



**West Virginia**

**SRC**

**State Rehabilitation Council**

---

*Featuring sunsets over West Virginia*

**2012- 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**





Hello from the WVSRC,

With great honor, I would like to present the WV State Rehabilitation Council's Annual Report. The WV Division of Rehabilitation continues to serve West Virginians with the highest quality of services and is constantly working to improve their programs and service delivery.

Director Donna Ashworth and her staff keep the members of the Council well informed regarding the various programs and plans of the agency. The Council appreciates the cooperation and working relationship it has with the entire staff. This year West Virginia was once again a pacesetter among states meeting the goals and objectives set forth by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

The Council feels the agency grows stronger and reaches new heights yearly. To be a part of that movement is rewarding and gratifying, especially when being recognized nationally for those achievements. I am sure the agency will continue to flourish. With the varied and valuable experiences and viewpoints of our members, the Council is a diversified, yet collective body. Members have also benefited from having representatives attend national trainings and conferences throughout the year bringing revitalized or new ideas and opportunities to enhance our role. We work together with a united mission and vision, which strengthens our partnership.

As my term as Chairperson ends, I am very proud of what we have accomplished together. Knowing that we are a strong, vital partner gives me great satisfaction. As I have said in the past, the honor and a privilege of serving on the WV State Rehabilitation Council has been mine. I congratulate the Council, Director Ashworth and her staff on a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Scott Gossard".

D. Scott Gossard  
Chairperson





To Our Friends ~

As this year comes to a close and we reflect back on our accomplishments and challenges, the WV SRC's work becomes more important, valued and recognized. The WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provides exceptional programs and services working relentlessly to enrich the lives of West Virginians. Our Council takes great pride in being a part of this influential organization.

The agency continues to be acknowledged nationally for their achievements and leadership. As a steadfast partner with DRS, we strive to assure we are united in our missions, visions and passion. Director Donna Ashworth assures the Council is kept abreast of all aspects of the agency without hesitation. The WV DRS staff makes regular presentations to the Council at meetings regarding programs, services and policies as well as updates on standards and indicators. We also pride ourselves with our resilient relationship, mutual respect and joint projects with the WV Statewide Independent Living Council. This enhances the work we do with WV DRS as both a Council and colleague while offering both Councils an opportunity to know the members personally, share our values and embrace our successes.

The Council continues to be very involved with the National Coalition of State Rehab Councils (NCSRC) helping to train, mentor and provide guidance to other Councils. The WV SRC supports the agency by attending events conducted by the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), Rehabilitation Services Administration, Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) and any other activities that keep us well-informed. Through this involvement, our Council is continually reassured we have the knowledge and expertise needed to make informed decisions.

We anticipate our partnership with WV DRS to become even stronger through the years and hope we will continue to serve as an inspiration to other SRCs. With great pride on behalf of the WV SRC, we hope you will enjoy our Annual Report and share with us as we remember this past year's journey.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry A. Taylor".

Sherry A. Taylor  
Executive Director



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Dear Friends of the State Rehabilitation Council:

I am pleased to report that FY 2013 was another successful year for the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

DRS provided essential vocational rehabilitation services to 16,826 West Virginians with disabilities. This assistance enabled 3,831 of these individuals to enter employment or maintain their current vocation during the past fiscal year.

Additionally, DRS continues to meet all required evaluation standards and performance indicators established by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

All of this could not have been possible without the cooperation and enthusiastic support of our valued partners like the State Rehabilitation Council. On behalf of the Division, I want to express my appreciation for your continued support and collaboration in this regard. Your service and partnership is vital to the success of the vocational rehabilitation program.

Please accept my gratitude for your hard work and support that helps DRS to meet its mission of enabling and empowering West Virginians with disabilities to work and live independently. I look forward to the continued success generated by our long-standing partnership.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Ashworth  
Acting Director





## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council is to review, analyze and advise the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services regarding its program eligibility, performance and effectiveness in empowering individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment goals.

## **VISION**

The West Virginia SRC's vision is to ensure that all people with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity to receive the vocational rehabilitation services for which they are eligible.



## **COUNCIL PURPOSE**

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is established in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (ACT), and 34 CFR 361.16-361.17 of its implementing regulations. The SRC gives advice to and works in partnership with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS).

In compliance with the guidelines of the 1998 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, the SRC must perform the following functions, after consulting with the State Workforce Investment Board:

Review, analyze and advise WV DRS regarding their performance concerning eligibility, effectiveness and functions performed by State agencies that affect the ability of individuals with disabilities to achieve employment.

In partnership with WV DRS:

- Develop, agree to, and review WV DRS goals and priorities.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of their program and submit annual progress reports to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner.
- Conduct a statewide needs assessment of individuals with disabilities living in the State every three years.
- Advise WV DRS regarding vocational rehabilitation activities.

Assist in the preparation of the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation, amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments and evaluations, including those necessary for WV DRS to satisfy the requirements of developing a “comprehensive system of personal development” and establishing an “order of selection.”

Review and analyze the effectiveness of and the consumer satisfaction with WV DRS agency functions, vocational rehabilitation provided by WV DRS and other entities and the employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals.

Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and RSA on the status of Vocational Rehabilitation services as well as providing this report for the public.

Coordinate the activities of the SRC with the activities of other councils, such as the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC), the West Virginia Developmental Disability Council (WVDDC), the West Virginia Human Resource Investment Council, etc.

Provide for the coordination and the establishment of working relationships between WV DRS, the WVSILC and the centers for independent living.

Perform other functions that it determines appropriate and comparable to its other functions, provided they are consistent with the purpose of Title I of the ACT and its implementing regulations.



## **WHAT WE DO**

One of the most important responsibilities of the SRC is to advise, make recommendations and assist the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) in preparing the State Plan for Vocational Services. The purpose of the State Plan is to assure that State and Federal governments play a leadership role in promoting employment for persons with disabilities and to ensure a link between citizen participation and the legislative process.

The Council is also responsible for reviewing and analyzing the effectiveness and satisfaction of rehabilitation services provided by DRS from information gathered from the clients. The Council does not assist in the resolution of any individual case issues. Consumer Satisfaction Surveys are mailed by the SRC to all clients statewide whose case has been closed. The collected data is returned with only the client's district and category for the information to be compiled by an independent contractor annually. The report is available on the DRS & SRC websites, upon request from the SRC office and/or electronically.

The SRC prepares an Annual Report highlighting the Council's past fiscal year's activities and accomplishments as well as highlights from the reports given by DRS. This functions as a status report from the SRC of the vocational rehabilitation programs across our state that is submitted to the Governor, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), state and federal legislative members, state officials, DRS staff and SRCs throughout the United States. The report is also available on the SRC website.

The Executive Director serves as an active member of the DRS Executive Team and on various agency and statewide committees and task forces. The Executive Director and other members of the Council are involved in the development, revision and implementation of policies. The Council participates in strategic planning for the agency. In keeping with this role, the Council supports the agency's legislative strides within the state and nationally.

Keeping abreast of national trends, trainings, legislative agendas and innovative networking is vital to the success of the Council. To assure this aspect is met, the WV SRC participates in the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) and Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Our goal is to ensure that people with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity to receive the programs, services and supports needed. We work diligently in our pursuit for consumer satisfaction and endless ways in which services can be improved or developed.



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Comply with the functions of the Council as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended to ensure the Council is meeting the federal requirements;
2. SRC continues to be a member of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Executive Management Team;
3. Continue our strong partnership with DRS management staff and personnel acting as an advocate, confidant and agency ambassador;
4. Receive regular updates from agency Director on DRS marketing efforts to increase public awareness of services and programs;
5. Council shall be educated and knowledgeable about services and programs within DRS;
6. Maintain an active role in the National Coalition of the State Rehabilitation Council (NCSRC) participating on the national steering committee, attending state and national conferences to bring the information gained to the enrichment of the Council;
7. Disseminate consumer satisfaction surveys to all closed DRS cases and have compilation report given electronically and verbally to Council members and designated VR staff;
8. Conduct combined public forums with DRS and the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) to education of the general public about DRS and the role(s) of the Council(s);
9. Provide continuing education to the general public on the SRC and the role of the Council;
10. Encourage at least Council members to become an active member of their local CAC;
11. Be an active member of the DRS Policy Consultation Group;
12. Use social media to link the SRC to other partners giving access on the internet to the Annual Report, website and during public awareness events; and
13. Plan and collaborate a joint annual meeting with DRS and WV SILC.



## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Council reviewed and amended Mission, Vision & Bylaws
- Executive Director serves on the National Steering Committee of the NCSCR representing Region 3
- Executive Director serves as the Region 3 Liaison for TACE trainings
- Attended Region 3 meeting in Baltimore, Maryland with WV SRC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Active member of the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)
- Executive Director re-elected to serve as Vice Chairperson of the National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)
- Executive Director assisted, facilitated, planned and participated in SRC nationally scheduled conference calls, Steering Committee meetings, NCSRC trainings & conferences in Bethesda, Maryland and San Diego, California
- Council members and SRC staff attended the spring and fall Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conferences in Bethesda, Maryland and San Diego, California
- Joined DRS Director and VR staff for hill visits in Washington, DC
- Participated in the RSA monitoring visit in March 2013
- Received State of the Agency presentations by DRS Director or her representative at each SRC meeting
- Council was provided up-to-date information at each Council meeting regarding agency performance and standards & indicators by VR staff
- Received monthly verbal and written agency status reports on Standards & Indictors with presentations made to Council members during scheduled meetings
- Council made recommendations in writing for the DRS State Plan and received DRS plan of action for recommendations
- Members received various presentations by DRS staff were made to Council for education, such as CRPs, Case Management Services & Programs, Visions and Biotic Driving
- Created a statewide Essay Contest on the Disability Movement with the WV Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC) and DRS for high school seniors. Honored the winners.
- Executive Director serves on the DRS Policy Consultation Committee to assist in drafting, reviewing and amending agency policy



- Attended the WV Senate Finance and House Finance Committee budget meetings with DRS staff
- Provided guidance and suggestions on spending of stimulus funds (ARRA)
- Members of the Council attended the Ability Works program in October 2012 at the State Capitol
- Members received written annual compilation report by contracted auditor
- Nominated and received new member appointments
- Submitted SRC Annual Report to Governor, Secretary of State, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Legislature, states, territories and other required individuals
- Council members completed SRC online training module
- Updated and disseminated the Consumer Satisfaction Survey to closed VR cases
- The 2011 - 2012 Consumer Satisfaction Survey presented orally and in writing to Council members by consultant Dr. Denetta Dowler
- Consumer Satisfaction Report posted on agency website
- WV SILC and SRC held a joint meeting & drafted a joint strategic plan
- Worked collaboratively with the WVSILC on a Disability Summit attended by about 50 other partners
- Members attended the National State Rehabilitation Council Forum conducted by TACE at George Washington University
- Co-sponsored Sexual Assault Training for professionals who work with people with disabilities with the WV SILC, Northern WV Center for Independent Living and Fairshake Network
- Council representation on the Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP) Advisory Committee
- Several members attended the annual Consumer Affairs Coalition (CAC)
- Had representation at the Effective Advocacy Strategies for You (EASY) Conference
- Council member facilitated communication between DRS and Construction Trades Apprenticeship Programs across WV
- Set up display and participated in annual Disability Advocacy Day



## CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY SUMMARY

The WV State Rehabilitation Council in conjunction with the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) conducted a survey of consumer satisfaction with DRS services in West Virginia. The Council developed an instrument that asked consumers to rate their level of agreement with statements about the services they may have received through WV DRS. Consumers were also asked about specific information related to jobs and to their rights as a consumer. A final section included open-ended items designed to determine the consumers' opinion about program changes or improvements that could be made.

