





TO: Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) Committee

FROM: Kevin G. Smith 

SUBJECT: New York State Rehabilitation Council

DATE: March 28, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

To provide the Board of Regents with an update on the New York State Rehabilitation Council's (SRC) 2017-18 activities and recommendations.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy recommendations related to the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Board of Regents ACCES Committee at its April 2019 meeting.

Procedural History

The SRC was established to fulfill the requirements of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and to advise the New York State Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, and the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) on the provisions of vocational rehabilitation services.

Background Information

The SRC is comprised of twenty-one voting members representing: disability advocacy groups, transition educational services, community rehabilitation service

providers, businesses, parent training and information centers and independent living centers. There are also several non-voting state agency members including: the State Education Department (ACCES-VR and Office of Special Education); NYS Commission for the Blind; NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs; NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities; NYS Office of Mental Health; NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and NYS Department of Labor.

The SRC convenes quarterly in-person meetings of the full Council in addition to monthly committee conference calls. Committees include:

- The Membership Committee which monitors vacancies and recruits new members;
- The Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee which provides feedback to ACCES-VR’s Quality Assurance and Monitoring Unit on various issues related to improving the quality of vocational rehabilitation services provided to individuals with disabilities;
- The Transition from School to Adult Life Committee which makes recommendations on policies and practices that can improve student transition to ACCES-VR services;
- The Workforce Development Committee which makes recommendations on ways to engage the business community in hiring more employees with disabilities; and
- The Policy and Planning Committee which advises ACCES-VR on the creation of policies and procedures used to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving their career and vocational goals.

ACCES-VR has 651 staff across 25 offices. In Federal Fiscal Year 2017-18, 93,051 individuals with disabilities received services. Specific demographics on ACCES-VR participants are as follows:

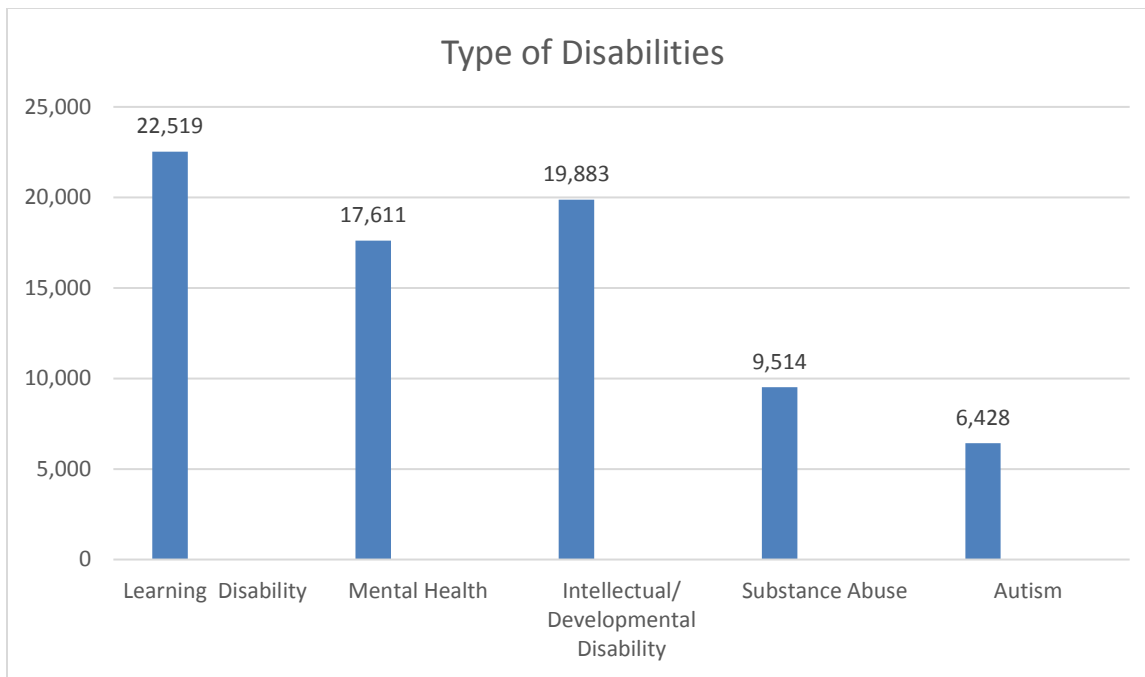
Age and Gender

All Participants	Youth	%	Adult	%	Female	%	Male	Male %
93,051	51,178	55%	41,873	45%	38,426	41.3%	54,039	58.3%

Race and Ethnicity

White	%	Black	%	One Race and Hispanic	%	Multiracial	%	Asian	%
47,236	50.8%	22,417	24.1%	15,579	16.7%	2,485	2.7%	2,079	2.2%

Native American	%	Multicultural and Hispanic	%	Pacific Islander	%	Unspecified	%
561	Less than 1%	728	Less than 1%	122		1844	2%



Note: this does not include ACCES-VR participants in other categories of disabilities such as physical disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, etc.

As an advisory body, the SRC works collaboratively with ACCES-VR making recommendations that support the following goals outlined in the New York State Plan required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:

- increase the employment rate for individuals served by ACCES-VR;
- increase the wages of individuals served by ACCES-VR;
- increase services to students and unserved/underserved groups;
- improve the quality of ACCES-VR services;
- increase the VR participant survey satisfaction response rate;
- increase the number of vendors that meet or exceed performance measures;
- increase the percentage of individuals with disabilities receiving a postsecondary credential; and
- effectively serve businesses to increase the hiring of employees with disabilities.

Related Regent’s Items

[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments October 2018](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1018brca1.pdf)
 (http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1018brca1.pdf)

[State Rehabilitation Council Appointments November 2018](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1218brca2.pdf)
 (http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1218brca2.pdf)

Timetable for Implementation

With support of the Board of Regents, the Department will continue to implement the above actions.

Current Members, effective January 1, 2019

Tonya Robinson-Mayer Chair representing Transition Educational Services

Joseph M. Delgado Co-Vice Chair representing Disability Advocacy Group

Joan Parker Co-Vice Chair representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers

Megan Brown representing the State Education Department/Special Education (SED)

Melissa Campbell representing Business, Industry, and Labor

Sebastian Chittilappilly representing Disability Advocacy Group

Paul Czech representing Disability Advocacy Group

Helene Fallon representing Parent Training and Information Centers

Alan Gallagher representing the New York State Department Labor (DOL) Workforce Investment Board

Michael Godino representing Community Rehabilitation Services Providers

Rachel Jones representing Business, Industry, and Labor

Gregory Lau representing Transition Education Services

Robert Leiter representing Disability Advocacy Group presenting

Jennifer M. Machucki representing Community Rehabilitation Services Providers

Lindsay Miller representing New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC)

Erica M. Molina representing Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Hillary Nichols representing Community Rehabilitation Service Providers

Susan Scheer representing Community Rehabilitation Services Providers

Melissa Schindler representing Native American Tribal

Ellice Switzer representing Business, Industry, and labor

Lynnette Torgalski representing Disability Advocacy Group

Non-Voting Members, Ex-Officio Members, and State Partners

Ceylane Meyers-Ruff representing State Education Department (SED) – Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Melinda Dolezal representing the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

Lynne Thibdeau representing State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Peter Herrig representing State Commission for the Blind (NYCB)

Liam McNabb representing State Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Angela M Lockhart representing State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS)

ACCES-VR staff serving as Committee Liaisons

Michelle Barlow liaison to the Executive Committee

Bryan D. Baszczuk liaison to the Workforce Development Committee

Laura Hartmann liaison to the Transition Committee

Jennifer Semonite liaison to the Policy, Procedure and State Plan Committee

David Morgan Liaison to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee