# State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind

# Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2024

## I. Call to order

Chairperson Judy Sanders called the regular meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind to order at 5:40 PM on Thursday, August 1, 2024, on zoom.

## II. Roll call

Judy Sanders conducted a roll call, and the following people were present:

**SRCB Members:** Judy Sanders, Chair; Connie Berg; Diane Dohnalik; Jennifer Dunnam; Frank Eller; Sue Fager; Tom Heinl; Rob Hobson; Thea Kramer; Jeff Milhelich; Corbb O’ Connor; Justin Salisbury, Ryan Strunk; Patrick Vellia.

**SSB Staff:** Natasha Jerde, SSB Director; Nyia Vang, SRC-B Staff Liaison; Jon Benson; Dave Andrews; Brianna Holeman; Lisa Rogers; Jennifer Beilke and Isaac Hanninen.

**Members of the Audience:** Rocky Hart, Steve Jacobson, Gene Walsh, Taylor Brown, Briley O’ Connor, and Alyssa Gourley, Ben Zheng and Aida Talik.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024, meeting was made by Ryan Strunk and seconded by Rob Hobson. The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Open issues

Discussion was had regarding the CSAVR/NCSAB 2024 Conference. Council members will notify the chair if they wish to attend.

V. New business

* 1. Chair’s report
     + Committee appointments proposed at August's Council meeting.
  2. Director’s Report- *full report included in transcript.*
* Evolve VR – We continue to explore how to manage referrals, intake, and orientations by reviewing progress and next steps for the collection of data from a sample of customers regarding their intake experiences and planning listening sessions with counselors.
* SSB has an accepted offer for an ELL specialist named Abigail Mayland. This position establishes programs and services that support the vocational success of English Language Learners (ELL).
* Luna Testing - LUNA Vision is a new piece of technology created by MOHX-Games of Eau Claire, WI, that is being tested at SSB this summer (for no cost).
* Community Partners – SSB Staff and Community Partners Forum is Tuesday, July 9th at 10 AM. Registration for upcoming Forums is now available on the SSB website under the Forums tab.
* Outreach – We're working on several outreach initiatives.
* Fiscal – Reviewing purchase requests and setting budgets for new fiscal year, year-end clean up as part of the year end process.
* Business Enterprise Program – There are two PT administrative and FT technician positions posted.
* Program services details are included in the full report.

**VI. Committee Reports**

1. State Rehabilitation Council: a report was received.
2. State Independent Living Council: a report was received.
3. Communication Center Committee: a report was received.
4. Community Partner Outcomes & Measures Committee: no report was received.
5. Customer Satisfaction Goals and Priorities Committee: a report was received.
6. Deafblind Committee: a report was received.
7. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: no report was received.
8. Employment Committee: no report was received.
9. Senior Services Committee: no report was received.
10. Transition Committee Report: a report was received.

## VII. Public Comment

* National Federation of the Blind Fall convention is from November 1st to 3rd at the DoubleTree Saint Paul East.
* Dare to be Remarkable Conference in Baltimore, Maryland from November 11th to 13th. Three-day national training conference for education and rehabilitation professionals who work with Blind and low vision transition-age students and adults.

## VIII. Adjournment

Chairperson Judy Sanders adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

1. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob Hobson and seconded by Corbb O’ Connor. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Nyia Vang

Minutes approved by: Judy Sanders