

**Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT)
February 1-2, 2018
Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center
Auditorium
4800 North Lamar Austin TX 78756**

Present:

Neva Fairchild, Chair Carrollton
Troy Myree, Vice Chair, Houston
Matt Berend, Abilene
Jim Brocato, Beaumont
Joyce Delores Taylor, Houston
Jo Ann Fluke, Lumberton
Paul Hunt, Austin
Susie May, Austin
Karen Stanfill Houston
Crystal Stark, College Station
Cheryl Fuller, Austin

Absent:

None

TWC Reps:

Janice Elheart, Belinda Salazar, Michelle McCall, Adam Leonard,
Geoffrey Miller, Carline Geiger, Kimberly Berry, Christy Lerche, Jeff
Kaufmann, Ron Ayer, David Norman, Tammy Martin, James Ferris,
Corey Turner, Elizabeth Adkisson, Nelva Sneed, Brad Napp, Laura York,

Guest:

Robin Orlowski (Disability Chamber Council), Christina Bryant (TIBH),
Steve Aleman (Disability Rights Texas), Kristin McEntyre (TWIC)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Neva Fairchild, Chair.

Committee Meetings

The following committees met with their members: Policy, Procedures and Personnel Development; Membership and Education; and Consumer Satisfaction and Needs Assessment.

State Plan Overview and Reporting, Neva Fairchild, Chair and Carline Geiger, Deputy Division Director of Program, Policy & Support

Carline gave an update to the time line for the Modified Combined State Plan. The 30-day public comment period should begin around February 28. The submission of the Modified Combined State Plan will be June 30th. RCT was given an opportunity to review and ask questions on the CSPD report. The RCT recommendations for this report will be included in the formal report to Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Vocational Rehabilitation Division (VRD).

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Guest Introduction, Brad Napp from Commissioner Hugh's Office

Mr. Napp introduced himself and opened the floor for questions. The RCT asked Mr. Napp if he had any suggestions on ways to help fill the vacant positions representing Business, Industry and Labor for the RCT. He asked that the RCT send him an email with what they are looking for, requirements for these positions and he would help to identify prospective employers.

Update on the Transportation Summit, Troy Myree and Neva Fairchild

Troy and Neva provided a report on the Transportation Summit that they attended in Waco, TX on January 25-26. The summit was held by Texas State Independent Living Council as they partnered with Texas Council for

Developmental Disabilities and Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Centers, Inc. The event focused on the efforts to expand inclusive transportation for all Texans.

VR Division Director's Report Cheryl Fuller, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation Division

Mrs. Fuller spoke about the newly combined designated state unit. She also spoke about the Rapid Process Improvement at TWC and suggested the RCT invite Alfredo Mycue to speak at one of the RCT meetings. Another topic was an update on the process of the moves of the VR offices into the workforce center offices. To date VR has 15 combined offices with 22 more planned in this fiscal year. Mrs. Fuller gave updates on the upcoming events, Summer Earn and Learn & Explore STEM Camps.

TWC Executive Director Update, Larry E. Temple, TWC Executive Director

Mr. Temple informed the RCT that WorkInTexas.com is being replaced. TWC has contracted with Geo Solutions for this project. The contract was signed January 31, 2018. VR is also working on a new system for case management. The goal is to have one system that will replace RehabWorks and TWIST systems.

Mr. Temple also gave an update on the unemployment insurance services due to hurricane Harvey.

He informed the RCT that TWC VR is working on identifying providers that were paid for VR services that were not provided.

Summary CSNA Draft Report, Geoffrey Miller, Laura York and Janice Ehlert

Mr. Miller, Ms. York and Ms. Ehlert provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CSNA. This presentation was included in the meeting binder. The full CSNA report will be completed in the spring this year.

RCT Committee Reports

- Policy, Procedure & Personnel Development, Karen Stanfill, Chair
 - Karen Stanfill suggested that TWC provide RCT with the posted councilor position and regional locations. The RCT will members will share these posting on listserv groups.
 - The committee received a copy of the VR training catalog to review. TWC VR has hired six new trainers. Once they are trained TWC VR will increase the number of classes they offer for staff.
 - An update on the Policy Manual was given. The manual is 45% complete. The completed sections have been added to the TWC website. Updates will be added to the website by chapters as they are completed.
- Education & Membership, Susie May, Chair
 - It was suggested that the RCT ask Mr. Larry Temple to get involved with requesting action from the Governor to fill the vacancies on the Council.
 - It was noted that RCT has unfilled vacancies for two years. We have been in constant contact with the Governor's office and have not received assignments.
 - The committee is going to review the RCT Orientation Manual and update it before the May meeting.
 - The committee would like to recommend reinstating the combined SILC/RCT meeting once annually.
- Consumer Satisfaction Committee, Troy Myree, Chair

- Today's Customer Satisfaction Reports are one combined report for both VR Customers and Blind Customers. Going forward this will be one combined report.
- Mr. Myree went over the report that was included in the meeting packet.
- It was suggested that the report identify the region numbers with the locations to help easily identify.

NCSRC Review and Training, Neva Fairchild and Karen Stanfill

Neva asked question to the RCT regarding the SRC law. This was a fun interactive way to insure the RCT knew what was expected and what their role is.

Karen gave a report on the NCSRC Conference from November and updated the RCT on ways that other states work with their DSU differently.

Performance Update, Adam Leonard, TWC, Director of Operational Insight

Adam provided a PowerPoint presentation that was handed out at the meeting. He gave a snapshot of where TWC VR is after the first quarter this year.

Liaison Reports

Reports were provided to the council members prior to the meeting and are included in the meeting binder.

- TWIC, Joyce Taylor
- CAP, Karen Stanfill
- PRN, JoAnne Fluke
- TEA, Susan May
- SILC, Jim Brocato
- RCT Coordinator Report, Lisa Godwin
 - Update on Annual Report

Council Business Old

Carry forward the request for Braille file for Can We Talk Brochure.

Council Business New

Approve November minutes, motion made to approve the November Minutes by Karen Stanfill seconded by JoAnne Fluke. All approved, November Minutes approved.

Budget Report, Lisa Godwin TWC, RCT Coordinator

The RCT budget is on track and with the member vacancies there are funds available if need for registrations, travel, supplies etc. now is the time to make those purchases.

Adjourn