The report summarizes those responses and details the findings of the survey for the 2012-2013 program year. The surveys were sent to consumers from each of the following closure statuses:

- *Closure Status 08* means that the case was closed after the application process (no services were provided). (unsuccessful closure).
- *Closure Status 26* means that the case was closed after the consumer met the objective(s) in their service plan. (successful closure)
- *Closure Status 28* means that the case was closed after at least one service was provided. (unsuccessful closure)
- *Closure Status 30* means that the consumer was determined to be eligible for services, but none were provided. (unsuccessful closure)

The Closure Status was obtained for all 754 individuals who responded. Closure Type 26 can be thought of as a "successful" closure and the other categories represent "unsuccessful" closures. In this sample, 83% (627) of the responses were received from consumers who successfully completed their rehabilitation or independent living plan (Status 26), 4% were from those in Status 08, 8% from those in Status 28, and 5% from those in closure Status 30.

The surveys were distributed during the year to consumers whose cases were closed as previously described. The Council also wanted to examine the pattern of responses for transitioning youth and color coded the surveys so that youth could be identified separately. A total of 754 surveys were returned including 85 responses from youth.

Each respondent was asked to indicate the age group to which they belonged. There were 672 responses to this question:

9% were less than 20 years old	22% were in the 20 to 50 age group
58% were between 51 to 70 years old	10% were more than 70 years of age

These consumers agreed that their counselor treated them with respect (95%), the DRS process was explained clearly (95%), their questions were answered clearly (95%), and they were satisfied with the services they received (91%), their counselor stayed in contact with them (90%), they received the services they needed (88%), and they were made aware of the steps to achieve their goal (88%).

The consumers were also asked to rate the accessibility of their DRS office, their counselor, and their overall experience with DRS as "excellent," "above average," "average," "below average," or "poor." When asked about accessibility of the local office, 95% gave a rating of "excellent" or "above average." When asked to rate their counselor, 93% of the consumers rated their counselor favorably. When asked for an "overall" rating, 92% rated the program as "excellent" or "above average."

There were 672 people between the ages of 20 and 70 who responded on their work status. Of these:

80% are working	6% are looking for work
5% said they are unable to work	3% are in school or training
1% said they don't want to work	5% said they were retired

## CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY SUMMARY continued

This year, one addition area was added - a Retired category. This resulted in five percent (5%) of respondents saying they were retired.

Overall this year, the number of responses (754) was slightly above the number from last year's 736 responses. The respondents represent closed cases in each of the six districts of West Virginia and from 54 of the 55 counties in the state (no responses from Boone County). Districts 2 and 4 had the highest level of representation in this sample (45% of responses) and the other Districts ranged from 9% to 18%. These percentages represent more even responses from the counties than has been typical for these surveys. Likely, this high number of responses provides a more accurate view of coverage.

Respondents were asked to indicate their disability. The type of disability most often reported was sensory, which was 63% of the sample or 356 individuals. Of these 356 individuals, 323 reported having a hearing impairment and 29 had a visional impairment. Motor-related impairment (e.g., hand amputation, hip dysplasia) represented 56 individuals of the sample or about 10%. A total of 43 individuals or 8% listed their impairment as a Learning Disability, inability to retain information, or other Cognitive impairment. There were 21 people or 4% who listed Depression, PTSD, or other Mental Health disability. There were 14 people or 2% who reported their disability as a heart attack, COPD, or other Cardiac/Respiratory disability. The Various/Other category includes multiple impairments and/or responses such as diabetes, migraine headache, seizures, or blood disease. This group included 80 people or 14%.

There were 566 people who listed a disabling condition. Of these, the number of individuals reporting having the following:

356 with hearing disability	63%
58 with motor impairment (e.g., amputee, SCI, bad ankle)	10%
42 had cognitive impairment (e.g., LD, Slow learner)	7%
24 with mental health impairment (e.g., anxiety, bi-polar disorder)	4%
14 had cardiac or respiratory problems (e.g., Heart by-pass, COPD)	2%
72 grouped as "Other/Various" (e.g., Diabetes or numerous disabling conditions)	14%

Since each person did not complete each item on the satisfaction survey, the overall mean across all items for each group was computed. These means show different levels of satisfaction for the consumers in the various disabling condition groups, but caution should be exercised in interpreting these differences due to the differences in sample sizes.

