

**WSRC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES***Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**9:00am to 12:13pm*

**Members Present:** Erica Wollen, Workforce Training Representative, Olympia  
Laurae MacClain, Tribal VR Representative, Nespelem  
Michele Stelovich, Labor Representative, Bellingham  
Peggy Frisk, Council Chair, Community Rehabilitation Provider, Lake Stevens  
Jennifer Bean, Client Assistance Program, Bellingham  
Matt Newton, Business Representative, Tacoma  
Jen Chong-Jewell, Parent Advocate, Everett  
Lesa Dunphy, DVR Counselor Representative, Ex-Officio, Colville  
Alexandra Toney, OSPI Representative, Olympia  
Dion Graham, State Independent Living Council Representative, Union  
Aimee Elber, Disability Advocacy Representative, Spokane

**Members**

**Absent:** Edward Nicholson, Business Representative, Vancouver  
Terry Redmon, DVR Director, Ex-Officio, Lacey

**Council Staff:** Shelby Satko, WSRC Executive Director, Lacey  
Jolie Ramsey, WSRC Executive Assistant, Lacey

**Visitors:** Allesandria Goard, DVR Chief of Field Services  
Abby Smith, DVR Pre-ETS Program Manager  
Rena Van Meter, Innovative Services  
Angela Merritt, DVR Community Program Manager  
Ann Martin, DVR Region 2 Administrator  
Cassi Villegas, DVR Deputy Director  
Catherine Herring, DVR Supervisor, Bellingham  
Dee Quintanilla, DVR Regional Training Specialist  
Heidi M.  
Jeannine Chandler, DVR Business Relations Manager  
Jessica Armstrong, DVR Contractor  
Jo'el Roth, DVR Region 3 ATAP Provider  
Lan Totten, Cascade Connections  
Lori Magnuson, DVR Counselor, Central Seattle  
Mari Heusman, DVR Policy & Strategies Manager

Maria Ozmun, DVR Management Analyst  
Mary Crago, DVR Region 1 Deputy Administrator  
Melinda Bocci, DVR Transition Manager  
Pablo Villarreal, DVR Region 1 Administrator  
Sabreah Elegan, DVR Supervisor, Puyallup  
Stacie Nuckolls, Cascade Connections  
Rebecca Jansson, Director, Mainstay/SAILS  
Mercedes Bekke, DVR Management Analyst, Spokane  
Christina Frye, Trillium  
Lauren Peterson, DVR Management Analyst  
Deona Koberstein, DVR Regional Training Specialist  
Brandon Sheldon, DVR Administrative Regulation Analyst  
Courtney Williams, Executive Director, Community Employment Alliance

**Call to Order—** Meeting called to order at 9:01am by Michele Stelovich, Chair

**Field Services Update:** Allesandria Goard

- Post-Secondary Education and Training efforts
  - Not a focus on dollars
  - Will be looking at a lean project to identify improvement areas
- Efforts to improve communication/customer service
  - Message of “dreams, not dollars”. Allocating money to help customers reach their goals. Funding is not a barrier right now. Additional training and education would help many customers.
  - Updating websites, phone lists, etc. to ensure that DVR contact info is accurate.
  - Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRP) communication survey related actions
- DVR In-Service will be held Oct. 24-25, 2023, at Tacoma Hotel Murano.
  - Tribal VR and other Tribal members to attend
  - DSHS Equity, Diversity, Access, and Inclusion (EDAI) Administrator
  - Department of Services for the Blind
- School to Work (SB 5790) updates: Melinda Bocci
  - Bill passed to bring school to work to all counties statewide. Approximately 20 counties will sign up for school to work. Currently only seven counties have access to the program.
  - Program is for students who are enrolled in DDA, are typically 20-21 years old, and have an Intellectual or Developmental Disorder.
  - Program development contract created. Updating the current school to work contract. Hoping for an April 1<sup>st</sup> start.
  - Hiring three new regional positions
  - Statewide Transition Council to work to bring services to underserved populations
  - Melinda attending monthly transition meetings statewide
  - Question: How will school to work program services be delivered when CRPs and school staff are at capacity?
    - Field services considering how the current contract can be amended. Hopefully bring on more contracted CRPs to fill the need. Hoping to have a contract signed by March 2023.
  - Generating community support means creating awareness. Needs to be a community conversation.

