The Wyoming SRC is currently comprised of members representing Business, Industry and Labor, Parent and Family Advocates, Consumers and Clients of VR services. There are also members representing the SILC, PIC, and CAP as well as Counselors from DVR and Tribal VR. The Departments of Education and Health Care Financing and the Wyoming Governors Council Developmental Disabilities are active participants as well as the current administrators from VR and Department of Workforce Services.
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Dear Governor Gordon and Commissioner Schultz,

It has been a privilege and honor for us to serve on the Wyoming State Rehabilitation Council. The dedication of the volunteers that make up the council, have resulted in great success despite the health concerns our wonderful State has endured this past year.

The SRC was able to uphold our regularly scheduled meetings utilizing the ZOOM platform, which allowed us to continue the collaboration of our Council with the Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation Division, the Wyoming Workforce Services Department and the State Independent Living Council.

With new members representing the Department of Education, Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming PIC, and the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, we feel the energy and education the SRC and VR agency is getting from the new members involvement is invaluable. It is our goal to bring onto the council more consumers as well as representatives of the Arapaho Tribe VR, Department of Corrections, and other organizations that represent people with disabilities in our state.

We welcome your input and involvement in the Wyoming SRC and hope the coming year proves to be one of strength, support and success for the citizens of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Coleman Burke, Chair 1/20 - 12/20
Aaron Kanatzar, Vice Chair 1/20 - 12/20
Cheryl Junge, Treasurer 1/20 - 12/20
SRC Mission and Purpose

It is the mission of the Wyoming State Rehabilitation Council to review, analyze and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation’s delivery of effective rehabilitation services which lead to employment and independence of Wyoming Citizens with disabilities.

The State Rehabilitation Councils purpose is to function as a partner with Vocational Rehabilitation to review, analyze, and advise the agency in its efforts to support the employment of individuals with disabilities in our state.

In partnership with DVR, the SRC assists in the development of the State goals and priorities, evaluates the effectiveness of the Vocational Rehabilitation program, and submits annual progress reports to the RSA Commissioner in accordance with Section 101(a)(15)(E).

The SRC advises DVR regarding activities authorized to be carried out under Title I (General Rehabilitation), and assists in the preparation of the: State Plan and its Amendments, Applications, Reports, Needs Assessments, and Evaluations.

To the extent feasible, the SRC conducts a review and analysis of the effectiveness of consumer satisfaction with: the functions performed by DVR, Vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities and employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with such employment outcomes.

The SRC prepares and submits the Annual Report to the Governor and the Commissioner on the status of the VR programs operated within the State, and makes the report available to the public.

We coordinate activities with other Wyoming councils and boards to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served.

The SRC provides for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between DVR and the SILC (centers for independent living) within the state.

And performs such other function consistent with the purpose of Title I (General Rehabilitation) as the SRC determines to be appropriate, and are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.
2020 SRC Accomplishments

The Council and its three subcommittees were able to conduct business utilizing Zoom this year directly following their February in-person meeting as the health of our state and its citizens was strained. Looking back at the calendar year we were successful in continuing our mission and work in assisting VR as well as continuing a social presence on the SRC website and Facebook page.

* February 2020: In-person meetings were held at the Workforce Services Center in Casper, Wyoming.
* The SRC received updates from the DVR/SRC liaison including changes made by DVR in response to audit findings for timeliness of services and the use of expedited enrollment.
* The SRC created a bulleted list on the State Plan and sent it to the state plan writers, DVR administrator, DWS administrator, and the State Plan Director voicing our concerns.
* The Council reviewed suggested policy changes for DVR Counselor manuals on Dealing with Aggressive People and Vehicle Modification Policy.
* We met with the local VR counselors to identify issues that are not working and may be interfering with their success with clients.
* RIPPLE awards were presented to the Salvation Army Hope Center and Paradise Valley Christian School for their work with Pre-ETS students in the Casper area.

* April 2020: Multi-day Zoom conference calls were held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
* The SRC changed all meetings to be virtual for the remainder of the year.
* All RIPPLE awards were suspended for the remainder of the year.
* SRC heard information about how DVR was responding to the COVID-19 restrictions to ensure client and staff safety. Updates were given on the use of technology to engage clients and maintain the service delivery. Due to closure of schools, Pre-ETS funding may be impacted. The SRC wrote a letter of support on behalf of DVR to receive waivers on Pre-ETS funding for the 2020 year.
* The Council received training on the planned policy revisions for staffing and employee retention and were informed of coming changes to the Community Rehabilitation Provider guidelines.
* Information was provided on expected or pending cuts in budget from the State of Wyoming and how it would impact and effect DVR clients.
* The SRC received updates from the DVR/SRC liaison.
* May 2020: A Zoom Conference call was held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  * The SRC received updates from:
    * Holly McKamey Simoni the Workforce Programs Administrator and UI Director for the State of Wyoming.
    * Nicky Harper, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator for Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
    * Brian K. Hickman, Program Coordinator for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Workforce Services and the Liaison to SRC

* June 2020: Multi-day Zoom conference calls were held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  * Reviewed the DVR policy draft for Community Resource Provider partnerships and provided feedback.
  * The SRC received updates from the DVR/SRC liaison.

