

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
September 3-4, 2025, Quarterly Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn – Troy, New York**

Topic/ Key Points
<p><u>Day 1 Call to Order – Present:</u> Marilee Boylan, Naomi Brickel, Frank Falatyn, Bin Feng, Devin Fernandez, Emily Foss, Valerie Gambino-Carelli, Jenny Hutkowski, Talanda Jackson-Franklin, Meesha Johnson (Remote), Dawn Kalleberg, Kenneth Klassert, Frank Krotschinsky, Adella Lin-Kravitz, Ryan Lynch, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Robert Statham, Toni Sullivan, Jeffrey Tamburo, Tonia Weichmann, Stephanie Woodward, Amanda Hladik, Julia Kelly, Ceylane Meyers-Ruff (Remote), Linda Schramm, Sheena Bassett, Lorie Boyd, Jumoke Branco, Pam Brehm-Bisaillon, Ryane McAuliffe Straus, Vanessa Raville, Julianne Venneman, Caitlin Ohlson,</p> <p><u>Excused Day 1:</u> KerryAnn Buchanan, Mary Lafrance, Brenda Shannon</p> <p><u>Absent Day 1:</u> Melinda Dolezal, Alan Gallagher</p> <p><u>Guests/Public Day 1:</u> Angeline Hamele (Remote), Darlene McGraw</p>
<p><u>Day 2 Call to Order – Present:</u> Marilee Boylan, Naomi Brickel, Bin Feng, Devin Fernandez, Emily Foss, Valerie Gambino-Carelli, Jenny Hutkowski, Talanda Jackson-Franklin, Meesha Johnson (Remote), Dawn Kalleberg, Kenneth Klassert, Frank Krotschinsky, Adella Lin-Kravitz, Ryan Lynch, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Robert Statham, Toni Sullivan, Jeffrey Tamburo, Tonia Weichmann, Stephanie Woodward, Amanda Hladik, Julia Kelly, Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, Linda Schramm, Sheena Bassett, Lorie Boyd, Jumoke Branco, Pam Brehm-Bisaillon, Ryane McAuliffe Straus, Vanessa Raville, Julianne Venneman, Caitlin Ohlson</p> <p><u>Excused Day 2:</u> KerryAnn Buchanan, Frank Falatyn, Mary LaFrance, Brenda Shannon</p> <p><u>Absent Day 2:</u> Melinda Dolezal, Alan Gallagher</p> <p><u>Guests/ Public Day 2:</u> Laura Cardwell</p>
<p><u>Review of the agenda:</u> Toni Sullivan</p>
<p><u>Review and approve June 25-26, 2025, minutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 25-26, 2025, minutes reviewed. Kenneth Klassert motioned to approve, Frank Krotschinsky seconded. All voted in favor.
<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <p>Public comment was given by two members of the public on Day 1, both recipients of ACCES-VR services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angele Hamele is a current recipient of ACCES-VR services. They commented regarding their disability and their experience with ACCES-VR. They spoke about their struggle to obtain an accessible vehicle as a passenger rather than a driver in the vehicle. • Darlene McGraw is a current recipient of ACCES-VR services. She commented regarding her disability and her experience with ACCES-VR. She referenced the importance of reliable transportation in obtaining and retaining employment. <p>Public comment was given by one member of the public on Day 2, a member of the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Cardwell is the current Executive Director of the NYS Independent Living Council, Inc. She commented regarding the contract between NYSILC and ACCES-VR. She spoke about delays in the contract process and communication between ACCES-VR and NYSILC.
<p><u>Additional Agenda Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<p><u>Presentation:</u> <u>Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Dashboard Review: PY 2024, Quarter 3</u> <i>Linda Schramm, Assistant Commissioner of ACCES</i></p>

- The Assistant Commissioner reviewed data submitted from ACCES-VR to Rehabilitation Services Administration for its customers for the third quarter of program year 2024: January through March of 2025.

Presentation:

Modification of WIOA State Plan—Review of Feedback on Public Forums

Vanessa Raville, *Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Policy Unit, ACCES-VR*

- Modification of the WIOA Combined State Plan is due for 2026-2028. ACCES-VR's State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) plays an important role in the Modification of the Plan. ACCES-VR will hold public input meetings to gather information from its customers and review the State Plan's goals and priorities, modifying them as needed based on the input from the public. The SRC was asked to give ACCES-VR guidance on these public input meetings, including format, target audience, outreach strategy and means of input collection.