- Rena Van Meter: “It would be beneficial if CRPs, DVR, DDA, and the transition schools were to meeting quarterly. It would help for all of us to be on the same page.”
- Abby Smith: CCTS has a great newsletter with application info. <https://www.seattleu.edu/ccts/>
- Whatcom County meets quarterly with all “5 points of the star”—CRPs, DVR, DDA, schools, and the county.

**Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Update:** Cassi Villegas, Abby Smith

- Working to build trust, collaboration, and transparency between schools and DVR to build strong relationships.
- Working with Synergy to identify our self-imposed barriers.
  - Four different workgroups start next week: Executive Leadership Team, Operational Upgrades/Services, Financial, Vendor Relations
- Abby meeting with Special Education Directors and Educational Service Districts (ESDs). There are nine ESDs statewide, she has met with four so far. She is also attending regional meetings with other states to gain best practices and connecting with stakeholders.
- Finance Update:
  - We have spent \$1,289,578 of Pre-ETS set-aside from 10/01/22 to present.
  - We have \$4,967,130 left to spend on our basic support 2022 set aside.
  - Our spending is trending to have around \$1 million of unspent Pre-ETS at this time. Looking for creative and meaningful ways to spend the money.
  - Even though our current monthly average (10/01/22—01/27/23) is about \$320,145, DVR typically spends more in the months of June-September.
- Including Pre-ETS activities in students’ High School and Beyond Plans and IEP Transition Plans
  - How to document the work they’ve done in Pre-ETS to bring back to their high school teachers so they can put in on their resumes and include the work in their HS and beyond plan. It helps them develop transferrable skills.
  - T-folio, a free transition portfolio tool developed by the Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS).
  - Create a case study that shows how it could be done
  - Aimee Elber shared High School and Beyond Plan. Creating a workshop to share with high school students, since there is no local contractor to provide these services.
- Job Foundation program available to those who are enrolled with DDA and are typically 19-20 yrs. old.

**Executive Committee:** Michele Stelovich

Opportunities for Council participation:

- Synergy Consulting meeting with DVR staff next week to kick off the workgroup meetings. If council members are interested in serving on a workgroup, let WSRC staff know.
- Tribal Relations Core Advisory Team (CAT) advisory team meeting is Feb. 15 from 10am-2pm. Council members invited to attend.
- Council invited to participate in the EDAI Community of Practice. Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 3-4:30pm.
- Member appreciation to Jen Chong-Jewell for her work on DSHS Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Team.
- WSRC Annual Report 2022 was submitted to Gov. Inslee and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Available on our [website](#).
- Office of Equity Compensation Guidelines per 2SSB 5793
  - Compensation available for WSRC council members who have lived experience (have direct personal experience in the subject) and/or are low-income to attend Council meetings.

- Pending fund availability. WA legislature earmarked \$250,000 for the program statewide.
- Policy development ongoing
- Members cannot receive monetary compensation in another way simultaneously.

#### **Policy & Planning Subcommittee: Lesa Dunphy**

- 2023 Priorities Review
  - Rapid Engagement
    - How can we move customers along to get them engaged and keep them engaged, connecting them to community resources or begin an assessment?
    - Working in partnership with the CSPE subcommittee to hold listening sessions in March with DVR field staff.
      - WSRC Council members invited to attend at least one session.
  - Counselor Reassignment Recommendation
    - Last year we submitted letter of recommendation to DVR and hope to have an update from ELT on the status by the May quarterly meeting.
  - Pre-ETS/Synergy Consulting and work groups
    - Interested specifically in areas where students hit roadblocks
  - Post-Secondary Education. Measurable skill goals
  - Order of Selection-Waitlist. Progress in moving customers off waitlist
  - State Plan Development.
    - Plan due to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in June 2024.
- Next Steps & Future Goals
  - Begin work on the 2024 State Plan
  - Continue to engage in cross subcommittee integration
  - Meet with DVR leadership to discuss barriers to customer's engaging in post-secondary education.

