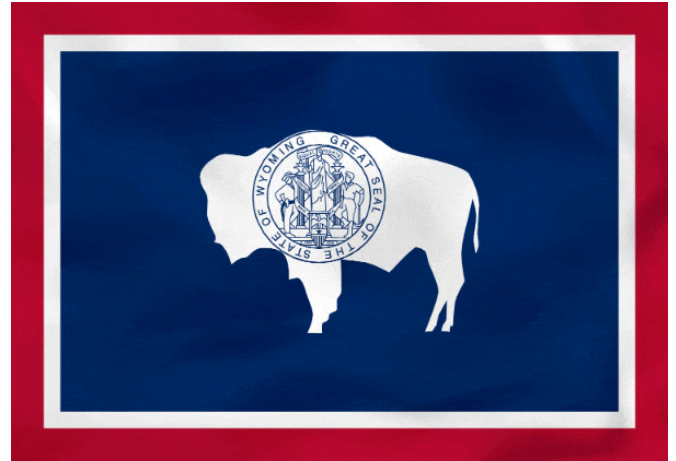


2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Wyoming

SRC

State Rehabilitation Council



The Council is currently comprised of the members representing Business, Industry and Labor, Parent and Family Advocates, Consumers and Clients of VR services. There are also members representing the SILC, PIC, and CAP as well as Counselors from DVR and the Tribal VR. The Departments of Education and Health Care Financing and the Wyoming Governors Council Developmental Disabilities are active participants as well as the current Administrators from VR and Department of Workforce Services.

Table of contents:

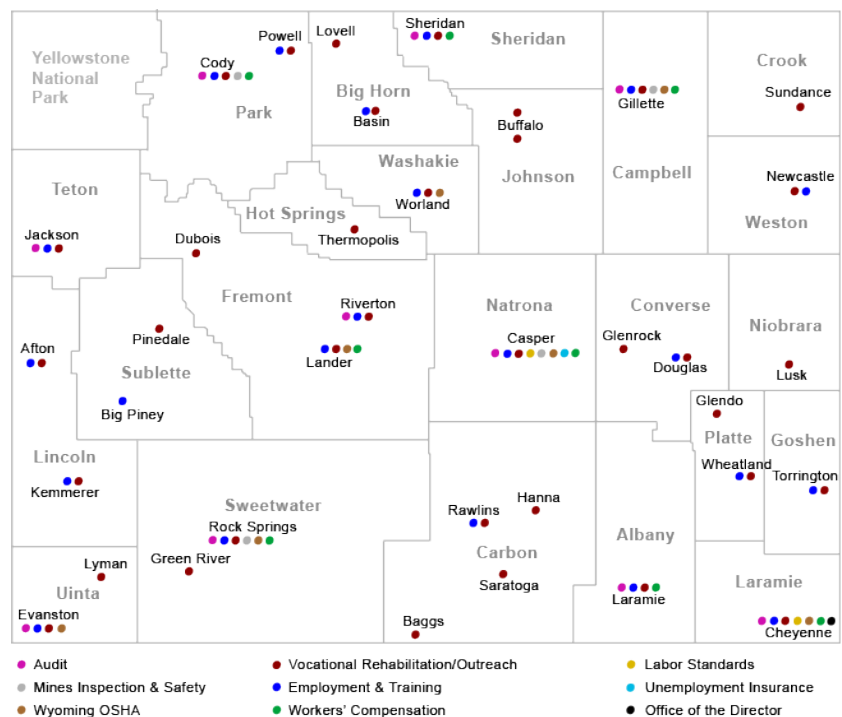
Message from the Chairpersons

SRC Mission and Purpose

Members of the SRC

SRC Accomplishments

Employer Awards, RIPPLE



STATE OF WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES



Director Robin Sessions Cooley

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Administrative Office
5221 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82002



Governor Mark Gordon

Dear Governor Gordon and Commissioner Schultz,

It has been both a privilege and honor to participate on the Wyoming State Rehabilitation Council this past year. We truly feel that this council is comprised of people who are dedicated to the mission and vision of the SRC and as a result have actively contributed to the successes we have had this year.