The consumers were asked to indicate which rights information had been explained to them. There were 626 individuals who responded that at least one right had been explained (83% of the sample). Of these, 217 indicated that all rights were explained. Most individuals indicated that they had received several rights explanations. Therefore, the total number of rights explained was 3,004. If each of these individuals had been given information about each of the rights listed, the total would have been 5,008 (626 individuals x 8 issues). The total responses indicate that consumers recalled having been told 60% of the possible rights information.

Of the people 626 responses there were 523 (84%) individuals who reported that they received rights information to:

Participate in developing my plan (523 responses)	84%
Choose how my services were provided (438 responses)	70%
Choose who provided my services (435 responses)	69%
Appeal any decision about my case (334 responses)	53%
Know about all the services that were available (495 responses)	79%
Request another DRS counselor (244 responses)	39%
Appeal any decision about my services (278 responses)	44%
Contact CAP for help in resolving differences (257 responses)	41%

Overall, while the percentages vary slightly from previous years, the pattern of responses is very similar to the patterns in previous surveys. We are pleased with the number of responses we received this year and feel this will benefit the DRS staff in helping them to excel in their work and strive to reach higher goals for the agency and personally.



## **STATE PLAN**

### *For Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services Programs*

The Council makes recommendations each year to be included in the Division of Rehabilitation Services State Plan for Vocational Services. These recommendations are based on reports provided during regular Council meetings, memorandums and other communication offered by the agency director and/or the staff of the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The reports guarantee the SRC is receiving factual updates and pertinent information to make accurate observations, decisions and recommendations.

This task is taken very seriously by the Council knowing that the acceptance of the State Plan assures the Federal government that DRS will operate its vocational rehabilitation (VR) and supported employment (SE) programs in accordance with the provisions of this Plan, as well as meeting federal statutory, regulatory and policy requirements.

As in previous years, the SRC once again congratulates DRS on the exemplary manner in which they have exceeded the requirements of the Rehabilitation Services Administration's Standards and Indicators for 2012-2013. The continued knowledge of agency activities and future plans are key in preserving and strengthening the relationship of the SRC and DRS, as well as our other partners, in the progression of expanding our partnership. Because of the leadership and dedication of the DRS staff, West Virginia has become a recognized pacesetter and model state for others to follow and seek guidance.



## **West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)**

The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is the state agency responsible for the operation of the state and federal vocational rehabilitation program in West Virginia. DRS specializes in helping people with disabilities who want to find a job or maintain their current employment.

The starting points for services are the 31 field offices the agency has throughout the state. The district offices are located in Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Huntington, Martinsburg and Wheeling. Rehabilitation counselors at the field offices help with the application process. Once eligibility is determined, counselors and clients work as a team to develop a plan to meet the individual's employment goals. Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the client. DRS services may include:

Evaluation & Assessment  
Counseling & Guidance  
Job Development & Placement Assistance  
Vocational Training & College Assistance  
Rehabilitation  
Assistive Technology

The vocational rehabilitation program is governed by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. The Act also requires the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to establish evaluation standards and performance indicators that DRS is expected to meet annually. The collective data for fiscal year 2012 - 2013 indicates that DRS met all federal requirements, especially in terms of the quality standards and indicators.



## Occupation of Individuals Vocationally Rehabilitated

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Management Occupations	345	9.01
• Business and Financial Operations Occupations	54	1.41
• Computer and Mathematical Occupations	38	0.99
• Architecture and Engineering Occupations	47	1.23
• Life, Physical and Social Science Occupations	24	0.63
• Community and Social Services Occupations	124	3.24
• Legal Occupations	29	0.76
• Education, Training and Library Occupations	205	5.35
• Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media Occupations	32	0.84
• Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	207	5.40
• Healthcare Support Occupations	201	5.25
• Protective Service Occupations	93	2.43
• Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	202	5.27
• Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	254	6.63
• Personal Care and Service Occupations	195	5.09
• Sales and Related Occupations	265	6.92
• Office and Administrative Support Occupations	407	10.62
• Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations	20	0.52
• Construction and Extraction Occupations	222	5.79
• Installation, Maintenance and Repair Occupations	198	5.17
• Production Occupations	342	8.93
• Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	312	8.14
• Military Specific Occupations	8	0.21
• Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Clerk	0	0
• Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Operator	0	0
• Homemaker*	7	0.18
• Unpaid Family Worker	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Occupation outside the competitive labor market



