



Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

May 10, 2024
10 a.m. (Eastern)
Bosma Enterprises
7225 Woodland Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46278
Also on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

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

- II. Approval of the March 8, 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. BRS Director's Update – Theresa Koleszar
 - a) Order of Selection Update
 - The division shall provide the council with a quarterly report containing the following information relating to vocational rehabilitation services:
 1. A status report of the division's effort to fill vocational counselor vacancies.
 - a. As of April 10, 2024:
 - i. 200 VR Counselor positions
 1. 10 vacant positions (5% of VRC positions); proceeding to fill all 10
 2. 16 staff in Trainee VRC status (8% of VRC positions)
 2. A status report of the order of selection.
 - a. As of April 10, 2024:

- i. Categories 1 & 2 OPEN; Category 3 CLOSED
 - ii. 98% of eligible individuals met criteria for category 1/MSD or 2/SD during current SFY
 - iii. 13 releases to date, with 3967 moving off waitlist
 - 1. 26% served or in services
 - a. 21% of those served/in services exited with employment
 - 2. 4% in process of contacting
 - 3. 21% declined services
 - 4. 36% unable to be located/didn't respond to outreach attempts
 - 5. 13% closed for other reasons
 - iv. Priority category 2 opened July 2023 – no waiting period
 - v. Priority category 3 releases began October 2023
 - vi. Priority category 3 targeted to 'open' by end of CY 2024 which will end OOS
- 3. The number of individuals who submitted applications for vocational rehabilitation services.
 - a. 4201 new VR applicants SFY24 through 3/31/24 (3/4 way through year – projecting 10% increase from prior SFY)
 - b. 5208 new VR applicants in SFY23 (10% increase)
 - c. 4740 new VR applicants in SFY22
 - d. 3302 new Pre-ETS applicants SFY24 through 3/31/24
 - e. 3830 new Pre-ETS applicants in SFY23 (1.3% increase)
 - f. 3769 new Pre-ETS applicants in SFY22
- 4. The number of individuals who are currently on a wait list to obtain vocational rehabilitation services.
 - a. As of May 2, 2024, 415 on wait list
 - i. All in priority category 3
 - ii. 90 of these individuals new to wait list since 7/1/23
- 5. The number of individuals who are currently receiving vocational rehabilitation services (have an IPE).
 - a. May 2, 2024 'snapshot' – 10,149 (9,457 November 2023 update – 7% increase)
 - i. Number currently receiving services fluctuates daily.
 - ii. Snapshot captures individuals served as of a single point in time, rather than over the course of a year or other time period.
 - b. Total served SFY23 – 12,660 (SFY22 – 12,150)
 - i. 4% increase from SFY22 to SFY23

b) VR Draft Rules

- Updates:

1. Public comment period closed April 22nd, 2024
 2. Reviewing comments and potential revisions to draft Rules
 3. Overall positive feedback on enhanced vendor requirements
 4. Second comment period later this year
- Goals for new rule:
 1. To align with WIOA requirements – Pre-ETS, youth extended services
 2. To address practices implemented following previous federal monitoring and state audits – vendor registration/vendor rule
 3. To improve clarity and organization
- c) Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Update
- Survey to VR participants released - 1,025 responses so far
 - Survey to VR staff – 67 responses so far
 - Collaborating with Self Advocates of IN on participant focus groups
 1. SAI reps will serve as moderators
 2. SAI moderators will receive training to promote an effective and uniform process
- d) Go IN BRS!
- VR Training Director served on a panel at national VR conference in April on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility efforts in IN.
 - BRS Director served on a panel with MN and OK to share successes with VR staff retention and recruitment for a national webinar in April.
 - BRS Director appointed as Chair of national VR Performance and Accountability Committee (previously co-chair)
 1. Committee focus – VR provider/vendor capacity
 2. National provider capacity and training survey
 - RSA ‘shout out’ at national conference in April that IN VR was the only program with 0 monitoring findings.
- e) VR Vendor Information Overview
- Registration in VR Claims Payment System
 - [VR Vendor webpage](#)
 - [VR Vendor Manual walk through](#)
 - [VR Employment Services webpage](#)
 - [VR Provider Directory](#)
 - [Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Manual of Employment Services](#)

V. Committee Review

- a) The group reviewed the committees and goals
- b) The Policy & Oversight and Planning & Evaluation Committee had a very large scope. It will be expired and replaced with new committees, each with a more specific scope of work.
- c) A Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) Committee will be formed

d) Additional discussion on committee structure and scope of work to continue.

VI. Other Business

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location
July 12, 2024 CANCELLED	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual Click here to join the meeting
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