With regularly scheduled meetings which are extremely collaborative, our Council met the established goals set for this calendar year. Part of our success was do to the regional meetings held throughout the state in an effort to meet local VR Consumers, Employees and Counselors to better understand the needs around Wyoming. In addition to these meetings the SRC reinstated the Employer recognition awards, called the RIPPLE AWARDS, and met in person with both employees and employers listening to their stories of success achieved with the help from VR Counselors and local offices. These efforts put more then just faces to a name, they put feeling and strength into our Council.

With the inclusion of many new council members and state agency representatives, we feel that we have a functioning team that holds communication and respect at its centerpiece. We have laid the groundwork for improved collaboration with VR administration and look forward to a successful year in 2020.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Junge, Chair 1/19 - 8/19
Carolyn Coleman Burke, Chair 9/19-12/19

SRC Mission and Purpose

It is the mission of the Wyoming State Rehabilitation Council to review, analyze and advise the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's delivery of effective rehabilitation services which lead to employment and independence of Wyoming Citizens with disabilities.

The State Rehabilitation Councils purpose is to function as a partner with Vocational Rehabilitation to review, analyze, and advise the agency in its efforts to support the employment of individuals with disabilities in our state.

In partnership with DVR, the SRC assists in the development of the State goals and priorities, evaluates the effectiveness of the Vocational Rehabilitation program, and submits annual progress reports to the RSA Commissioner in accordance with Section 101(a)(15)(E).

The SRC advises DVR regarding activities authorized to be carried out under Title I (General Rehabilitation), and assists in the preparation of the: State Plan and its amendments, Applications, Reports, Needs assessments; and, Evaluations.

To the extent feasible, the SRC conducts a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with: the functions performed by DVR, Vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities and employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with such employment outcomes.

The SRC prepares and submits an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner on the status of the VR programs operated within the State, and makes the report available to the public.

We coordinate activities with other Wyoming councils and boards to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served.

The SRC provides for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between DVR and the SILC (centers for independent living) within the state.

And performs such other function consistent with the purpose of Title I (General Rehabilitation) as the SRC determines to be appropriate, and are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.

2019 Members of the Wyoming SRC

Carolyn Coleman Burke is the current Chair and has served as the Vice Chair and Treasurer during her 2 terms with the SRC. She is a parent advocate and has a son who was a past consumer of VR services and is currently enrolled in a Think College program in Utah. In addition to her Architectural Design business she manages 5 Teton County Special Olympics Delegations and helps to oversee the Special Olympics State Winter Games in Jackson, Wyoming.

Cheryl Junge is the past Chair and current Treasurer and represents Community Providers on the council. Cheryl is a special education teacher in the Natrona County School District #1 in Casper Wyoming, working with students ages 18 - 21 to develop transition-related life skills. Cheryl joined the council in 2016 and is currently serving her second term.

Aaron Kanatzar the current Vice Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council representing VR customers. Aaron is from Gillette Wyoming and currently works in construction trades industry Aaron is a student at the Gillette college studying general business.

Lee Beidelman was a high school teacher for 32 years and building administrator. After retiring from public school education, he served as Executive Director at the Arc of Laramie County for 3 years and then became an advocate at Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. Lee worked at P&A for 16 years. Lee has made a 51 year career of advocating for people, both with and without disabilities. He continues to serve on the SRC and State Independent Living Council.

Amanda Parks is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor working within the VA Health Care System. Her role on the council is to increase awareness of veteran needs, as related to State of Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Tamera Smith is a VR Counselor in Gillette, Wyoming working with youth and adults. She serves as the VR representative on the SRC council. She has four children, one of which is a VR client. She serves as a member for the Board of Directors for the NCSRC and is the chair for a Juvenile Services Partnership in Campbell County and member of the NECOC and YHDP(for youth) to address homelessness within the state.