* August 2020: Multi-day Zoom conference calls were held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  * Held our annual joint meeting with SILC.
  * The SRC updated the Open Meeting and Virtual Meeting policies based on By-Laws and legal requirements.
  * The Council created a virtual meeting script for all future meetings to create guidelines for public participation.
  * Conducted annual elections for Executive Committee officers and Subcommittee chairs.

* October 2020: Multi-day Zoom conference calls were held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  * Identified priority goals for each subcommittee’s work for the upcoming year.
  * SRC members participated in a virtual VR conferences provided by North Dakota and South Dakota VR agencies.
  * Participated in the DVR 100th Anniversary by promoting activities in awareness of the our partner agencies on the SRC social media platforms.

* December 2020: Zoom Conference call was held due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  * The SRC discussed new and existing membership status.
The Wyoming SRC created the RIPPLE Award in 2018 to recognize Employers around the State who have gone above and beyond the goal of employing people with disabilities. Through a nomination process the SRC publicly recognized Employers and Employees for their dedication and support. The Council was able to hold 2 in person presentations this year, both in February of 2020.

Salvation Army Hope Center of Carper Wyoming. VR Counselors highly recommend this organization due to their manner in helping people with disabilities secure job placements and temporary housing. Their facility and associated Food Bank offers employment opportunities is centrally located and offers newly renovated housing available for women and children in need of support and security.
Paradise Valley Christian School was very supportive of a VR Client. They were able to provide STARS and additional training for her as well as giving her the opportunity to learn to be a Teacher's aide in the classroom and providing constructive feedback on ways to improve her skills. She was included in classroom activities and after school events. This Client not only made personal connections, but now has professional references and individuals she can network with for future employment.
2020 Members of the Wyoming SRC

Carolyn Coleman Burke, Chair of the SRC, has served as the Vice Chair and Treasurer during her time starting in 2017. She is a parent advocate whose son was a consumer of VR services. Carolyn has encouraged post secondary education opportunities for VR consumers having learned of the programs in neighboring states where her son has been enrolled. In addition to her Architectural Design business she manages 5 Teton County Special Olympics Delegations and helps to oversee the Special Olympics State Winter Games in Jackson, Wyoming.

Aaron Kanatzar, Vice Chair of the SRC represents VR customers. Aaron is from Gillette Wyoming and currently works in the construction trades industry. As a student at the Gillette college Aaron is studying general business.

Cheryl Junge, Treasurer on the SRC and past Chair, represents Community Providers on the council. Cheryl is a retired special education teacher for Natrona County School District #1 in Casper Wyoming. She is the owner / operator of Cheryl Junge, LLC, a provider of virtual PreEts services for students across Wyoming. Cheryl joined the SRC in 2016 and is currently serving her second term.

Connie Peterssen is the Client Assistance Program & Beneficiaries of Social Security Advocate for the Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. and is a CAP ex-officio member for the SRC. She also serves on the Wyoming State Independent Living Council. Connie has previously assisted individuals with disabilities seeking employment through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation & Developmental Disability Waiver as an Employment Consultant for 15 years.

Lee Beidelman retired from the SRC after serving over 17 years. He was a high school teacher for 32 years as well as a building administrator. After retiring from public school education, he served as Executive Director at the Arc of Laramie County for 3 years and then became an advocate at Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. Lee worked at P&A for 17 years. Lee made a 52 year career of advocating for people, both with and without disabilities.

Amanda Parks is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor working within the VA Health Care System. Her role on the council is to increase awareness of veteran needs, as related to State of Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
2020 Members of the Wyoming SRC, continued

Alex Lee is the Owner of Lee Metal Works, Heating, Cooling and Refrigeration and serves as one of the SRC’s business and labor members. He is currently a board member of Habitat for Humanity in Sheridan Wyoming. He has served on the Economic Development Task Force, Sheridan Travel and Tourism Board, and as both President and Vice President of the Sheridan City Council.

Jacob Samuel Myers has volunteered with several social organizations while recovering from brain surgery. He is currently working to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to re-integrate into society. Sam resides in from Sheridan Wyoming.

Mark Pixley stepped down form the SRC in March of this year. He was a self employed business Owner and VR client. Mark felt that the right amount of work in recreation leads to a fun and fruitful life. Mr. Pixley believes that the Wyoming SRC is helping to ensure people with disabilities get a chance to make their lives better.

Erin Swilling is the Executive Director of Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc. or PIC. She is a member of the Wyoming Home Visitation Network and is the current Chair for the Wyoming Advisory Panel of Students with Disabilities. Erin has spent the last 23 years working with children and families with the belief that connecting them to their community and resources helps build capacity and sustainability as productive successful citizens. Ms. Swilling is also a parent of a 17-year-old son who is diagnosed with disabilities as a toddler.

John Wall is currently a client of vocational rehabilitation and is studying to be a health coach with their assistance. He servers on the Wyoming State Independent Living Council as the Vice Chairperson, on the Casper's Mayors Council of disabled people as the Chairperson of the Public Relations subcommittee, and on the SRC as the liaison between the SRC and the SILC. John works part time at the Wyoming Living Center of Casper as a Peer advocate and Peer Specialist.

Neil McGill is the Project Director for the Eastern Shoshone Tribe Red Feathered Eagle Vocational Rehabilitation Program. He has a MSW (Clinical Tract) Walla Walla University, BSW Salish Kootenai College, Post Master’s Specialty in Addictions, and is currently taking Post Master's Specialty in Marriage and Family Therapy courses with North Central University. Neil has worked for Red Feathered Eagle since March 3, 2016 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and was appointed as the Project Director January 13, 2020.
2020 Members of the Wyoming SRC, continued

Elizabeth Jude Haas stepped down from the SRC this spring. She was had been serving as the director at the Northern Arapaho VR Program for the past 6 years. She was a proud Alumni of the University of Wyoming, where she received her masters degree. Elizabeth proudly served in the United States Army, and currently serves on the National Color Guard for Native American Women Warriors. She is currently on the Canar Policy and Advocacy Committee for Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, nationwide.

Aleyta Zimmerman is the Projects Manager/Policy Analyst for the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is also the State Administrator for WYABLE. Aleyta serves on several councils and boards across the state and lives in Cheyenne. She has been a member of the SRC since 2016.

Charity Henning is the Executive Director of the ARC of Laramie County in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Prior to this she was a Direct Service Provider under the Wyoming DD waiver and helped people with disabilities with daily activities, medication, transportation and supervision. She also serviced on UPLIFT as board member and the Mayors Councils for People with Disabilities.

Kascinda Fleming is an Educational Consultant at the Wyoming Department of education. She works on this special education monitoring team whose focus is to work with districts across the state for provisions of special education services for students with disabilities. She also works on the standard and assessment team with the focus on accessibility and participation of students with disabilities and statewide assessments.

Pam Snyder stepped down from the SRC in October after retiring from the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Healthcare Financing. She had assisted individuals applying for the Supports Waiver, reviewed plans of care for compliance with the Center of Medicaid Services (CMS), and State Of Wyoming Rules. Pam had worked for the State Of Wyoming in the Developmental Disabilities Section for 21 years, providing case management services for 18 years, working and advocating for individuals with development and intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injuries for 38 years.
2020 Members of the Wyoming SRC, continued

Madonna Long completed her term in the spring of 2020 with the SRC. She was well respected in the disabled community, working with organizations, leaders, and businesses across the United States. Madonna served as an individual with a disability on the council and holds a Bachelors degree in Homeland Security. She currently works for Pride Mobility Products as consumer advocate, Star Transportation Group (VETaxi) and resides in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

Tamera McArthur is a VR Counselor in Gillette, Wyoming working with youth and adults. She serves as the VR representative on the SRC council. She has four children, one of which is a VR client. She serves as a member for the Board of Directors for the NCSRC and is the chair for a Juvenile Services Partnership in Campbell County and member of the NECOC and YHDP( for youth) to address homelessness within the state.

Nicky Harper, MSW, LCSW, CRC is the current Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator for Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. She is an Ex Officio member of the SRC

Brian K. Hickman, MRC, CRC, CPM, is a Program Coordinator for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Workforce Services. He servers as the current SRC liaison for DVR on the council.

Holly McKamey Simoni, MRC CRC CPM is the Workforce Programs Administrator / UI Director for the State of Wyoming. She represents the Workforce Investment Board role on our council.