

# **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

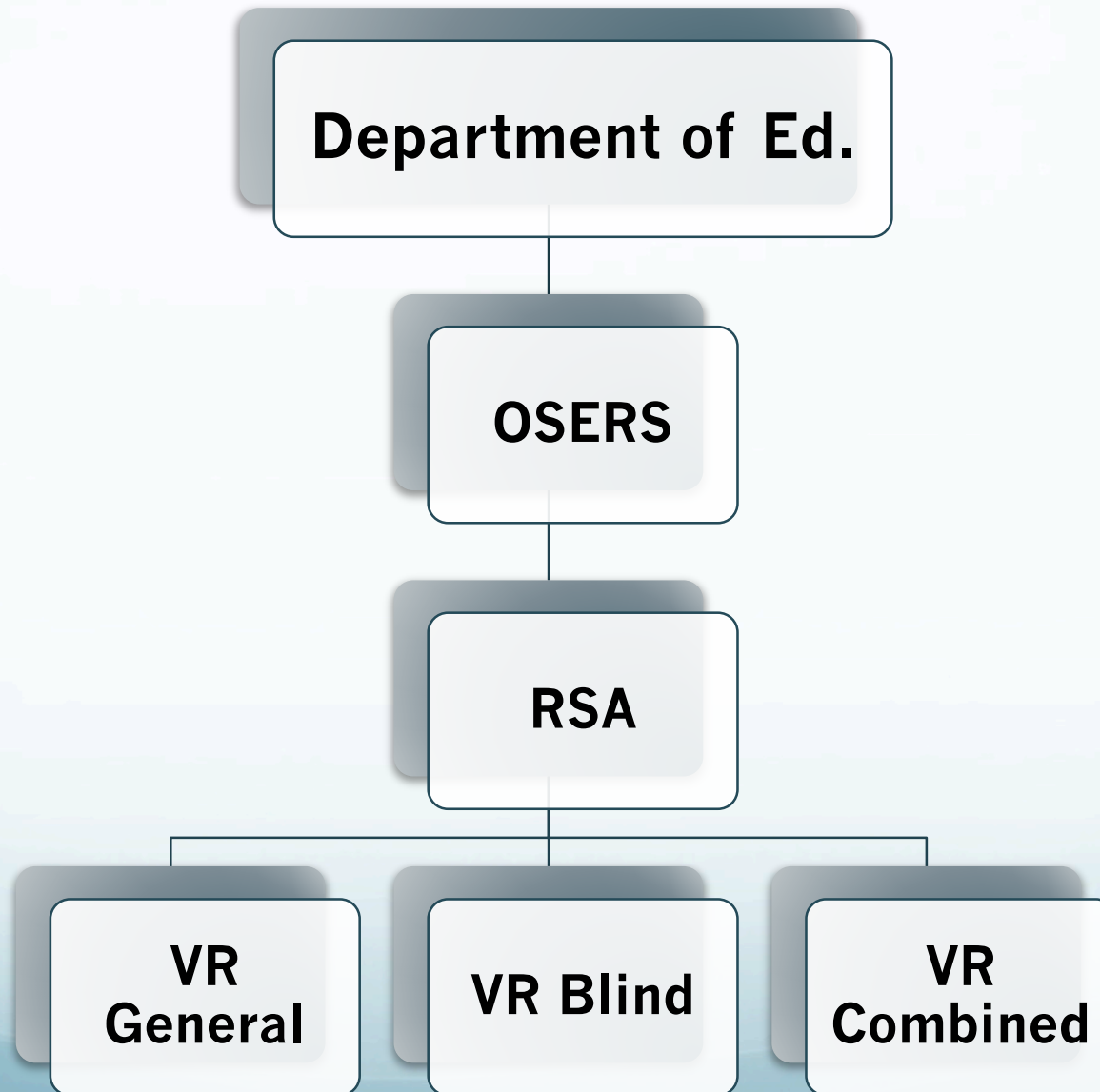
To provide SRC members with a working understanding of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended in 2014, so that they:

- 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?



# 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 & intergration into society.
- Maximize opportunities for competitive, integrated. employment
- Fulfill aspirations for 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)**



*And*

- ◆ **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.**

# **Agency Mandate re SRC (con.)**

**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 the desired outcomes.**

# SRC/VR Partnership throughout



# Resources

# 36<sup>th</sup> IRI

- **History & Law**
- **SRC Basics**
- **SRC Business Practices**
- **Implementation of Responsibilities**
- **SRC Resources**
- **Appendices with examples.**
- *Download from [IRIForum.org](http://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