



## Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

March 8, 2024

10 a.m. (Eastern)

Virtual via Teams

### MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Marc Ruiz

A	Mandy Blaise	A	Kate Barrow	A	Ron Brown
V	Katie Connel	V	Jennifer Diaz	V	Mason Ellis
V	Abby Fleenor	V	Shawn Fulton	A	Kate Heger
V	Zaida Maldonado-Prather	V	Danie'l Mize	V	Ian Ragains
V	Cadence Riley	V	Marc Ruiz	V	Stacey Smith
V	Willaine St. Pierre-Sandy	A	Kindall Stewart	V	Mike Thibideau
A	Barbara Thompson	V	Theresa Koleszar	V	Kristina Blankenship
V	Karen Smith	V	Amanda Ormstedt	V	Whitney Ertel

(A=Absent, P=Present, T=Teleconference, Virtual =V, I=Invited Guest)

- II. Approval of the January 12, 2024, meeting minutes
  - a) The Commission voted unanimously in favor
- III. Public Comment
  - a) There were no members of the public who made comment
- IV. Customer Satisfaction Survey Presentation
  - a) Customer Satisfaction Survey presentation given by Karen Smith
- V. BRS Director's Update
  - a) BRS Director's Update presentation given by Theresa Koleszar
    - VR program growth trends: Number of SFY24 VR applicants, eligibility determinations, and service plans projected to meet or exceed pre-pandemic (SFY19) trends.
    - Order of selection: 588 remaining on waitlist as of February 29; next release April 2024. Still on track to end the order of selection before December.
    - Provider incentive payment update (initial roll-out August 2023): 114 incentive payments authorized and 66 claimed and paid as of February 9, 2024. Total payment value \$56,160 in incentive payments to VR providers. Initiating an evaluation through a contract with PCG to evaluate effectiveness of performance incentive payments over the next two years.

- State Plan: public comment period closed February 22; received comments on three topic areas including a need to prioritize workforce needs for mental health services, addressing transportation barriers, and streamlining of pre-ets referrals. Responses were provided for all comments. State plan was submitted.
- VR Draft Rules
  1. Alignment with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including incorporation of pre-employment transition services and provision of youth extended services
  2. Alignment with practice changes implemented as a result of prior audits including 2017 federal monitoring, specifically vendor rule that addresses VR vendor registration and claims payments
  3. Incorporation of feedback gathered from stakeholders, including better organization and clarity
- Rules to be posted March 20<sup>th</sup> for public comment, with public hearing April 22. Public comments close April 22, 2024. <http://iac.iga.in.gov/iac//20240320-IR-460240082FNA.xml.pdf>.

## VI. Committee Updates

- Reach out to Marc Ruiz if interested in joining a committee
  - Zaida Maldonado-Prather will inquire internally about her ability to join the Outreach Committee
- b) Customer Satisfaction Committee
- Willie St. Pierre-Sandy will reach out to the committee regarding any concerns prior to the next survey presentation by Amanda Ormstedt
  - Theresa Koleszar and Willie St. Pierre-Sandy will research and reach out to neighboring states in order to compare survey response rates
- c) Employment First Committee
- The committee met recently and will meet again in March
  - A conversation occurred with a representative from DDRS regarding whether there will be another Employment First Summit
    1. Offered to be a planning committee for the summit
  - The group is currently considering the direction and goals of the committee
    1. Business engagement focus
- d) Recruitment, Public Outreach, and Commission Development Committee
- Marc Ruiz has been meeting with agencies, employers, students, parents, and VR participants in order to gather feedback and spread awareness about the Commission
  - The Commission has a vacant seat that needs to be filled by a member from the business community
    1. A small business owner who has a disability is preferred
    2. Mike Thibideau has volunteered his Director of Programs

- e) Policy & Oversight and Planning & Evaluation Committee
  - No update
  - The committee is currently vacant – looking for a chair and members
  - The group needs to decide if they want to change the direction of the committee
- f) Awards Committee
  - No update
- g) Transition Committee
  - The group meets quarterly on the Transition Advisory Council
  - Some members of the group will be attending the Capacity Building Institute put on by NTACT
    1. Will take what Indiana has been working on the past year and work with other states to better define their process

VII. Other Business

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location
May 10, 2024	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bosma Enterprises 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
July 12, 2024	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
September 13, 2024	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bosma Enterprises 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
November 8, 2024	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bosma Enterprises 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278