Presentation:

Order of Selection Policy and Significance of Disability Policy Review

Linda Schramm, *Assistant Commissioner of ACCES*

Julianne Venneman, *Manager of Policy, Training and Interagency Collaboration, ACCES-VR*

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), requires the designated state unit (DSU) operating the Vocational Rehabilitation program to serve individuals with the most significant disabilities first when there are not enough resources to serve everyone who is eligible for VR services. As the DSU, ACCES-VR must determine before the start of each fiscal year if it has sufficient fiscal resources and personnel to serve all customers. If it does not, it must implement an Order of Selection, a process to prioritize customers with the most significant disabilities. ACCES-VR must consult with its State Rehabilitation Council regarding Order of Selection, the need for it, and its administration. ACCES-VR maintains two policies: one regarding Order of Selection and one regarding Significance of Disability. Determining the significance of a customer's disability is done by the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, and the significance of disability determines in what order the customer is served if ACCES-VR enters Order of Selection.

ACCES UPDATES

Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, *Deputy Commissioner*

Linda Schramm, *Assistant Commissioner*

Process to Recommend New Members to Board of Regents

- The Office of Counsel has asked all program areas to scrutinize their advisory boards and councils to a higher degree, to ensure equal representation across NYSED on all bodies. The current process for appointing new members to the SRC is as follows: members of the SRC vote on candidates to recommend to ACCES-VR, the Deputy Commissioner reviews that recommendation, and the Deputy Commissioner makes a recommendation to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents appoints candidates in November or December for the following year. The Board of Regents often asks about geographic location distribution of recommended candidates, and the members ask questions regarding their area of the state being equally represented.

First Quarterly Update of Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to RSA

- ACCES-VR submitted the first quarterly update of the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to Rehabilitation Services Administration. This CAP had six findings, and each finding had between one and three components. The first finding was regarding accuracy and data. Each ACCES-VR customer has over 300 data points associated with their case. This underscores the importance of internal controls to ensure the data is accurate for each customer. Another

finding is regarding procurement of services. The first part of this finding was resolved. The second part was regarding the procurement of services and source documentation. An accurate paper trail is required throughout the customer's case. A third finding on financial reporting is completely resolved. A fourth finding on contract management has three parts, and two of those are resolved. ACCES-VR's Service Delivery unit has developed templates for RFPs and contracts to eliminate errors and streamline this part of the contract process. Service Delivery is currently very focused on how best to meet the needs of customers and vendors, and this unit is developing various tools to gather input from vendors in particular. Our Empire Fellow has begun meeting with groups of vendors to identify how ACCES-VR can support vendors in reporting services. Service Delivery is creating a comprehensive rate-setting survey for all CRS vendors, to better understand operating costs of each service, so those costs can be included in ACCES-VR's rates. A SharePoint website is in development to automate the billing process for ease of use, while still providing high-level and personalized service to vendors.

Challenges in Last Contract Process

- This question was submitted to ACCES-VR by an SRC member. There are several contracts this question could apply to, including Core Rehabilitation Services, Psychologists, and the Bureau of Proprietary Schools. Overall, the biggest challenge for all contracts is time. The contract process is very time-consuming because there are many, many steps, and New York State has many external controls in place involving several different agencies, such as the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Comptroller. Some factors are within ACCES-VR's control, and some are not. One step in the process within ACCES-VR's control is the writing of the Request for Procurement (RFP). In the past, writing the RFP and sending it to the Contract Administration Unit (CAU) could occur within six to nine months. Now this step in the process requires 12 months or longer. CAU tries to anticipate questions from the Office of the Comptroller, so they have multiple inquiries before proceeding to the next step. Other stages of the contract process may include a bidders' conference, proposals and scoring, Office of Council at NYSED, and the Department of the Budget. Additionally, the Attorney General's Office and the Comptroller's Office may have questions, such as why a certain dollar amount is assigned, or why the contract includes certain services. Answering these requires extensive communication between units at NYSED and possibly the vendor. So, frequently when contracts are late, it is due to a delay in one of these steps.

