

**SRC Quarterly Minutes
March 1, 2016**

In Attendance Day One

Michelle Barlow, Debora Brown-Johnson, LaWanda Cook, Paul Czech, Greg Danis, Helene Fallon, Alan Gallagher, Michael Godino, Howard Gross, Peter Herrig of the NYSCB (Commission for the Blind), Michael Irwin, Martha Jackson, Robert Linton, Jennifer Machucki, Dennis Martinez, Patricia Mazzariello, Sophie McDermott, Liam McNabb, Erica Molina, Joan Parker, Michael Peluso, Ray Pierce, Roger Purdy, Lourdes Rivera-Putz, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski, Fredda Rosen, Bill Schultz, Michael Sherman, Shirley Sherman, Elizabeth Skender, Kevin Smith, Joseph Tedesco, Chad Underwood, Lisa Van Ryn, and (by phone) Julie Hovey, Craig Wolfson.

What	Discussion and Outcome
Call To Order & Welcome	Michael Irwin, SRC Chair, called meeting to order; attendance and introductions took place. New members Michael Godino and Howard Gross were introduced and welcomed. The meeting packet material was reviewed, and it was noted. That the June meeting will take place in Troy and in September the meeting will return to the Hilton Garden Inn, Albany.
Member Introductions	
Review and Approve December Minutes	December 2015 minutes approval. Yea: 17 Nay: 0 Abstain: 2 <u>Minutes approved</u>
Review Action items Public Comment	None None
Executive Committee Report	Michael Irwin, SRC Chair; LaWanda Cook, SRC Co-Vice Chair; and Tonya Robinson-Mayer, SRC Co-Vice Chair
2016 ACCES-VR and SRC Common Priorities	<u>Common Priorities:</u> are intended to foster synergy between the SRC (Council) and ACCES-VR. They include tasks and goals that will promote communication, and continued review and participation in ACCES-VR programs and policies moving forward.
	Discussion/comments: Chad Underwood commented that these priorities would be more meaningful if target dates and timelines were included, and also if they could be issued earlier in year.
Combined State Plan	The New York State Combined Plan was posted online for public comment from January 7, 2016 until February 8, 2016. The comments were reviewed by all WIOA core agency

<p>DRNY/ Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report</p> <p>NYSILC Update (NYS Independent Living Council)</p> <p><i>Committee Reminders/Outcomes</i></p>	<p>partners, responses were drafted, and are still being finalized. Questions or comments related to the New York State Combined Plan or the Public Comment tables may be emailed to SWIB@labor.ny.gov.</p> <p>Erica Molina, CAP Director, Disability Rights New York (DRNY) described the Client Assistance Program (CAP) mission and services. The (CAP) provides assistance to New Yorkers with disabilities that are applying or receiving vocational rehabilitation (VR) services from New York State VR agencies. Erica e-mailed the CAP report to the SRC and the report is available with DRNY's other reports on their website: http://www.drny.org/publications---reports.html.</p> <p>Chad Underwood, CEO, Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc., referenced budget issues with respect to funding from the legislature, also noted support for the proposed \$15 minimum wage hike and the hope that the State will recognize the need to subsidize these new wage requirements for Not-for-Profits.</p> <p>Mike I. noted the Council's effort to share information with other similar bodies to the SRC including that of the NYS Commission for the Blind and the Independent Living Council.</p>
<p>ACCES-VR Update, Reports & Dialogue</p> <p>WIOA Combined State Plan</p>	<p>Kevin Smith, Deputy Commissioner of ACCES-VR and Debora Brown-Johnson, ACCES Assistant Commissioner</p> <p><u>Combined State Plan:</u> Kevin noted that the deadline for submission of Combined State Plan has been changed to June 1, 2016 but NYSED (NYS Education Department) is ready to go with the original date of March 3, 2016. WIOA final regulations are expected in June and we do not expect significant changes from the draft regulations. ACCES's relationship with the Department of Labor (DOL) has been strengthened. We are also excited about adult education and employment for persons with disabilities in terms of job opportunities.</p> <p><u>Q & A</u></p> <p>Comment: Mike Godino, new member to the SRC, who is a legally blind individual and a former consumer of the NYS Commission for the Blind commented that the new high school equivalency (HSE) test is not accessible to the blind and neither are many One-Stop Centers. He also noted the Unemployment Insurance program is also not user friendly.</p>

