

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
Executive Committee
February 24, 2021

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

Meeting was convened at 10:00 am/central time via Zoom.

The Executive Committee met to discuss the agenda for the upcoming March meeting. Staff reviewed the proposed agenda and timeframes allotted. Members concurred that a longer break would be taken midway allowing for a short lunch break. The housekeeping line item would include a statement to remind members to take breaks as needed throughout the meeting in order to take care of personal needs. Along with this, the voting process will be reviewed reminding members that with voting “each vote at an official meeting held by teleconference shall be taken by roll call per state law regarding official meetings open to the public.

A question was asked regarding COVID-19 and the impact on work and provision of services. Eric noted he will include comments during his report to include anticipated changes or other developments in this area. This will include the Division’s working relationship with Tribal VR programs and travel restrictions. Information will most likely be included under the VR initiatives presented by other staff as well. He will also address any items or areas that may impact VR services as a result of the legislative session.

BVR staff asked for feedback regarding meetings, scheduling and communicating with potential nominees. Members agreed that meetings would continue utilizing a similar medium (e.g., Zoom) to host BVR/SILC meetings at this point in time. It was noted that the use of Zoom has increased attendance of members for both BVR and SILC. There was agreement of staff disseminating a poll following the March or June meeting to identify members’ preference of meeting styles. Eric talked about conversations he has had with some individuals regarding nominations for the BVR or SILC, and some have noted that travel is an issue, therefore they have not submitted nominations.

There were no other changes to the agenda at this time. Staff mentioned three items to bring forward at the March meeting for future agenda items: election of officers, SD Benefits Network and Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

There were no other discussion items. The meeting concluded at approximately 10:40 am.