

**Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
Executive Committee
February 19, 2025 – Zoom Meeting**

Present: Vicki Stewart, Jonathan Englund, Shawn Lyons, and Eric Weiss. Others present: Colette Wagoner, BVR staff.

The meeting convened at 11:00 AM PM Central Time.

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft agenda for the March 12th meeting. The agenda will contain a link to the State's Boards and Commission's portal (<https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=105>) as well as links to the meeting minutes and agenda.

During the discussion, the committee reviewed an organizational funding request submitted by Vicki Stewart for the ADA Festival 35. Vicki, as a committee member, explained the request has been modified. The revised request no longer includes support for the meeting room rental. Additionally, the festival will host an educational panel featuring individuals with disabilities discussing the impact of the ADA on employment, independent living, and other aspects of community life. The panel will take place over the noon hour to encourage attendance from employers, employees with disabilities and other community members. The ADA Festival 35 team is also working to confirm Senator Tom Harkin's participation. The funding request will support speaker fees for the panel.

The Executive Committee reached a consensus (with Vicki abstaining) to approve the \$900 funding request for the event, pending confirmation that the use of VR funds for this purpose is allowable.

The meeting agenda will reflect the organizational funding request. Vicki can present and explain the request, and the Executive Committee will provide a recommendation to the full board for approval.

There were no other changes to the meeting agenda. Eric followed up on a previous request to share success stories with the Board. He discussed efforts to identify individuals with disabilities who have worked with VR and successfully gained employment, and who are willing to share their story. These efforts will continue in the hopes of having such stories presented at future meetings.

With no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.