

**State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) June 6-7, 2023, Quarterly Meeting
Albany Hilton Garden Inn – Albany Medical Center**

Topic/ Key Points	
<p><u>Day 1 Call to Order – Present:</u> Naomi Brickel, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Joseph Delgado, Melinda Dolezal, Maryann Donnelly Sigona, Devin Fernandez, Alan Gallagher, Nancy Grant, Jenny Hutkowski, Dawn Kalleberg, Julia Kelly, Anthony Morano, Hillary Nichols, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Robert Statham, Toni Sullivan, Jumoke Branco, Caitlin Ohlson, Julianne Venneman, Lorie Boyd, Pam Brehm-Bisaillon, Michelle Harap</p> <p><u>Excused Day 1:</u> Valarie Gambino-Carelli, Talanda Jackson-Franklin, Mary Kitzel, Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, Linda Schramm, Brenda Shannon, Jeffrey Tamburo, Andrew Sink</p> <p><u>Absent Day 1:</u> Kathleen Grosvenor, Peter Herrig, Evelyn Pugh</p> <p><u>Guests/Public Day 1:</u> Akilah Jones</p>	
<p><u>Day 2 Call to Order – Present:</u> Naomi Brickel, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Joseph Delgado, Melinda Dolezal, Maryann Donnelly Sigona, Devin Fernandez, Alan Gallagher, Nancy Grant, Jenny Hutkowski, Dawn Kalleberg, Julia Kelly, Anthony Morano, Hillary Nichols, Tonya Robinson-Mayer, Robert Statham, Toni Sullivan, Andrew Sink, Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, Linda Schramm, Jumoke Branco, Caitlin Ohlson, Julianne Venneman, Lorie Boyd, Pam Brehm-Bisaillon, Michelle Harap</p> <p><u>Excused Day 2:</u> Valarie Gambino-Carelli, Talanda Jackson-Franklin, Mary Kitzel, Brenda Shannon, Jeffrey Tamburo</p> <p><u>Absent Day 2:</u> Kathleen Grosvenor, Peter Herrig, Evelyn Pugh</p> <p><u>Guests/ Public Day 2:</u> None</p>	
Review of the agenda: Joe Delgado	
<p>Additional Agenda Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>Review and approve December 6-7, 2022, minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 6-7, 2022, minutes reviewed. No abstentions. Robert motioned to approve; Sebastian seconded. All voted in favor of approval. <p>Review and approve March 29-30, 2023, minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 29-30, 2023, minutes reviewed. No abstentions. Anthony motioned to approve; Tonya seconded. All voted in favor of approval. 	
<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment. 	
<p><u>ACCES UPDATES</u> Ceylane Meyers-Ruff, Deputy Commissioner Linda Schramm, Assistant Commissioner</p>	
<p>Adult Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education had its onsite federal monitoring visit from the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE). • There were some findings, including the non-existence of a state workforce board (SWIB), the lack of memorandums of understanding between Department of Labor and Adult Education, and several questions in the fiscal space. • These findings were anticipated, and this is an opportunity for continuous improvement. The last federal monitoring visit was in 2011. The same individual lead Adult Education for 40 years. 	

- Adult Education now has new leadership, including a new director, and we are excited to create a blueprint for the future.

HS Equivalency

- There is a new GED exam, and all testing centers need to be fully functional. This process has been significantly slower than expected.
- All the test centers are in various stages of operation, and certain areas of the state, such as New York City, need additional centers. Other test centers are experiencing staffing issues.

Combined State Plan

- WIOA is the federal legislation that governs workforce development. There are four partners under WIOA. Titles 1 and 3 are part of the state Department of Labor (DOL). Title 2 is Adult Education. Title 4 is ACCES-VR.
- WIOA requires all these partners to create a new Combined State Plan every four years and to modify it every two. The next new State Plan is due in 2024, and we have actively begun to work on it.
- A WIOA Partner workgroup has been formed, and it has many committees. One of these committees crafts the State Plan. This committee is searching for areas where all the WIOA partners can collaborate.
- Three starting points have been identified: apprenticeships, summer youth employment, and business engagement.
- In the area of apprenticeships, we need to form connections between the apprenticeship work at DOL and people with disabilities, as well as students graduating from high school.
- In the area of summer youth employment, we would like to see money for Pre-ETS used for these opportunities.
- In the area of business engagement, the Commission for the Blind and ACCES-VR already engage with businesses and report to DOL's operating system. DOL has a robust team for business engagement, and we can continue to learn from them.
- Collaboration on the local level is also critical. If an individual seeks services at any of the partner agencies in their area, they should be able to access the services of the other agencies as well. The workgroup is examining the joint referral form for areas needing improvement.
- Many people are coming north from downstate with a need for services. We can provide services for those individuals who are not documented. There is limited information agencies are allowed to request; there is no need to prove residency or to ask if the individual is allowed to work in this country.

