



Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

March 14, 2025
10 a.m. (Eastern)
Virtual via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

- II. Approval of the January 10, 2025, meeting minutes
 - a) The Commission voted unanimously in favor
- III. Public Comment
 - a) There were no members of the public who made comment
- IV. BRS Director's Update – Theresa Koleszar
 - a) Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)
 - Major takeaways and findings
 - Targeted recommendations
 - CSNA – Landscape of Services
 - b) Draft CSNA Recommendation 1 – Improve Access to Mental Health Related Services
 - c) Draft CSNA Recommendation 2 – Improve Services for Targeted Populations
 - d) Draft CSNA Recommendation 3 – Review Processes to Maximize Efficacy
 - e) Draft CSNA Recommendation 4 – Improve the Transition Process for Students Entering IN VR Services
 - f) Draft CSNA Recommendation 5 – Expand Access to Postsecondary Education and Training
 - g) Draft CSNA Recommendation 6 – Help Employers Create Opportunities
 - h) Theresa will revise recommendations based on the Commission's feedback

- i) State Plan Check-in: Section A – State Rehabilitation Council
 - Summary of Council’s Input into State Plan
 - The Commission acknowledged that Order of Selection has ended and Theresa added a statement that the Commission is supportive
- j) State Plan Check-in: Section F – Annual Estimates
 - The Commission acknowledged the edited table
- k) State Plan Check-in: Section G – Order of Selection
 - The Commission acknowledged this change to reflect that IN VR is not operating under an order of selection
- l) Additional Updates – Employment Service Streamlining and Clarifications
 - VR Employment Advisory Group recommendations
 1. Streamlining/simplifying Employment Service documentation
 2. Joint training to VR/provider staff throughout March
 3. Reduce burden/increase efficiencies
 - VR employment service expectations and clarification
 1. Participant engagement
 2. Faster movement toward job development
 3. Better alignment with capacity and resources
 4. Increased employment outcomes

V. Committee Descriptions and Draft Bylaw Amendments

- a) Motion to approve the draft language as presented was approved

VI. Committee Updates

- a) No updates

VII. Other Business

- a) Kate Barrow shared about GCPD launching their 5-year state plan development, they are looking for spaces to offer training, especially in rural areas. Please reach out to her with connections or helpful information.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location
May 9, 2025	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual Click here to join the meeting
September 12, 2025	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bosma Enterprises 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278
November 14, 2025	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bosma Enterprises 7225 Woodland Drive Indianapolis, IN 46278