<p>ACCES-VR & SRC Common Priorities</p> <p>Assistive Technology MOU w/Justice Center</p> <p>ACCES-VR & CUNY</p>	<p><i>Response: Kevin responded that these accessibility issues are real and the company that provides the new equivalency testing is fully obligated to comply with federal program. Access guidelines. He also agrees that One-Stops need to be more to ensure cross disability program access.</i></p> <p>Chad Underwood raised a question about feedback serving undocumented immigrants State vs Feds. Helene Fallon asked who is responsible for what, in relation to undocumented immigrants. This might be another area that we could tap into.</p> <p><i>Response: Kevin noted undocumented aliens cannot be reported to the federal government as being served, however New York State has made a commitment to serve these individuals under Adult Ed and not just report this service to the Feds. We have made a commitment to the immigrant population. The plan is good and there is ground work being laid for more collaboration among the entities under the plan.</i></p> <p>Bill Schultz added that it would be beneficial for NYS to keep data on the services that are provided to undocumented immigrants.</p> <p><i>Response: Kevin answered in the affirmative.</i></p> <p>Board of Regents: Kevin stated that with three board members saying goodbye including Chancellor Tisch and Vice Chancellor Bottar, the NYS Legislature will choose a new Chancellor soon.</p> <p>Common Priorities: Debora Brown-Johnson stated that 2016 is the third year that we (ACCES-VR) have shared common priorities with the SRC and that she feels this approach works well.</p> <p>Assistive Technology MOU: Debora noted there is a MOU with the NYS Justice Center to expand support with our services. Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski, Director, TRAIID/AH Programs for the Center commented about working with ACCES-VR District Offices (DO) to increase access to assistive technology devices and equipment loans. https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/</p> <p>CUNY LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics, and Disability Services): Debora</p>
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LEADS Status	<p>discussed the program and stressed its emphasis on the internships as an introduction to world of work though internships. https://www.cuny.cuny.edu/accessibility/cunyleads</p>
Strategic Planning Implementation	<p>Strategic Planning: Debora reported staffing pilots are in place at ACCES-VR District Offices and permission has been granted by the Division of Budget to hire staff including IES (Individual Employment Specialists) positions. Training is underway to implement the expanded relationship between counselors and counselor assistants. We are also reviewing responses to an RFP for a new Case Management IT System. The new consumer orientation PowerPoint that has been rolled out among our entry services providers will the delivery of a consistent message and distinct orientation materials targeting transition age What will released on time this year. https://www.acces.nysed.gov/common/acces/files/vr/annualreport.pdf</p>
SRC Recommendations Follow Up	<p>SRC recommendations follow up: Debora responded to the SRC recommendations from the last quarterly meeting in December 2015.</p> <p>Recommendation 1: ACCES-VR makes it a goal to increase the current 2014 ACCES-VR employment outcome rate of 58.6 by 5% over the course of four years (1.25% / year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 target: 59.3 • Year 2 target: 60.0 • Year 3 target: 60.8 • Year 4 target: 61.6 <p>Recommendation 2: ACCES-VR makes it a goal to increase the current 2014 ACCES-VR average wage of \$10.92 per hour by 3% per year over the course of 4 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 target: \$11.25 • Year 2 target: \$11.59 • Year 3 target: \$11.94 • Year 4 target: \$12.30 <p><i>Response: In reference to the 2 recommendations about outcomes increasing successful outcomes by 5% and wages by 3%, we want to first wait for the regulations from WIOA before we commit. We will continue to measure consumer satisfaction.</i></p>