ACCES-VR

Presentations to the Board of Regents

- ACCES-VR has been very busy providing presentations to the Board of Regents. Last month, the presentation focused on Pre-ETS. The presentation is viewable online at <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meeting-archives/2023-05>. A combination of students receiving services and Pre-ETS vendors addressed the Board, and the students attested to the difference made in their lives by these services. Areas of focus included after school and summer programs and assistance applying to college.
- The topic of the next presentation, for the month of June, is Independent Living Centers (ILCs). The presentation came from a meeting of the Advisory Council on Postsecondary

Education for Students with Disabilities. It will discuss the history of the disability rights movement and highlight various partnerships with the ILCs. This presentation will be viewable online at <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meeting-archives/2023-06>.

Aware Case Management System

- The new case management system Aware went live in April. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors are able to navigate the system to serve customers, and the agency is able to pay vendors using the system.
- Updates are still in progress, and trainings are still being provided to both staff and vendors. Updates to the system will continue to occur for the next one to two years, and information on the types of updates needed is being gathered by staff and vendors.
- The mailbox established to report difficulties should be used for all issues. Information is gathered and monitored through the mailbox on the types of problems reported and the length of time to fix them; this information will inform future system updates and adjustments to the system over a longer period of time.

Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE)

- ACCES-VR received this grant from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The purpose of the grant is to assist those individuals with disabilities engaged in, or contemplating entering, subminimum Wage (SMW) employment to obtain competitive integrated employment (CIE).
- ACCES-VR will partner with several organizations to administer this grant. Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in the counties of focus will deliver the Career Counseling, Referral and Information (CCIR) services, and they will be trained by San Diego State University (SDSU). The Kennedy Center for the Arts will provide paid internships in RCM of Washington D.C. is a direct support academy and will train individuals with disabilities to provide direct support those individuals with disabilities who need it.
- Currently interviewing and hiring staff positions facilitate the grant, as well as finalizing the memorandum of understand (MOU) with Cornell University to do an evaluation of the project.
- The project will begin no later than October 1, 2023.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- WIOA requires ACCES-VR to spend 15% of its federal funds on Pre-ETS. ACCES-VR is engaged in conversations with other states to learn how they meet the requirement and is focused on forming new partnerships, including with community colleges. National data shows 50% of students with disabilities drop out in their first year of college, and they would benefit from receiving Pre-ETS at younger ages.
- A memorandum of understanding is almost finalized with Mohawk Community College (MVCC) to provide Pre-ETS to their students, as well as high school students. Next, ACCES-VR would like to partner with CUNY, for those students and to provide Pre-ETS to immigrant children.
- ACCES-VR is focused on finding more innovative ways to spend long term, including working with tribal nations.

55b and 55c Program

- ACCES-VR has met with Chief Disability Officer Kim Hill and other relevant agencies to increase the number of veterans and individuals with disabilities in the state workforce.
- The first area of focus is the 55b program. There are structural issues with the program that need to be addressed, to fully realize its potential.

Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Request for Proposal (RFP)

- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) for 2024-2028 was posted to the ACCES-VR website on June 1, 2023. A conference for vendors will be held on June 15, 2023, and will be recorded and posted to the website.
- Please send all questions to CRS2024@nysed.gov; all questions will be answered and compiled into a FAQ, which will also be posted to the website.
- The Deputy Commissioner is unable to answer questions today regarding the CRS RFP because everyone involved in the process should receive the same information at the same time, to avoid giving any vendor undue advantage.
- There is a focus in this RFP on improving customer service; how can ACCES-VR pay more attention to how services are delivered? New language is included regarding timeliness and reporting from vendors, such as requests to begin providing services within ten days of authorizations and requiring reports from vendors within ten days of service completion. These timelines are important to address communication breakdowns between counselors and customers; counselors need information in a timely fashion to better serve customers.
- For Pre-ETS, services to potentially eligible customers will be rolled into CRS; there are meetings this week with potentially eligible vendors to assist them with the transition when their current contract ends on December 31st. Combining services to potentially eligibility and eligible customers should make it less challenging for vendors and encourage them to provide more services. Rates for Pre-ETS have also increased.
- Rates to individuals who are blind or hard of hearing have increased to encourage more vendors to provide services to these customers.
- Regulations regarding staff qualifications are strict, tried to be flexible on educational requirements where possible.
- Travel has been added to certain services and language clarified around mileage.
- Youth codes have been added to certain services for clarity.
- Currently, there is a period of time between a customer ending services with ACCES-VR and beginning services with OPWDD. The new CRS will allow for the use of ACCES-VR extended services for both youth and adults through case closure to assist with that period.

SRC Comments/Questions:

Question/Comment: Thank you for sharing these updates, these are wonderful. For the 55B program, if counselors can certify individuals for the 55a program, can they use the same form for the 55b program?

Response: Yes.

Question/Comment: For people working in subminimum wage employment in large facilities, is there a plan as part of the grant to get a buy-in from the sheltered workshops?

Response: We are currently providing the required CCIR counseling and Department of Labor has already begun monitoring these organizations, with financial consequences if they are not complying. Independent Living Centers will be delivering the CCIR services at the workshops, in their places of business.

Question/Comment: There is a strong sense of excitement regarding the new CRS FRP; thank you for paying attention to comments and suggestions of vendors.

Response: Thank you for your feedback.

Question/Comment: During your discussion with CUNY schools, did you talk about CUNY Unlimited and other inclusive programs?

Response: Yes. ACCES-VR is very interested in programs like that.

Question/Comment: Do we know what the success rate of CCIR services are? Is it working?

Response: The current CCIR service delivery model is very passive, and in the SWTCIE model, the service will be in person, not virtual, and much more engaging. OPWDD has reduced this population significantly, and one of the reasons is the individuals have transitioned to other services.

Question/Comment: Our unit at NYS Department of Labor has received a lot of feedback from our Disability Resource Coordinators. One of the most frequent questions is “how can ACCES-VR and the Commission for the Blind (COB) work with the DRCs to improve services?” Anything ACCES-VR can do to partner with DRCs would really help the sustainability of the project.

Response: Co-enrollment is not occurring as well as it should, and there are many areas in which we (different agencies) could be providing services to the same person.

Question/Comment: Speaking as a parent of an individual who uses services, my daughter is now engaged in competitive integrated employment and met her milestones. I have seen amazing changes in her through the use of ACCES-VR services.

Response: That is wonderful to hear. We can always improve, but there are people out there doing good work.

Presentation

TransfrVR Virtual Reality, Akilah Jones- Project Coordinator

Future of Work Team, Department of Labor

- The Department of Labor entered a contract with TransfrVR to provide virtual reality headsets and software to centers around the state. These headsets will be used to assist job seekers in exploring new careers through the use of virtual reality. Although this idea was conceived as early as the 1980s, the Covid-19 pandemic served as a catalyst for the thought: “How to upscale our workforce for jobs that do not yet exist?” One way to prepare people for these jobs is through the use of virtual reality. Positives and negatives of utilizing this technology for job exploration were discussed, and council members were able to utilize the headsets in the same manner as job seekers.

Interagency Reports:

Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities:

- Presentation on Independent Living Councils (ILCs).
- Four topics continue to be raised in meetings.
- An increased focus on supports on campus. A large percentage of students with disabilities leave college after their first year. Existing supports on college campus need to be strengthened, as well as adding new supports.
- Curriculums need to become more accessible. They need to be manageable for all students with disabilities.

- Staff buy-in to teaching individuals with disabilities needs to increase. Staff needs to understand there is a curriculum possible which would both allow students to learn and to keep pace during the school year.
- Providing individuals with assistive technology at the beginning of their college career is critical for retention.

Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID):

- TRAID held its semi-annual meeting of directors in April.
- The meeting is an opportunity to come together to share best practices and support each other.
- TRAID continues to do as much as possible with 3D printing, and most centers have printers. They begin with simple items and build from there. Items include reading bars, pens, laptops and tablets.
- Some centers have struggled to engage students. They are 3D printing many aids for daily living, but they would like to print more tools for education and employment.
- If a blueprint exists online, it should be customizable to use in a TRAID center equipped with a printer.
- TRAID has provided 133 short term loans (of 60 days or less) of 244 devices. They have provided 42 open-ended loans (more than 60 days).
- If a person brings a device no longer needed to a TRAID center, they can wipe it and deploy it to an individual who needs it.
- TRAID has given 43 demonstrations to 80 participants, and 13 trainings to 100 participants. These occur at ACCES-VR orientations, BOCES centers, occupational therapy students at the University of Buffalo.
- TRAID seeks to do more accessibility trainings, such as how to make Microsoft Word accessible.
- TRAID will also be participating in the Get Outdoors and Get Together Day at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Question/Comment: Are you looking at GTCHAT for anything?

Response: Yes, are weighing its positives and negatives.

Question/Comment: If an individual has assistive technology on a laptop given by ACCES-VR, can they go to a center to receive training on how to use it?

Response: Potentially. Currently, TRAID is trying to develop fact sheet to explain what we do. At this time, it would be best for the District Offices to reach out and let TRAID know which programs are the most popular and the most utilized, so we can better serve ACCES-VR customers.

Question/Comment: Has your organization reached out to TRAID?

Response: Yes, but there is only one TRAID center near us. We have referred people but received mixed results.

Question/Comment: If the assistive technology is JAWs, reach out to the ACCES-VR District Office because there is a contract to assist the user.

Question/Comment: The local Independent Living Center will have staff to do those types of trainings as well, in most cases.

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):

- Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE): OMH is partnering with ACCES-VR and DOH to improve employment outcomes for people with mental health barriers to employment. New York is one of only seven states to receive the ASPIRE grant from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP); its goal is to identify transition age youth who fit the profile of a student with behavioral health needs and an employment goal. Then, an individual from either OMH or ACCES-VR can examine the individual's employment goal and determine which program is the best fit to achieve their goal, or perhaps they need both services at the same time. The foundation of this work will be the OMH PROS program and the ACCES-VR TAYS program. The deliverables of the grant are to create connections which did not previously exist, to help services exist better together. The program will focus on one very urban region, Queens, and one very rural area which has yet to be determined. The Individual Placement and Support Model (IPS) of supported employment will be utilized, as the key principle is leveraging already existing resources. ACCES-VR has expressed enthusiasm for encouraging IPS training for all Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs). This work can begin in the District Offices of the two selected regions, and hopefully it will expand across the state. The project should begin sometime this summer.

Question/Comment: If an organization is not a mental health provider, it is a struggle to provide the appropriate services for an individual with a mental health concern. That individual may not be able to participate in services if they have mental health symptoms which are not being managed.

Response: ASPIRE is a great example of an attempt to determine which services, OMH services or ACCES-VR services, or both, are best suited to help that individual reach their goal.

- National Expansion of Opportunities Network (NEON): This is another technical grant from Office of Disability Employment Policy; New York is one of only eleven states to receive this grant. This program will be led by OPWDD, in partnership with OMH and ACCES-VR, with the goal of aligning the priorities of state agencies who believe in Employment First, including for those individuals with the most significant disabilities.
- State as a Model Employer (SAME): Chief Disability Officer Kim Hill has convened a core group to look at what Employment First in this administration means and to develop a long-term vision for New York State. The original Employment First Commission report said the state workforce should be a model of all individuals across the state; if there are people with disabilities in New York State, there should be people with disabilities as part of the state workforce. This group will examine and define barriers to Employment First and identify both short-term and long-term solutions to affect change.
- OMH Employment Plan: Similar to a strategic plan, the agency has adopted a goal to equip everyone, including leadership, with the language and tools to talk about employment. While this is not a specific program model, principles around employment should be woven into every model to affect change. The goal is to develop an Employment 101 Plan and give all programs the same baseline training around language and possible services to help individuals with mental health concerns achieve employment.

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

- No update.

New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB):

- No update.

