

Legislative/Policy Committee 2025

Accomplishments

1. Polled members on training topics and arranged for mini trainings on these topics at SRC meetings
2. Advocated for and received paid internships for graduate level students at local DVRS offices. It should be noted that 2 out of 3 of the students were hired for VRC1 positions. The 3rd intern opted to work in the mental health field.
3. Postings for VRC 1 positions now require candidates to have master's degrees.
4. The committee continued to review and monitor current/pending Federal and State legislation which would impact individuals who have disabilities.
5. Held 3 virtual public hearings
6. Sent letter of support to Rutgers in support of their application to receive long-term training grants from RSA.

Goals

1. Review bylaws and make recommendations\
2. Review Administrative Code (DVRS' CRP unit reviewed the code and made recommendations but their findings are still in the legal department at NJDOL. Will request to see and review the work they completed and encourage needed changes based on current legislation)
3. Review new policy manual when ready for review
4. Arrange for SRC members to visit local offices and put together a presentation about the SRC for these visits
5. Survey members about training topics for the coming year and set up mini trainings as appropriate.
6. Advocate for the Rehabilitation Aide position to be a non-competitive title, similar to DVRS clerical positions so the vacancies can be filled
7. Review MOUs as appropriate
8. Continue to review pertinent policies/legislation pertaining to disability related issues
9. Review State plan and make recommendations as needed and appropriate.

NJDVRS Transition Committee Meeting Notes for 9/17/25

In attendance: Bill Freeman, Dawn Monaco, Nantanee Koppstein, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Susan Head, Carmela Slivinski, Michael Skoczek, Jessica Lax, Pat Gerke, Filicia Hopson, Gwen Orłowski, Christina Gonzalez

FY 2024-2025 accomplishments:

1. Provided input and feedback to DVRS staff resulting in the creation of a new and improved Pre-ETS Student Referral form.
2. Successfully raised the awareness of and knowledge about Pre-Employment Transition Services among DVRS staff throughout New Jersey.
3. Focused on the need for DVRS staff to increase outreach activities, which resulted in the creation of a new SRC Outreach Committee.
4. By highlighting the inconsistencies in information about Pre-ETS and other VR services for students that DVRS staff throughout New Jersey provided to families and school staff, DVRS leadership has created annual training events for all DVRS staff on Pre-ETS and serving students.
5. Provided feedback to DVRS leadership on the lack of clear data and information about Pre-ETS delivery, resulting in greatly improved and detailed reporting on Pre-ETS for the SRC.

State Rehabilitation Council
Evaluation & Consumer Satisfaction Committee

9/17/25

Attendees:

Cyndy Walsh Rintzler, Margaret Gilbride, Tina Brand, Karen Alexander, Jay Mills, LaTasha Brown

Past Year's Accomplishments of Committee:

1. Improved reports (2 back-to-back solid good ones now!)
 - slides are beautiful and clearly present findings
 - presentation with accurate and information clear
 - this has led to more information shared as well as more substantial questions asked
2. Response rates are improved. New DVR crew working on satisfaction surveys have re-formatted the survey request letter that, made accessing the survey more streamline, etc. This has led to double the number of responses formerly received.
3. Improved relationship between committee and DVR QA team. Together we are all working as a partnership, collaborating well, and producing quality information that can be trusted for accuracy.

Moving forward:

1. A meeting has been set for October 30 via Teams for the committee to meet re: continued refinement of current surveys as well as process for distribution and analysis.
2. All committee members present received a hard copy of current survey questions, which was also emailed out for review and analysis to prep for the meeting.
3. Discussion held among members of the committee on the value of each question, the ultimate goal of the surveys, weighing the pros and cons of different approaches to the survey, and next steps as we enter into the new FFY and survey cycle.