	<p>Recommendation 3: ACCES-VR evaluate upstate and downstate wages, as defined by ACCES-VR, separately while working to improve earnings of individuals with disabilities who exit the VR program with an employment outcome and report separately in the annual report.</p> <p><i>Response: I understand there are some concerns about the data that we have and that we share annually and some of the data that was recommended under our 911, so Michael Peluso will be the lead to work with the Council to identify what that gap is and to address the difference in data between upstate and downstate. Michael P. agreed to identify gaps in data.</i></p>
<p>Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)</p> <p>Sixth Round Funding</p>	<p>Alan Gallagher, Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) State Lead, DOL (NYS Dept. Of Labor)</p> <p>ROUND 6: Alan Gallagher gave a presentation on NYSDOLs most recent sixth round of DEI funding entitled “Pathways to Employment.” This project has a Career Pathways focus in alignment with WIOA. Its goal is to improve the capacity for existing Career Pathways programs to serve people with disabilities and increase employment outcomes. Alan’s presentation discussed the projects goals and outcomes, as well as stressed the potential for innovation through new and existing partnerships and collaborations.</p> <p>http://www.labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/dpn_dei.shtm</p>

**SRC Quarterly Minutes
March 2, 2016**

In Attendance Day Two

Debora Brown-Johnson, LaWanda Cook, Paul Czech, Greg Danis, Helene Fallon, Michael Godino, Howard Gross, Peter Herring, Julie Hovey, Michael Irwin, Martha Jackson, Robert Linton, Jennifer Machucki, Dennis Martinez, Patricia Mazzariello, Sophie McDermott, Liam McNabb, Erica Molina, Michael Peluso, Raymond Pierce, Roger Purdy, Lourdes Rivera-Putz, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Christopher Rosa (CUNY presenter), Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski, Fredda Rosen, Bill Schultz, Michael Sherman, Shirley Sherman, Elizabeth Skender, Joseph Tedesco, Kevin Tucker (CUNY presenter), Chad Underwood, Lisa Van Ryn, and (by phone) Craig Wolfson.

What	Discussion and Outcome
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	<p>Center. VRC's will refer individual's to Peer Integrated Specialist's for assistance in resolving issues that may impede employment such as childcare, transportation, public benefits, housing, personal care, etc. The Pilot is expected to serve a minimum of 100 ACCES-VR consumers annually.</p> <p>Comments/discussion: Ray noted that no services will be dropped or eliminated. However, there is going to be one change with entry services which will no longer allow vendors to write the eligibility case notes, but will still allow them to gather the materials for the eligibility determination.</p>
<p>Combined State Plan & Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Updates</p>	<p>Lisa Van Ryn, ACCES-VR Manager, Resource Development</p> <p><u>WIOA Combined State Plan:</u></p> <p>Lisa thanked Council members on their public comment efforts and informed them that there was a tremendous amount of public comment received from various sources. Additionally, Lisa reported that the WIOA Workgroup acknowledges that there is still room for improvement regarding the Combined State Plan.</p> <p>Lisa presented information on common themes within the comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more information on specific initiatives overlap and how agencies will integrate and come together. Agencies are presently working together on developing strategies to addresses integration and partnering. • Data sharing – each agency has to meet specific performance measures. All partners are talking about how to collect data and share amongst partners – continues to be a challenging area. • Cross training of staff on program specifics so that all partners know enough about each other's programs. • Need for key people to participate in information meetings across the state to share program information and to address more specifics of the plan. This would provide an additional opportunity to learn about each other's programs. <p>The Combined State Plan has been approved by the Board of Regents and is awaiting the Governor's approval.</p>