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

- June is graduation season, and it is also exiting season. High school graduation pathways are extremely complex, and there are multiple safety net options to utilize.
- Students with disabilities, whether they have a 504 or IPE, have a low pass safety net are allowed a lower Regents score.
- If a student does not obtain the required scores, they can always appeal.
- There is a compensatory safety net.
- If a student has an IEP, a superintendent determination can be made regarding whether a student can graduate.
- Many flexibilities were put in place during COVID; on remaining flexibility is the Special Appeal. This applies to all students taking an exam in June or August of 2023, or during 2022. These students can take advantage of the opportunity to meet the Regents requirement with a score of 50.
- A Blue-Ribbon Commission has been established to determine exactly what it means to earn a diploma in New York State. The goal of the project is to come up with an assessment based and project-based learning.
- There are opportunities for public participation and comment. They can be found at

Comment/Question: With the new RFP, potentially eligible and eligible student services will not be in separate contracts. This means more vendors can work with schools to serve both potentially eligible and eligible students. Currently, each school district has a different way to refer students to ACCES-VR. Is there anyway to streamline the referral process?

Response: This came up in a Pre-ETS Committee meeting. This is why it is so important to have a Pre-ETS coordinator in schools.

New York State Department of Labor (DOL):

- New York Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (SCION): Currently there are 27 Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) across the state; just over two thirds of the state is served, and three more DRCs should be hired soon for the New York City area. A new technical advisory was issued to extend SCION an additional two years, until December 31, 2026. Some changes were included, including an allowance for part-time DRCs, with the understanding the DRCs would be solely devoted to this role. One person, for example, could not be a part-time DRC and a part-time additional role. At the state level, sustainability is a focus, so state funding can continue to be authorized, and options for funding at the local level are under exploration as well.
- Disability Employment Summit, May 18, 2023: This event in collaboration with Columbia-Greene Workforce NY was a great success. There were a variety of partners and directors of various boards who participated, and it gave the DRCs from across the state the opportunity to collaborate and share best practices. The sustainability of this model going forward was discussed. The model is very successful with current customers of the career centers; now the goal is to funnel more traffic into the centers, create more success stories, and increase funding for additional future supports.

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

- OPWDD is very excited about the new Core Rehabilitation Services (CRS) FRP, especially the gap bridging ACCES-VR extension.

- This is a great collaboration between the agencies.
- OPWDD has met with ACCES-VR on many topics related to Transition age youth, including updating regulations and policies. Significant changes have been made to Supported Employment (SEMP).
- The next area will be Pathway to Employment, which will also have significant changes to streamline services and increase flexibility and access to services.
- There are minor changes coming to pre-vocational services, and greater changes to day habilitation programs.
- OPWDD would like individuals from day habilitation to move to pre-vocational service right away. They hope to rebrand pre-vocational programs as a steppingstone to ACCES-VR or to supplement employment services in developing social, mental health, stress management and coping skills. Hopefully, a career path will develop. Pre-vocational services can get you on the path, and then ACCES-VR services can assist you.
- Originally there were 37 organizations when workshops close, and now there are 14. OPWDD meets with them every month to explore the transition from site-based pre-vocational work to community-based pre-vocational work.

Question/Comment: For individuals coming from Day Habilitation, for those who are most limited, what do you see as the buy-in by the business community? They will need to be very flexible to include some of these individuals.

Response: A lot currently depends right now on having a really good job developer. The job developer does a process of “discovery.” They work intensely with the business, to see their working model and needs, and then they can see how a person with a disability might fit in to help complete work not currently being done. Part of the desire to collaborate with Department of Labor (DOL) is get at a business’s needs. That cannot be done just at OPWDD; we need to collaborate with DOL to see how we can help the business meet their needs, especially if an individual does not fit a typical job description.

Question/Comment: Have there been any changes with Care Managers, specifically with increasing their proficiency?

Response: Yes, there have been small changes. They seem to be improving.

Question/Comment: Do you see a shift to move from Day Habilitation to Community Pre-Vocational programs?

Response: The CMS waiver needs to be changed, and the six-hour day specifically is being examined.

Changes to Open Meeting Law

- An amendment was passed with this year’s budget, changing the Open Meeting Law. When additional guidance is received on how to enact the changes, the SRC will need to discuss how and when to consider requests by members with a disability to attend remotely. A focus on meeting quorum will need to be maintained, while providing specific accommodations for specific circumstances, to best support members with a disability.