## Personal Characteristics – State Rehabilitation Clients Federal Fiscal Year 2013

### TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS OF THOSE RECEIVING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

• At Referral	\$65,982,020
• After Rehabilitation	\$98,711,028
• Percentage increase in annual earnings due to rehabilitation	50%

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Number of individuals rehabilitated (with an employment outcome)	3,831	
• Number (percent) of vocationally rehabilitated individuals placed in competitive employment	3,771	98%
• Number of individuals with significant disabilities served	15,332	
<b>Total number of clients served</b>	<b>16,826</b>	

### EDUCATION AT CLOSURE OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• No formal schooling	1	0.03
• Elementary education (grades 1 – 6)	84	2.19
• Secondary educations, no high school diploma (grades 9 – 12)	233	6.08
• Special education certificate of completion/attendance	118	3.08
• High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	1,434	37.43
• Post secondary education, no degree	538	14.04
• Associate degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate	715	18.66
• Bachelor's degree	480	12.53
• Master's degree or higher	228	5.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Personal Characteristics

State Rehabilitation Clients Federal Fiscal Year 2013

## NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FROM EACH DISTRICT SERVED

	FFY 2013	Percent
• District 1	2,689	15.98
• District 2	2,612	15.52
• District 3	2,942	17.48
• District 4	3,280	19.49
• District 5	2,967	17.63
• District 6	2,336	13.88
<b>Total/State</b>	<b>16,826</b>	<b>100%</b>

## EDUCATION AT APPLICATION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• No formal schooling	1	0.03
• Elementary education (grades 1 – 8)	91	2.38
• Secondary education, no high school diploma (grades 9 – 12)	780	20.36
• Special education certificate of completion/attendance	116	3.03
• High school graduate or equivalency certificate (regular education students)	1,387	36.20
• Post-secondary education, no degree	514	13.42
• Associate degree or Vocational/ Technical Certificate	453	11.82
• Bachelor's degree	300	7.83
• Master's degree or higher	189	4.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

## AGE AT APPLICATION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

• Less than 20	670	17.49
• 20 through 34	598	15.61
• 35 through 44	514	13.42
• 45 through 64	1,658	43.28
• 65 and over	391	10.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Personal Characteristics

State Rehabilitation Clients Federal Fiscal Year 2013

## RACE OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

	FFY 2013	Percent
• White	3,650	95.28
• Black or African American	136	3.55
• American Indian or Alaska Native	16	0.42
• Asian or Pacific Islander	14	0.37
• Hispanic or Latino	15	0.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

## GENDER OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Male	2,198	57.37
• Female	1,633	42.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>

## REFERRAL SOURCE OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Educational Institution (elementary/secondary)	543	14.17
• Educational Institution (post-secondary)	107	2.79
• Physician or other Medical Personnel or Medical Institutions (public or private)	1,294	33.78
• Welfare Agency (State or local government)	35	0.91
• Community Rehabilitation Program	74	1.93
• Social Security Administration (Disability Determination Service or District Office)	9	0.23
• One-stop Employment/ Training Centers	74	1.93
• Self-referral	1,005	26.23
• Other sources	690	18.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>



