



WSRC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 15, 2026

9:00am-11:00am

Members Present: Michele Stelovich, Council Chair, Labor Representative, Everett
Jennifer Tabiando, CRP Representative, Lynnwood
Liz Gallagher, Workforce Board Representative, Lakebay
Jana Finkbonner, Tribal VR Representative, Bellingham
Aimee Elber, Disability Advocacy Representative, Spokane
Alexandra Toney, OSPI Representative, Olympia
Pablo Villarreal, DVR Interim Director, Ex-Officio, Olympia
Verena Strydom, DVR Counselor Representative, Ex-Officio, Kirkland
Katrina Simmons, Recipient of Services Representative, Tacoma

Members Absent: Noelle Green, Recipient of Services Representative, Olympia
Edward Nicholson, Business Representative, Vancouver
Matt Newton, Business Representative, Tacoma
Jill McCormick, Parent Advocate Representative, Puyallup
Jennifer Bean, Council Vice Chair, Client Assistance Program, Bellingham

Council Staff: Shelby Satko, WSRC Executive Director, Olympia
Jolie Ramsey, WSRC Executive Assistant, Olympia

Visitors:

Aaron Dickson, Cami Falcon, David Stewart, E. Garcia, Mona Fuerstenau, Rena Van Meter, Renee Silva, Steven Potter, Tammy Bowen, Tara Zink, Zandra Leitch

Call to Order— Meeting called to order at 9:01am by Michele Stelovich, Council Chair

Council Priorities Updates

Executive Director

- NCSRC/CSAVR Conferences
 - Business engagement was a main theme.

- NCSRC: Shelby has now been the president of NCSRC for one year.
- Discussed the potential of having a youth rep. on our council. Illinois created a youth represented position on their SRC several years ago.
- Shelby and Drew Karhan co-presented a session about partnerships throughout the CSNA process and shared about partnerships and programs in Washington.
- Participated in Capitol hill visits with WA State senators and legislative representatives, along with the Directors of DSB and DVR.
- On July 22, we will host a community of practice for national SRCs, which will be a place for SRCs to collaborate, discuss timely topics, and share best practices. Hope to engage SRCs from states who do not generally attend national conferences.
- The Transition Collaborative held listening sessions throughout March-April, and around 200 people attended them.
- Shelby was asked by Dana Phelps to represent the DSHS seat on the Gate Advisory workgroup, so she has been attending those meetings. She is serving on the community engagement work group.
- VR-TAC Business Engagement Technical Assistance
 - Reviewing role clarity, coordination with program staff and field work and workforce partners.
 - Talking with the Opportunity Center at North Seattle College about a potential pilot program. Shelby will provide more updates in upcoming months.
 - Employment Consortium Committee and Supported Employment in State Government are subgroups.
 - This is a cross-disability effort.
 - Re-entry and internships programs
 - Pablo said that they have had conversations with the Economic Services Administration, Dept. of Revenue, and the Employment Security Administration about how we can use program funds for someone to do an internship at state agencies.
 - Aimee shared her positive experience interning with DVR over twenty years ago.

Executive Committee

- Member terms
 - Matt Newton is the only council member who is up for re-application this year.
 - In conversation and partnership with the Statewide Independent Living Council for a new liaison. As the SILC goes through a time of transition with new members, Shelby is maintaining a strong partnership.
 - Reviewed terms of other members and discussed leadership positions.
- Member recruitment
 - In recruitment for another Business rep. Jen Tabiando referred a colleague to the Business rep. position, and this individual has met with Shelby to learn more about the role.
 - Aimee recommended having staff send info to council members annually or semi-annually that would include talking points about open positions and sharing recruitment notices on LinkedIn.
 - Careers.wa.gov is a useful place for people to find volunteer opportunities.
 - Go to target-rich environments such as conferences for face-to-face conversations.
 - Jeannine Chandler may have contacts for the Business/Labor position, or on the job training organizations.

- Many companies have a volunteer match program. Microsoft, i.e. If you donate to your kid's school, they will match the donation. Get people thinking about how they volunteer their time. Home Depot and Lowe's have similar programs.
- The Partnership subcommittee could assist in creating a plan.
- Aimee will research the Discover Pass opportunity through volunteerism.
- Resource Plan SFY 2027
 - Reviewed plan, discussed certain budgetary allotments, such as the customer satisfaction survey, travel for council meetings and national conferences, and transition map revisions.
 - Shelby will take it to the Exec. Committee in June for approval, then to Pablo and Jamie Grund (DVR Finance Officer) for final approvals.

