistance Program Representative
♦ VR Counselor (ex-officio if VR staff)
♦ Community Rehab Program Representative
♦ State agency Special Ed Representative
♦ Native American Project Representative (if any)
State Workforce Development Board Representative

4 Business, Industry, & Labor Representatives

Disability Advocacy Groups Representation- Cross section- physical, sensory, cognitive, mental.

Reps of individuals who cannot rep self.

Current or former VR Applicants or Recipients

VR Director (Ex Officio)

Majority- Persons w/Disabilities- not employed by VR
Terms

♦ 3-Year Terms

♦ Maximum 2 Consecutive Full Terms

♦ CAP & 121 Projects- No Limit
Meetings

♦ At least 4 per year
♦ Forums or hearings as appropriate
  ● Publicly announced
♦ Open to general public
♦ Accessible.
♦ Chair selected by Council from membership.
Conflict of Interest

Members cannot vote if-

♦ Direct financial benefit

♦ Gives appearance of conflict
Compensation

Reasonable & Necessary Expenses of:

♦ Attending SRC meetings
♦ Performing SRC duties
♦ Child care
♦ Personal assistance services
♦ Meeting accommodations
♦ Forfeited wages
Resource Plan

As necessary & sufficient to carry out the functions of the Council-

♦ Budget
♦ VR staff & other personnel.

Disagreements unable to be resolved between SRC & VR= Governor resolution
Mandated Functions

... in *partnership* with VR
Review, analyze, & advise regarding responsibilities under the Act, particularly related to-

- Eligibility & Order of Selection
- Extent, Scope, & Effectiveness of Services
- Functions affecting individual achievement of employment outcomes
- Applications, reports, & evaluations.
In partnership with VR-

• Develop, agree to, & review state goals & priorities.

• Evaluate effectiveness of VR program & submit progress reports to the Commissioner.
Advise & assist in the preparation of the State Plan portion of the Unified State Plan, & Amendments;

Also applications, reports, needs assessments, & evaluations.
Participate in Statewide Needs Assessment every 3-years. Focus on-

- Most significant disabilities
- Minorities
- Unserved & underserved
- Served through Workforce Investment System
- Students & Youths with Disabilities, inc. Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Community Rehab Centers
Review & analyze the effectiveness of AND the consumer satisfaction with-

- VR services
- VR services provided by other state agencies & other public & private entities
- Employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals (including availability of health & other employment benefits)
Effectiveness-
The extent to which a program achieves its planned outcomes.

Consumer Satisfaction-
The extent to which a program’s customers feel positive about their experience with the program.
Prepare Annual Report on VR Program Status-

- Submit to the Governor & Commissioner.
- Make available to the public.
- 90 days after end of Federal fiscal year (October 1 to January 1).
Coordinate with other councils (to avoid duplication & enhance numbers served.)

- SILC & CILS
- IDEA Advisory Panel
- DD Council
- MH Planning Council
- State Workforce Development Board
- Assistive Technology Act Programs
AND Other Functions as:

- SRC determines to be appropriate & consistent with the purpose of Title I (Subtitle B).

&

- Are comparable to other SRC mandated functions
Agency Mandate re SRC

- Jointly develop, agree to & review annually VR agency goals & priorities.
- Consult regularly re development, implementation, & revision of policies & procedures pertaining to VR services.
- Include summary of SRC input in State Plan- Attachment 4.2(c).
- Jointly conduct statewide needs assessment every 3 years
- Review & comment on CSPD.
Transmit copies of following to SRC:

- All plans, reports, & other information required to be submitted to RSA.

- All policies & information on practices & procedures provided to or used by rehab personnel in carrying out VR program.

- Due process hearing decisions transmitted to SRC in a manner to protect individual confidentiality.
How can SRC be of the most assistance to the VR Director?

- Environmental Scanning
- Advocacy & Education
- Open Input
- Public Meetings
The SRC Needs-

- Targeted goals & action steps to accomplish SRC charges.

- Member commitment to time & work necessary to achieve desired outcomes.
SRC/VR Partnership throughout
Resources
36th IRI

- History & Law
- SRC Basics
- SRC Business Practices
- Implementation of Responsibilities
- SRC Resources
- Appendices with examples.

Download from IRIForum.org
RSA eTraining Series
(Not currently Available)

Series One: Overview & Philosophy

- History of VR
- Overview of the Rehab Act
- VR Principles & Policies
- The Role of the SRC
Series Two: State Plan

- The Statutory Basis of the State plan
- Purpose of the State Plan
- Development of the State Plan
Series Three: Operationalizing the State Plan

- Assessment
- Development of the VR Goals
- Program Evaluation & Reporting
- SRC Infrastructure
Series 4- Performance Management in State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

Program Evaluation Quality Assurance and the SRC-VR Part