Rehabilitation Services Administration Audit and Contracts

- A question was submitted to ACCES-VR regarding how the audit by RSA will affect the next contract process. This audit was different because of the extent of background and information requested for each payment of a service. This creates an environment in which ACCES-VR will need to have explicitly documented proof of each service authorized and paid for, the service the customer received, the vendor providing the service, and proof of payment.

Advocating and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

- A question was submitted to ACCES-VR regarding how the SRC can assist in advocating for ACCES-VR. At this time, the Vocational Rehabilitation grant is fully funded for 2025, but there are two areas of concern for the follow's year's budget. Cuts to Supported Employment and the Client Assistance Program (CAP) are rumored in next year's budget, and although these funds do not come to ACCES-VR, ACCES-VR does not support cuts to these programs. These are areas which would need advocacy and support.

Interagency Reports:

Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities

- The next full council meeting is in October. The Board of Regents created a higher education survey to examine how institutions in higher education work with students with disabilities. The Board examined the results of the survey and released a report of the findings, which was brought to the Advisory Council's committees. Each committee was asked what could be done with the survey results from the lens of their committee. The results indicated a lack of understanding of ADA compliance, as well as little consistency regarding language and regulations across institutions. Evidence suggests many institutions prioritize "checking the box" to show compliance with ADA regulations, rather than concern for the quality of the services available to students with disabilities. Additional data suggests students in post-secondary institutions do not fully understand the difference between services available to high school students versus services available in post-secondary institutions. One recommendation is a survey of students in college and post-secondary training programs to ascertain their knowledge of supports available to them post high school.

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services (AIVRS):

- Over 200 people attended the 23rd Annual DisABILITY Awareness Day on August 7th in Akwesasne, NY, to meet and learn from 24 participating programs and agencies on individualized support services that assist individuals with disabilities with finding employment, maintaining their health, and overall wellness. Thank you specifically to the SRC membership for sharing information about our event and for those who signed up and attended. Guest feedback was positive, with many noting new agencies present and gratitude for making connections with resources to assist family members living with disabilities.

Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID):

- No update.

Disability Rights New York/Client Assistance Program/Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (DRNY/CAP/BAPSS):

- No update.

New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH):

- No update.

New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC):

Organizational & Event Updates

- NYSILC relocated offices in late June and early July.
- Laura Cardwell began as the new Executive Director on June 30, 2025.
- NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame Ceremony & Dinner: September 16, 2025, at the Albany Capital Center, during NYAIL's biennial Statewide Independent Living Conference.
- Council Recruitment: 13 candidates applied for three seats; 7 interviewed; final recommendations are in process.
- Council members are eager for new initiatives, but contract execution delays are creating barriers to moving forward.

What NYSILC & ILCs Do

- Independent Living Centers (ILCs):
 - Provide peer-driven, community-based, non-residential services: skills training, peer counseling, advocacy, information/referral, and systems change work.

- Governed by people with disabilities; funded/overseen by ACCES-VR.
- NYSILC (Statewide Independent Living Council):
 - Consumer-led nonprofit that develops, monitors, and evaluates the Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).
 - Partners with ACCES-VR and ILCs to ensure Independent Living services meet community needs.
- Federal law requires ILCs, NYSILC, and ACCES-VR to work together to ensure Independent Living goals are met.

Contract & Funding Challenges

- NYSILC Contract Delay:
 - Still not executed; to continue operations, NYSILC has had to take out \$100,000+ in loans and draw on a line of credit.
 - This diverts resources that could otherwise support consumer-driven planning and advocacy.
- ILC Contract Amendment Delays:
 - Amendments to add funding from *last year's Executive Budget* remain unexecuted more than a year later.
 - The increase was modest (\approx \$16,000 per center) but because execution is so late, some centers may lose it altogether if they were waiting on the finalized contract to spend it.
 - With contracts ending September 30, 2025, there is urgency to finalize these amendments, so funds reach consumers as intended.
- Communication Gap:
 - At recent NYSILC meetings, the only update shared was that the tracker had not been updated.
 - This leaves the network without clear information and highlights the need for stronger communication mechanisms.