#### **Partnership Subcommittee**

#### **Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board: Erica Wollen**

- Next Board meeting is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- State Plan planning has been on hold since. Integrated service delivery manager.
- Staff updates
  - Erica is transitioning out of her current role. Bianca Laxton will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Drew Cassidy will likely take Erica's place on our council. Erica plans on attending quarterly meeting in May.
  - Jairus Rice is now a contractor to start Talent and Prosperity (TAP) for all planning process.
- Engaging in apprenticeship. See the legislative tracker on the board's website.

#### **Developmental Disabilities Council:**

- Getting contract started with Proviso.
- Dan Thompson Fund. <https://www.ddc.wa.gov/council-activities/dan-thompson-memorial-development-disability-fund>
- North Star Project work advancing
- Public Policy Director position to be posted soon.

**Special Education Advisory Council: Jen Chong-Jewell**

- Next meeting will be Feb. 21-22. Virtual meeting, with a listening session in collaboration.
- National of Systemic Improvement. Interested in hearing from the community about OSPI. Restraint and isolation reports.
- White paper written about fully funding Special Education.

**Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR): Jen Chong-Jewell**

- One in four Washingtonians are a client of DSHS. A strategic plan in place to work toward greater equity in services.
  - There are 6 areas:
    1. Leadership & Operations & Service
    2. Plans, Policies & Budgets
    3. Workforce Equity
    4. Tribal Government Relationships
    5. Building a Racially Just WA
    6. Capacity Building

**Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: Alexandra Toney**

- Legislative session.
  - Fully funding 1436 bill. Advocating that a substitute bill came out that decreased funding. It added a piece of concern that would divert general education funding.
  - New Bill 1308 Graduation Pathway. Available to all students.
  - Transition. Excited about work by Transition Collaborative and School to Work

**State Independent Living Council: Dion Graham**

- Onboarding three new members to the council
- Performing an accessibility assessment to ensure all documents and in-meeting practices are ADA accessible.
- 2023 Priorities
  - Equity and inclusion
  - Tribal representation

**Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation: Laurae MacClain**

- Tribal Liaison, Christelle Arnett, visited many VR offices.
- Offer training through NW Indian College, take Tribal VR history class.
- Invited to the fall in-service to present and answer questions. Panel discussion anticipated
- Conference in June in New York.
- Getting MOUs signed by Tribal Council.

**Behavioral Health Advisory Council: Jolie Ramsey**

- Council composition
  - About 30 active members representing various agencies and organizations surrounding the behavioral health services delivery system
    - DCYF, HCA, DSHS, DOH, DVR, and multiple community program providers and non-profit organizations.
- Current priority: Submitting recommendations for the FY24 application to the Block Grant

- Council split into smaller workgroups to brainstorm and discuss our recommendations for updates/changes to the block grant
- There are 11 priorities identified in the Annual Update report. Top three are:
  - Addressing the high disproportionate rate of substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health disorders and overdoses amongst American Indian/Alaska Native individuals in WA State
  - Reducing underage and young adult substance use and misuse of various substances (vaping, alcohol, cannabis, etc.)
  - Increasing the number of youths receiving outpatient substance use disorder treatment

### **Council Wrap Up**

- Hiring across the board is affecting the work.
- Behavior based interviewing
- Communications, using results dashboard. Making sure all staff have access to information
- Exciting work in Pre-ETS

**Meeting adjourned at 12:13pm**