SRC Business:

Committee Expectations

- The chair and co-chair have received a lot of questions from committees asking what work they should be doing. At the beginning of the year, committees should start with completing

their work plan for the year. They can reference last year's annual report to see the type of activities appropriate for their committee.

- Reference the Combined State Plan (CSP). This document tells the federal government what ACCES-VR and the SRC are working on. Remember to view the State as a whole, and not only think of your organization or county. It is your responsibility to give feedback and input, while still completing the activities of your committee. It is possible to utilize the 4.2 process if necessary to request data but remember to utilize your ACCES-VR liaisons; they are there to help answer questions and act as go-betweens with ACCES-VR leadership.

Question/Comment: Can the link to the combined state plan be provided?

Response: Yes, it will be emailed to the entire SRC. ACCES-VR is in the process of updating, so any feedback is appreciated.

Question/Comment: Who are the required partners?

Response: There are four required partners who must submit the Combined State Plan in the state of New York. Department of Labor, Adult Education, Commission of the Blind, and ACCES-VR.

Question/Comment: How can we request data from ACCES-VR?

Response: The chair and co-chair can discuss this process with you.

Response: With regard to Pre-ETS, data is not always defined in the same way as other services and the definitions are constantly changing (i.e. until what age is an individual considered a student). Additionally, due to changing definitions, there are errors in data as entered by counselors. There is a federal data workgroup which provides data, including data on Pre-ETS (although the data is more than a year old), but it can give you a starting point.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report:

- No update.

Annual Report Committee:

- The Annual Report Committee is excited to begin compiling materials for the annual report.
- This year's Annual Report should embody everything we do, and it will need contributions from the entire SRC.
- Please send in success stories and artwork from recipients of ACCES-VR services.
- Please ensure your submissions are thorough and of high quality. All businesses listed in the success stories will be vetted.
- Please watch for emails from the Annual Report Committee and ACCES-VR liaison.
- Committees will need to submit their report of the work they have done in the past year. Please reference last year's report to view the format and the type of information to include.
- The theme of this year's annual report is Collaboration and Innovation. Please keep this in mind as you craft your committee reports. Please try to highlight partnerships of all kinds.
- Please discuss at your next committee meeting in July and form a rough draft by August.

Comment/Question: What is the period covered by the annual report?

Response: June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023.

Business Engagement:

- The Business Engagement Committee has been discussing best practices, such as what to do when your contacts move on from positions and no handoff occurs to their replacement.

- Additionally, IESs have given presentations on the importance of collaboration and relationship-building in business engagement. The committee wants to explore if these ideas are being replicated or shared, and who might serve as examples of best practices.

Membership:

- The Membership Committee spent a lot of time crafting this year's letter and application to make it as accessible as possible and accommodate individuals with disabilities from the very beginning of their interactions with the SRC.
- The application will go out at the end of the week, giving a month to receive applications and collect resumes.
- The Committee will be revisiting previous years' applications as well, to see who indicated in their interviews they would welcome an invite to reapply, should they not be invited to join the SRC after their first application.
- The Committee will conduct interviews and should be ready with a list of names to present to the full SRC by the September quarterly meeting.
- Stephanie Woodward's name has been forwarded as a potential candidate for the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) representative.
- Additionally, the Committee asks attendance of individual members be noted at all committee meetings going forward. The Committee will be looking at member engagement and relying on the Chairs of the committees to report those who are not participating.

Pre-ETS:

- The Pre-ETS Committee sent out their survey to all SRC members, and they received 12 responses. The responses vary widely, from those who have no idea what Pre-ETS entail, to those who provide the services.
- This is a new committee, so they are still defining their charge. The Committee has outlined activities such as:
 - Annually reviewing data related to Pre-ETS
 - Annually updating the SRC on the definition of Pre-ETS.
 - Identifying new and emerging models for delivering Pre-ETS.
 - Reviewing the Combined State Plan and making recommendations to the SRC and ACCES-VR.

Quality Assurance Improvement:

- The Quality Assurance and Improvement (QAI) Committee received the results of the last Consumer Satisfaction Survey from ACCES-VR. There is a lot of information to examine, so they will continue their review and report out their findings.
- The Committee has several new members, so they are still becoming familiar with QAI and its purpose.

4.2 Recommendations: None.

Old Business: None

Next Meeting September 13-14, 2023
Hilton Albany Medical Center