Policy & Planning Subcommittee

- Current priorities
 - How can we support people with are at immediate risk of losing employment.
 - Monitoring how we can support the Order of Selection priority of service category change.
 - Reviewing the change made to the On the Job Training policy and the Complex Case Protocol.

Partnership Subcommittee

- Transition Collaborative
 - Meet to discuss making deep connections between all our work.
 - Held four separate listening sessions with a total of 242 people.
 - The Association for County Human Services and the Community Employment Alliance each provided a professional response.
 - Now working to find themes, synthesizing data into tables. Will reconvene in two weeks to review and will include outcomes and recommendations in the final report.
 - Summative report and more info are housed at the [DDC website](#).
- Current subcommittee priorities
 - Plan to update the Transition Map later this year.
 - Transition and Workforce Integration

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

- Recently launched the statewide RFP for IEP platform, a statewide portal for students and families to access documents, will improve collaboration and simplify district/school transfers.
- A new team member at OSPI will focus on secondary transition services.

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

- In person meeting was held in Wenatchee earlier this week. DVR reps presented on Pre-ETS services in eastern WA. Meeting attendees also toured a facility that houses the Project Search program.

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB)

- Board membership changes
 - New interim Executive Director, Maddy Thompson.

- Two new board chairs, Morgan from Association of WA Businesses and April Sims, president of the WA State Labor Council.
- Several new board members, including DVR Interim Director, Pablo Villarreal.
- Looking at performance outcomes. Federal expectations have increased for grants. Focused on local boards, measurable skill gains requirements. Hope that our new case management system will help with outcomes, improve data entry. New system is called WA Works.
- Case management system
 - Talking with Health and Human Service Enterprise Coalition.
 - Workforce system has been added to the master person index, the project to connect various workforce development agencies and potentially educational agencies to the HR1 work verification hub.
 - This project will facilitate data share agreements, make it easier to meet federal compliance regulations, and improve continuity of care.
 - This could help ensure that people don't lose SNAP or Medicaid due to unlogged work requirements.
- Working on local plan modifications, the WIOA State Plan modification.
- Also working on local board certifications.
- Workforce Pell Grants
 - Hope to incorporate this on Career Bridge.
 - Running pilot programs at some state colleges.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR)

- Grant funding concerns
 - Because of all the disconnect at federal level, their grant was not rolled out in time. North Intertribal got a one-year extension, which puts them in next year's grant cycle, which is problematic because it puts them in the same group as 30 other tribes. The tribes' grant cycles used to be staggered. This may impact the award amount.
- The Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation (CCER) is closing. They have worked with Tribal VR programs for decades. Concerned about future communication with regional leaders.
- Waves case management system
 - This system has limited the amount of data TVR can receive and has been a hinderance to their ability to collaborate with DVR in shared cases. North Intertribal is seeing a big uptick in DVR/TVR case sharing, and Waves is a barrier to accessing information.
- TVR got state funding from DVR. No other state has done so except Washington.
- Port Gamble has a new TVR program.
- Public Law 102-477 Plan
 - TVR is now allowed to be part of this plan.
 - What does that mean now regarding data retention? It is an act of sovereignty. They treat TVR staff like case managers. TVR staff feel like they do not have as much say as they used to. The plan's directors do not understand what VR is.

Other Council Business

- WSRC August Quarterly Meeting
 - Discussed topic focus and location discussion.
 - Wenatchee would be a central location, and we could do a site tour.
 - Leaning toward Wenatchee for August and Vancouver for May 2027.

- Jana will speak with the Cowlitz tribe to see if they have updates to share with the council for next May.
- Youth roles on the Council
 - Partner with a school transition program. Have two or three students in a group. School could get credit as a transition service and the teacher can help them participate. Could be based on their post-secondary goal or working on community engagement.
 - Eligible reps could be students 18-22, and perhaps young adults in a college program.
 - Reach out to school districts or DDA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04am

Shared links:

- <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/5324395/wdfw-volunteer-opportunities-2026-03627>
- [Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development \(PROWD\) Grants Evaluation | U.S. Department of Labor](#)