

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
Executive Committee
February 17, 2022

Present: Cole Uecker, Brad Konechne, Kevin Barber and Eric Weiss. Others present Colette Wagoner, BVR staff and Rick Norris, interpreter.

Meeting was convened at 11:00 am/central time via Zoom. The Executive Committee met to review the draft agenda for the upcoming March meeting.

Cole initiated the discussion by sharing feedback he received from another member following the December meeting. This member felt the meeting was too long, majority of agenda items were reports, and few items involved member feedback/activity/input. Comments were made about how to streamline the agenda and engage members. The committee discussed moving agenda items around, encouraging member participation and soliciting input. It was noted that members participate on committees where a lot of the work is completed. Attending listening sessions or town hall meetings provides an avenue to members to provide input on disability related services/systems. The committee spoke to agenda items they felt were beneficial including consumers sharing success stories of what services were utilized and having staff from the local district office provide overviews.

The topic turned to the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment agenda item which will be presented at the upcoming meeting. This will be a new topic for many members and background information will be shared. This will include an overview of the assessment, defining and establishing goals, how information will be gathered, analyzing the results, and developing findings. Once this has been done an executive team will be formed which will include board members. This process will involve members and work will be done to identify the state plan goals, priorities and strategies.

Discussion turned to meeting format and the pros and cons of hosting the quarterly meetings via Zoom, hybrid or in person. Hosting meetings virtually has been very good, shown by attendance, and everyone has access to this format. Brad made comments in favor of virtual and in person meetings. A virtual meeting means no travel and losing days of work. Kevin noted the importance of connection when meeting in person. When the meeting is scheduled via Zoom, members and other interested individuals can attend in person and meet in a conference room at the state office in Pierre. Cole will bring this up during the March meeting as a discussion item under closing actions and the scheduling of the next meeting. Staff will be asked to poll members following the March meeting and this discussion. Cole stated he would bring

up the earlier issue and encourage member participation and the need to ask questions, offer feedback, or inquire about possible agenda items.

There were no other discussion items. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.