Mark Pixley a self employed business Owner and VR client. Mark believes that the right amount of work in recreation leads to a fun and fruitful life. Mark believes that the Wyoming SRC is helping to ensure people with disabilities get a chance to make their lives better.

Connie Peterssen is a Client Assistance Program & Beneficiaries of Social Security Advocate for the Wyoming Protection & Advocacy System, Inc. and the CAP ex-officio member for the SRC. She also serves on the Wyoming State Independent Living Council. Connie has previously assisted individuals with disabilities seeking employment through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation & Developmental Disability Waiver as an Employment Consultant for 15 years.

Nikki Sweets is the PIC Outreach Parent Liaison for Natrona, Converse, Niobrara and Fremont Counties. She is the parent advocate for her son and has spent her career advocating for families and children with disabilities. She holds multiple degrees in Early Childhood Education and loves volunteering for local community organizations. Her passion is giving families the needed support so that their children can thrive.

John Wall is currently a client of vocational rehabilitation and is studying to be a health coach with their assistance. He serves on the Wyoming State Independent Living Council as the Vice Chairperson, on the Casper's Mayors Council of disabled people as the Chairperson of the Public Relations subcommittee, and on the SRC as the liaison between the SRC and the SILC. John works part time at the Wyoming Living Center of Casper as a Peer advocate and Peer Specialist.

Elizabeth Jude Haas has been respectfully serving as the director at the Northern Arapaho VR Program for the past 5 years. She is a proud Alumni of the University of Wyoming, where she received her masters degree. Elizabeth proudly served in the United States Army, and currently serves on the National Color Guard for Native American Women Warriors. She is currently on the Canar Policy and Advocacy Committee for Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, nationwide.

Aleyta Zimmerman is the Projects Manager/Policy Analyst for the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is also the State Administrator for WYABLE. Aleyta serves on several councils and boards across the state and lives in Cheyenne. She has been a member of the SRC since 2016, and is the current acting chairperson for the Outreach Committee.

Pam Snyder is an Assistant Participant Support Specialist Manager with the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Healthcare Financing. She assist individuals with applying for the Supports Waiver, reviews plans of care to assure compliance with the Center of Medicaid Services (CMS), and State Of Wyoming Rules. She has worked for the State Of Wyoming in the Developmental Disabilities Section for 20 years, has provided case management services for 18 years, and has worked with and advocated for individuals that have development and intellectual disabilities, and acquired brain injuries for 38 years.

Madonna Long is well respected in the disabled community, Working with organizations, leaders, and businesses across the United States. Madonna serves as an individual with a disability on the council and holds a Bachelors degree in Homeland Security. She currently works for Pride Mobility Products as consumer advocate, Star Transportation Group (VETaxi) and resides in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

Sheila Thomalla is the Wyoming Department of Education representative on the SRC. She is an Educational Program Consultant for the states Individual Learning Unit and resides in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Charity Henning is currently the Executive Director of the ARC of Laramie County in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Prior to this she was a Direct Service Provider under the Wyoming DD waiver and helped people with disabilities with daily activities, medication, transportation and supervision. She also serviced on UPLIFT as board member and the Mayors Councils for People with Disabilities.

Alex Lee is the Owner of Lee Metal Works, Heating, Cooling and Refrigeration and serves as one of the SRC's business and labor members. He is currently a board member of Habitat for Humanity in Sheridan Wyoming. He has served on the Economic Development Task Force, Sheridan Travel and Tourism Board, and as both President and Vice President of the Sheridan City Council.

Jacob Samuel Myers is from Sheridan Wyoming. He has volunteered with several social organizations while recovering from brain surgery. He is currently working to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to re-integrate into society.

Nikki Harper is an Ex Officio member of the SRC serving as the current Director of Vocational Rehabilitation for the State of Wyoming.

Brian Hickman is the Support Services Coordinator for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and servers as the current SRC liaison for DVR on our council.

Holly Simoni is the Administrator of Workforce Programs for the State of Wyoming and represents the Workforce Investment Board role on our council.