Peer Integration Program (PIP)

- What It Is:
 - PIP places ILC staff within VR offices to provide wraparound supports such as assistance with housing, transportation, and peer counseling—helping VR consumers succeed in employment.
 - Started in 3 sites, expanded in 2024.
- Funding Gaps:
 - Programs faced a 3-month gap when the initial grant ended June 30, 2024, and the new one started October 1.
 - Centers kept staff on payroll at their own expense to prevent service disruption.
 - The new contract was also 8 months late, compounding fiscal strain.
- Current Issue:
 - Even though contracts were fully executed in June/July 2025, reimbursements are still delayed due to reporting systems (SharePoint/AWARE) not being ready.
 - Centers have delivered services and covered staffing costs but remain unpaid.
 - A temporary reporting solution could ensure timely reimbursement while systems are updated, preventing centers from being penalized for delays outside their control.

Harm to Disabled New Yorkers

- Reduced services: Delayed contracts and payments mean limited capacity to support disabled New Yorkers.
- Lost opportunities: Even modest increases (\approx \$16k per center) could fund additional services—but may now be lost.

- Equity risk: Disabled New Yorkers are the ones impacted—facing delayed or reduced access to the supports that foster independence, employment, and community inclusion.

Call to Action from NYSILC

- Support timely contract execution for both NYSILC and ILCs so appropriate funds can be used as intended.
- Encourage a temporary reporting workaround for PIP contracts so centers can be reimbursed promptly for services already delivered.
- Strengthen communication channels so ILCs and NYSILC receive timely, accurate updates.
- Recognize the consumer impact: these challenges are not simply administrative—they directly affect disabled New Yorkers' access to critical services.

New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB):

- NYS Commission for the Blind continues to develop an Order of Selection policy in the event this process is needed due to lack of fiscal and/or staffing resources. The Commission is hopeful it will not need to enter Order of Selection, as we assess past and current expenditures and future fiscal planning.
- The NYS Commission for the Blind state plan draft has been completed and is on the website for review. There will be two virtual open forums, on August 28th and September 10th, to provide time for participant questions and/or recommendations.

New York State Education Department- Office of Special Education (OSE):

Provision of FAPE to Students with Disabilities Through Age 22

- NYSED has issued a memorandum reaffirming districts' obligation to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students through their 22nd birthday.
- On July 17, 2025, the Appellate Division, Third Department, upheld NYSED's interpretation; districts must maintain enrollment and services, including placements at State-approved schools.
- Noncompliance will be considered willful under Education Law §306.
- Please share with Special Education and Business Offices and ensure local practices align immediately.
- *Questions can be directed to SPECED@nysed.gov or your local SEQA office.*

Special Education Dispute Resolution Center (SEDRC)

- The Special Education Dispute Resolution Center is a program of the New York State Education Department, Office of Special Education (OSE), and is managed and administered by the New York State Dispute Resolution Association (NYSDRA, Inc.).
- SEDRC provides information, training, and access to mediation to help resolve special education conflicts statewide. SEDRC serves parents, guardians, school district personnel, advocates, and special education mediators.
- The SEDRC website is now live and can be found at [Special Education Dispute Resolution Center](#).
- The SEDRC website provides a variety of supports, including:
- Information regarding special education mediation for families and school districts in New York State;
- Assistance with requesting and initiating special education mediation; and
- Access to professionals who can assist families, districts, and other stakeholders in navigating the special education mediation program across New York State.

- School districts are encouraged to share the [SEDRC flier](#) with students and families who may benefit from this resource and make the [SEDRC website](#) an available resource on their district's website.
- Additional information related to special education mediation is available on the [OSE website](#).
- *Questions related to SEDRC and/or special education mediation may be directed to:*
- SEDRC at info@osedisputeresolution.org or at 1-855-RESOLVE (737-6583). *This information can be found at www.osedisputeresolution.org.*
- OSE Due Process Unit at specedih@nysed.gov or (518) 473-0170.

New York State Portrait of a Graduate

- At the July 2025 Board of Regents meeting, the Board formally adopted the [New York State Portrait of a Graduate](#), a critical milestone in the Department's NY Inspires initiative. The Portrait provides a unifying vision of what it means to be a graduate in New York State and describes the essential skills and dispositions that all students should develop to be successful in college, careers, and civic life.
- The Portrait features six interconnected attributes; all grounded in Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education. The Portrait also communicates the Department's broader vision: for every New York State graduate to learn, grow, create, work, and contribute.
- While additional guidance is forthcoming, administrators may begin raising awareness of the New York State Portrait of a Graduate through communication about the Portrait with all stakeholders and making the Portrait visible in your community. Fostering a culture of whole-child development and encouraging authentic learning experiences will also set the foundation for the Portrait's implementation.
- *Additional information about the NYS Portrait of a Graduate and NY Inspires can be found on the [Department's Graduation Measures website](#), which includes the [July presentation to the Board of Regents](#) and an updated list of [frequently asked questions](#). Questions may be referred to GradMeasures@nysed.gov.*

New York State Department of Labor (DOL):

- No update.