	<p><u>State Plan Needs Assessment:</u></p> <p>Lisa explained that there are two simultaneous processes underway regarding the State Plan Needs Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, there is formal RFP under development with a goal of gathering information. It will include Youth and pre-employment transition services for students still in school (who have an IEP and a 504 Plan). Additionally, it will include an examination of the needs of business and focus on business engagement. ACCES-VR will be looking to the SRC to help write the RFP. Do we need more surveys? Do we need town meetings? What’s going to help us get the information that we can’t easily find? • Second, ACCES-VR will look at existing data, including that in the Combined State Plan, existing ACCES-VR data, DOL data and the data that is currently being gathered under the SUNY Potsdam Institute for Applied Research (PIAR) Information Collection Contract. There is a need to explore and identify how ACCES-VR can get the required data and identify where there are existing data gaps. Robert Linton is the lead for the State Plan Needs Assessment and will collaborate with the Workforce, Transition and QAI committees to solicit input. The timeline for the preliminary draft of the State Plan Needs Assessment is June 2016. <p><i>Actions Required:</i> The Workforce, Transition and QAI committees need to develop an outline identifying specifics of committee work regarding the development of the Needs Assessment.</p>
<p>Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities</p>	<p>Tamara Mariotti, Advisory Council Member, Director of Disability Services, SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College Roger Purdy, Director of Disability Support Services, Le Moyne College</p> <p>The NYS Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities (NYSDSC) is a statewide counsel of professionals and lay persons interested in the provision of disability services to students with disabilities at postsecondary institutions in NYS. In December 2013, the Board of Regents approved the creation of an Advisory Council on Higher Education for Students with Disabilities to serve and advise the NYS Education Department, and in particular the offices of Higher Education, P-12’s Office of Special</p>

	<p>Education and ACCES-VR to improve the transition of students to post-secondary education and ensure the successful completion of students with disabilities attending higher education institutions. The Advisory Council formed the following four sub committees: Fiscal, Legislative/Regulation, Technical Assistance and Data Collection. Current Advisory Council activities and Efforts for NY students with disabilities in post-secondary education include ADA-TAP, NYS Higher Education Data Systems (HEDS) Report Transformation, Reader's Aid Program (RAP), and Perkins – 2%.</p>
<p>CUNY LEADS & Project REACH (Resources and Education on Autism as CUNY's Hallmark)</p>	<p>Christopher Rosa, Ph.D., CUNY Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Kevin Tucker, CUNY Interim Executive Director, Malave Leadership Academy</p> <p>A PowerPoint and informative discussion of the CUNY LEADS Program was presented by Dr. Rosa and Kevin Tucker. CUNY LEADS is a unique program designed to prepare CUNY students with disabilities to make realistic academic and career choices and develop the skills that will result in successful career outcomes. CUNY is proud to have a distinction of being the nation's largest public university system with more than 270,000 students enrolled in degree programs across 24 campuses in New York. In addition there are more than a quarter million students in adult education programs; with more than half a million students that are touched through the program, and among those are more than 9,000 students with disabilities. More than one third of those individuals are individuals with hidden disabilities. The program also serves large populations of accommodation intensive students, deaf and hard of hearing students, and many neuro diverse students. Although the challenges are considerable, there have been significant outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention Rate - 84.4%* <i>Percentage of participants retained from intake through 09/01/2015</i> • Employment Rate 70%* <i>Percentage of "job ready" participants employed within 18 months of graduation</i> <p>Also in place is CUNY Project REACH that focuses on a student's academic success, their personal development, and their transition to competitive employment. Project REACH is a university-wide project funded by the FAR Fund created to enhance CUNY's capacity to support its growing population of college students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to educate faculty and staff about students with ASD. At the core of CUNY's mission is to provide affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to all students, especially those who have historically not had access to</p>