2019 SRC Accomplishments

The Council and the three subcommittees have had a very successful calendar year. We continued to build on initiatives established in 2018 while developing new ones for 2019.

- * The SRC established an active SRC Facebook page with monthly posts for marketing information and increasing awareness of SRC and DVR activities.
- * We started frequent employer recognition awards with Facebook marketing and promotion recognizing 14 different businesses around the state of Wyoming. See the RIPPLE award section to follow in the report.
- * Reviewed and made recommendations to VR on policy updates and changes for:
 - * Mutual Cases with Other States
 - * Expedited Enrollment /Verbal and/or Observable Eligibility Determination
 - * Services to Family Members
- * Information regarding updates to Usual and Customary Fee Changes for VR vendors was reviewed and commented on.
- * Developed an orientation protocol to welcome and train new SRC members.
- * The SRC continued to address membership issues, recruiting members to represent various locations around the state. Currently there are members from Casper, Cheyenne, Riverton, Jackson, Gillette, Sheridan, Lander, Buffalo, Kemmerer.
- * Reviewed and updated the Wyoming SRC website.
- * Created an online SRC manual for membership use.
- * Participated in a review of the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment format and implementation plan.
- * Updated the SRC brochure for marketing and distribution.
- * Involved local counselors in quarterly meetings to create relationships and solicit input regarding job satisfaction and retention.
- * Reviewed purpose of and need for Order of Selection status determination.
- * Placed a Wyoming SRC representative on the NCSRC board.

- * Wrote a letter requesting support to strengthen communication with VR administration to Robin Cooley, the Director of Workforce Services for Wyoming.
- * Met with Robin Cooley and Holly Simoni, DWS Administrator to brainstorm how to improve communications between SRC/VR Administration.
- * Requested and received updated quarterly reports on VR services.
- * SRC participated in WY State counselor's in-service training in May.
- * Worked with VR to establish ZOOM access for all statewide and regional trainings so that partners and SRC members can participate
- * Sent an SRC representative to NCSRC/CSAVR fall conference in Bethesda, MD.
- * Reviewed Section 511 and 14c Certificate policy changes.
- * Began review/revision of Client Satisfaction Surveys and implementation plan.
- * Reviewed State Unified Plan and provided written recommendations to VR plan writer for consideration.
- * Reviewed Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment results and incorporated recommendations into State Plan revisions.
- * Attended Robin Cooley's presentation in Casper on Workforce Services and lobbied for greater partner participation activities in development of new State Plan.
- * Worked with VR to purchase/repurpose technology devices and peripheral tools for designated SRC use for ZOOM technology meeting forums to provide greater access and participation in SRC meetings.
- * Received updated participant survey templates to begin to gather CSNA feedback ongoing for next three year cycle.
- * Held SRC executive committee elections and transitioned to new Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer.
- * Conducted 5 SRC meetings around the state and on Zoom call.
 - * February: Workforce Services Center, Casper
 - * April: Able Hands, VR Vendor, Rock Springs
 - * June: Workforce Services Center, Gillette
 - * August: Workforce Services Center, Casper
 - * October: Workforce Services Center, Lander
 - * December: Zoom Conference Call

The RIPPLE Award

Reaching Incredible Places, Pursuing Leadership in Employment

The Wyoming SRC created the RIPPLE Award in 2018 to recognize Employers around the State who have gone above and beyond the goal of employing people with disabilities. Through a nomination process the SRC publicly recognized Employers and Employees for their dedication and support. The 2019 recipients were:

February: Smith's Food and Drug-Casper
CY Taco John's- Casper



March: Snow King Mountain Resort-Jackson



April: Fish Bowl- Green River



April: Flaming Gorge Harley Davidson- Green River
ABLE Hands- Rock Springs

June: JT Services- Gillette
Accent Masonry- Gillette

August: Converse County Public Library- Douglas
Glenrock Superfoods- Glenrock



October: Lander Valley High School-Lander
Lander Ford-Lander
McDonalds-Lander
Snow Deep Design-Lander