New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD):

Employment First (E1)

- The Governor's Chief Disability Office (CDO) is leading Employment First (E1) related activities and initiatives and is establishing an E1st Team. OPWDD is participating in various initiatives including an assessment and implementation plan to incorporate Employment First principles into service delivery and practice. OPWDD continues to participate in the CDO State and a Stakeholder Advisory Groups, MISCC Employment Subcommittee; and Executive Office 31 State as Model Employer (SAME) committees. Internally, OPWDD is building infrastructure and adoption of the E1st principles. These activities include:
- Training all OPWDD Divisions/Units on Employment First Principles.
- Conducting an introspective review of current practices and policies and how OPWDD will align with the E1st Principles in Executive Order 40. E1st will encompass the agency as a whole and not be limited to employment programs.
- Assigning a lead person in each unit/division to participate in reviewing current practices and recommend solutions to align with E1st Principles. This will be the basis for the OPWDD E1st Implementation Plan due October 1, 2025.

Workers (with Disabilities) Employment Tax Credit (WETC)

- Governor Hochul knows employment opens doors for everyone. This year's Enacted Budget continues to build on New York's Employment First initiative by more than doubling the maximum tax credit for businesses that hire people with disabilities from \$2,100 to \$5,000. This significant increase will not only benefit people with developmental disabilities who want to work but also the businesses that choose to offer them that opportunity. OPWDD is meeting with the Department of Labor to discuss implementation and roll out.

Federal Budget Impacts

- New York State's current financial plan assumes a federal match of nearly \$7 billion to cover the more than \$13 billion in anticipated costs of the State's developmental disabilities service system this fiscal year. The recently passed "Big Beautiful Bill" will have an impact on NYS Medicaid program and recipients, but no explicit impact on OPWDD's service system has yet been identified. While the OPWDD service system has no designated federal cuts, we know the cuts to health and other benefits will have significant impacts on all New Yorkers, including people with developmental disabilities, their families and staff who support them. OPWDD is continuing to contingency plan for possible impacts on services, projects, and initiatives

Agency Direction on DEI and Language Access

- With the release of its 2022 Strategic Plan, OPWDD committed to address gaps in services for underserved, and culturally and ethnically diverse communities. This commitment included the goals of increasing access to OPWDD services for marginalized communities; improving capacity of OPWDD and provider agencies to support people from diverse backgrounds; improving the morale of staff and the people we serve and improving access to information and supports.
- OPWDD's DEI work falls within three areas: (1) Initiatives we take as a NYS Agency to improve access; (2) Initiatives we take as a provider of services; (3) Regulatory requirements we have as an oversight agency.
- OPWDD remains committed to pursuing our work in these areas. In addition, guidance from the Attorney General's Office emphasizes that State and Federal laws prohibiting discrimination remain unchanged. Diversity, equity, and inclusion practices have been in place in the private and public sectors for decades.

Pathway to Employment Policy Updates

- OPWDD recently redesigned the Pathway to Employment regulation, administrative memo and required documentation to make the service more accessible, expand allowable services and reduce administrative burden. These changes are being made based on feedback from people who receive services, their family members and service providers.
- The new Pathway to Employment regulations effective 4/1/25 and administrative memo effective 4/24/25 include the following streamlined content and new features The new regulations allow for 425 hours or 12 months (prior was 278 hours or 12 months) and an extension if needed but must remain within the lifetime limit of 556 hours and 24 months. Pathway to Employment requires at least 3 community vocational experiences, now with a minimum of 30% of total service time in community vocational experiences when the person is enrolled in the service 100 hours or more. This change allowed OPWDD to eliminate the limit on indirect services hours which ultimately reduces administrative burden. To improve the quality of services, the revised regulations include staff training requirements through the OPWDD funded Innovations in Employment Supports series. OPWDD and training partner, Eleversity, have revised the Pathway to Employment staff training and is offering training to Pathway to Employment directors to roll out the service

revisions. OPWDD has also updated training materials for staff, families and self-advocates with the changes. OPWDD requires that agencies complete the Pathway to Employment Career. Vocational and Transition which includes next step recommendations from the provider, person and support team. Recommendations may include supported employment and/or vocational services including various ACCES-VR options.

Business Engagement

- OPWDD developed various resources that provider agencies can use to get the word out locally to businesses about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and to recognize the businesses who have successfully hired people with disabilities into their workforce. OPWDD offers two EmployAbility videos that illustrate the impact that hiring employees with disabilities has on people with disabilities, their employers, and the workforce. Provider agencies are invited to share these videos widely this month and throughout the year to promote a more diverse and inclusive workforce. In addition, OPWDD's online Employability Toolkit provides resources to help businesses benefit from diversifying their workforce and explains how OPWDD can provide resources and support businesses to hire people with developmental disabilities.
- For National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), OPWDD providers are encouraged to use these resources for regional events such as:
 - Business recognition events
 - Business presentations
 - Events recognizing workers with disabilities and employment support professionals
 - Networking events
 - Social media

OPWDD Day Habilitation to Employment Initiatives

- OPWDD is pleased to announce that a two-year funding contract for a newly developed Community Engagement and Career Planning for day habilitation staff and management training has been approved and allocated. OPWDD's current training partner, Eleversity, launched the new live web-based trainings in June 2025. Since the launch, 26 classes and 300 staff have been trained. The purpose is to train day habilitation services management and staff to teach interpersonal skills, safety skills, build independence, and increase community engagement which includes career exploration. Eleversity and OPWDD included tangible tools with the training such as the Community Engagement and Career Planning curriculum with modules and exercises on topics such as safety, communication, etc. and a Community Skills Assessment form. The assessment is utilized with people enrolled in day habilitation services to monitor progress, increase community engagement and to engage in career exploration. Examples of people with a variety of skills and abilities who are working and their road to success are featured in the training. This training also introduces day habilitation staff/managers to the full array of employment and vocational services and how staff can help people transition to these services either part- or full-time.

SRC Business:

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report:
Annual Report Committee:

- The Annual Report Committee has created a draft. There are a few areas which need additional updating. It will still plan to submit the draft to ACCES-VR by the date of October 1, 2025.

Business Engagement:

- The Business Engagement Committee completed their portion of the Annual Report and submitted it. They reviewed questions regarding the upcoming public forums for the 2026 Modification of the WIOA State Plan, and they made recommendations for ACCES-VR regarding timing, number of sessions, modality, and invitees.

Membership:

- The Membership Committee received 20 applicants for the 2026-2028 term. They interviewed seven (7) candidates, and they will put forward four (4) candidates to the full SRC for a vote.

Pre-ETS:

- The Pre-ETS Committee completed their portion of the Annual Report. They also discussed the upcoming public forums and suggestions for the goals and priorities of the plan. They made a request for data in early September regarding students with disabilities by region, participation in each type of service, and referral sources for students. The Committee hopes to use this data to identify regional trends and disparities, understand student participation in services, and develop actionable, data-driven recommendations to ACCES-VR to increase services to students with disabilities.

Quality Assurance Improvement:

- The Quality Assurance and Improvement (QAI) Committee discussed upcoming public forums as well as their recommended listening sessions. The Committee is amenable to moving the listening sessions to early 2026 to avoid confusion and conflict with the public forums for the Modification. The Committee is reviewing the newer version of the Guiding Principles posted to the SRC website, and they will continue to update them, so a final draft of changes can be shared with the full SRC for voting in December or March.

Motion to Recommend Applicants for SRC Membership to ACCES-VR for 2026-2028

Motion: The Membership committee would like to recommend the following candidates for membership for the January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2028, term: Valerie Colavecchio-Dill, Angeline Hamele, Amanda McGinnis, and Emma Olivet.

Second: Robert Statham.

Voted: All in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business: None

Motion to adjourn: Emily Foss. **Second:** Valerie Gambino Carelli. **Voted:** All in favor.

**Next Meeting December 2-3, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, New York**