	<p>higher education opportunities -- like students on the autism spectrum.</p> <p>http://www.cuny.edu/about/ASDandProjectREACH.html http://www.cuny.edu/about/LEADS.html</p>
<p>SRC Business</p> <p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Michael Irwin, SRC Chair & Full Council</p> <p><u>Committee Reports:</u></p> <p>Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee (QAI): QAI requested additional clarification from ACCES-VR regarding three of the 2016 ACCES-VR & SRC Common Priorities. Additionally, QAI requested information regarding the Youth Employment Initiative RFP and QAI's role. The QAI Committee also suggested consideration of earlier development of the ACCES-VR & SRC Common Priorities with a draft in June and finalization of Work plan goals by the end of September going forward. The QAI Committee requests that ACCES-VR develop a timeline process for the 2017 Combined State Plan that includes all activities.</p> <p>The QAI Committee agreed to provide feedback to Robert Linton regarding unserved/underserved populations for consideration of inclusion in the State Plan Needs Assessment. Chad also alerted the full Council to legislation in the Senate and Assembly regarding Business Tax Credits and Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWOBE). The Workforce Committee will be monitoring this legislation. The QAI Committee reviewed the CAP Annual Report and the QAI work plan during the committee meeting.</p> <p>Workforce Development Committee (WFDC): Martha Jackson reported that the Workforce Committee has been following up the 2016 Common Priorities and other issues/strategies on increasing business relations with particular emphasis on exposing youth to employment opportunities. Through enhanced employer engagement, employer staffs can learn more about the capabilities youth and disabilities. Expanded opportunities for volunteerism along with business and school partnerships are other strategies for improved employer awareness of the potential youth with disabilities bring to the workforce. Martha will have the Workforce Committee look at the Business Tax Credit and MWOBE legislation pending in the Senate and Assembly. The Workforce Committee would like to obtain data regarding consumers with open cases</p>

	<p>who have professional degrees and are in the process of career changes. Martha reported that John Robinson, of “Our Ability”, has been designated as the official managing partner of the NY Business Leadership Network (NYBLN). The goal is to have the NYBLN work collaboratively with the NYC Mayor’s Office, but there is presently no staff in NYC to assist. Martha reported that she is hopeful that the Workplace Initiative Grant will be utilized to help staff the Workplace Initiative and also help with the Business Development Council.</p> <p>Transition Committee: The Transition Committee reported that they have the following priority action plan items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying how they can tap into the College Supports and Post-secondary Council. • The Special Education Field Advisory: Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities. Sophie will provide Michael P with the web address to the Blueprint. Michael will share the link with SRC members. <p>Policy and Planning Committee (PPC): Due to the absence of PPC Committee members at the Quarterly Meeting, the Committee suspended its committee report at this time. The full Committee will meet during the week of March 7th and will report out then.</p>
New Recommendations	<p><u>Full Council Recommendation</u> Motion to revise the SRC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to define how non-Council members may engage in SRC activities. Motion - Bill S; Seconded – Martha J. Vote: Yea – 16; Nay – 0; Abstain – 0 Recommendation: Approved</p>
Ex-officio Member Updates	<p><u>Ex-Officio Updates:</u> <u>Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski</u> NYS Justice Center Lisa reported that there has been a recent reorganization at the Justice Center. Lisa was previously located in Program and Policy, which no longer exists and was replaced with another unit – Outreach and Education. Lisa is now under the Office of Administration. Collaboration with ACCES-VR regarding technology remains an ongoing initiative.</p>

<p>Other Business</p>	<p><u>Greg Danis</u> NYS Developmental Disability Planning Council (DDPC) Greg reported that the Supported Decision Making and Guardianship Grant is rolling out with Hunter College who will implement an education campaign around Supported Decision Making and Guardianship. The DDPC 5-Year State Plan is currently under development and will go live September 1, 2016.</p> <p><u>Julie Hovey</u> NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) Julie reported that the Business Enterprise Program is currently under expansion and they are currently working with SUNY to establish vendor operations on SUNY campuses.</p> <p><u>Sophie McDermott</u> SED Office of Special Education Grants – CDOS Credential grants can't be publically released so they cannot be discussed yet. A memo regarding transition assessments is expected to be released soon. The Special Education Field Advisory: Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities is designed for Pre-K to grade 12 and identify existing best instructional practices to improve instruction to prepare students with disabilities for success beginning in the preschool years to lay the foundation for successful post-secondary outcomes. Sophie will follow-up with Michael P with the link to the web page for the Blueprint information.</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned – Next Meeting on June 8-9, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick St., Troy, NY 12180</p>	