## PRIMARY DISABLING CONDITION OF INDIVIDUALS VOCATIONALLY REHABILITATED

### SENSORY COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENTS

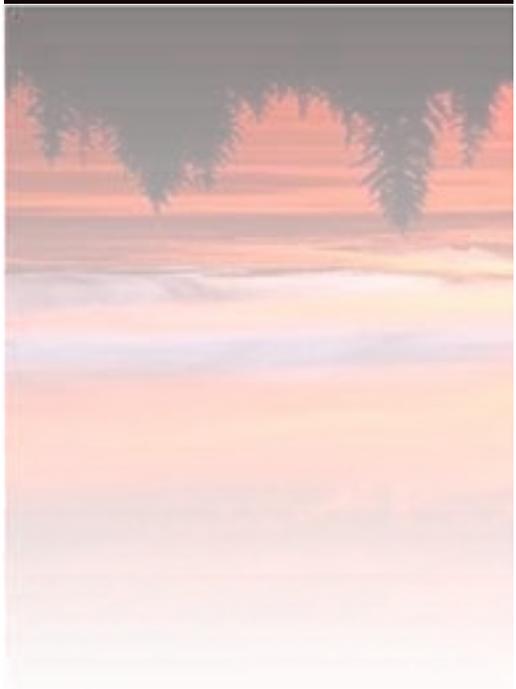
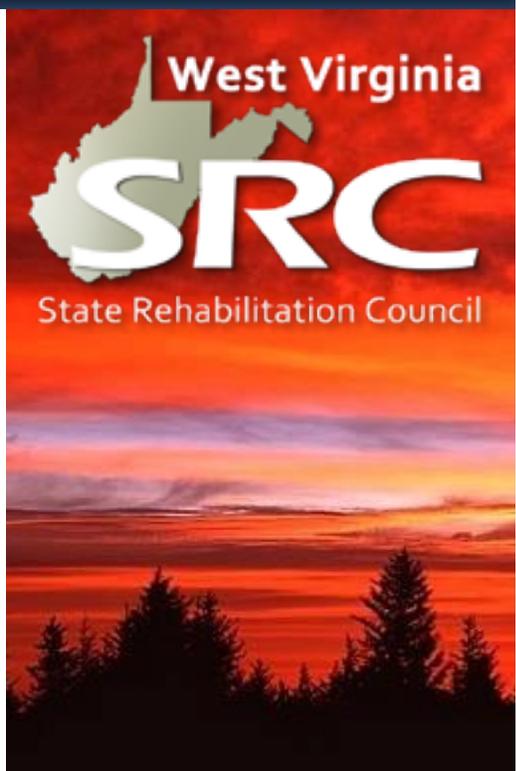
	FFY 2013	Percent
• Blindness	14	0.37
• Other visual impairment	107	2.79
• Deafness, primary communication visual	26	0.68
• Deafness, primary communication auditory	60	1.57
• Hearing loss, primary communication visual	28	0.73
• Hearing loss, primary communication auditory	1,457	38.03
• Other hearing impairments (Tinnitus, Menier's Disease, hyperacusis, etc.)	18	0.47
• Deaf – blindness	0	0
• Communicative impairments (expressive / receptive)	8	0.21

### PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Mobility orthopedic / neurological impairments	164	4.28
• Manipulation / dexterity orthopedic / neurological impairments	62	1.62
• Both mobility and manipulation / dexterity orthopedic / neurological impairments	42	1.10
• Other orthopedic impairments (e.g., limited range of motion)	115	3.00
• Respiratory impairments	41	1.07
• General physical debilitation (fatigue, weakness, pain, etc.)	218	5.69
• Other physical impairments (not listed above)	530	13.83

### MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS

	FFY 2013	Percent
• Cognitive impairments (impairments involving learning, thinking, processing information and concentration)	588	15.35
• Psychosocial impairments (interpersonal and behavioral impairments, difficulty coping)	329	8.59
• Other mental impairments	24	0.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>





## West Virginians Receiving Rehabilitation Services by County

	FFY	%		FFY	%
Barbour	64	1.67	Mineral	62	1.62
Berkeley	118	3.08	Mingo	40	1.04
Boone	24	0.63	Monongalia	104	2.71
Braxton	26	0.68	Monroe	53	1.38
Brooke	82	2.14	Morgan	20	0.52
Cabell	169	4.41	Nicholas	62	1.62
Calhoun	7	0.18	Ohio	125	3.26
Clay	30	0.78	Pendleton	35	0.91
Doddridge	9	0.23	Pleasants	5	0.13
Fayette	80	2.09	Pocahontas	51	1.33
Gilmer	41	1.07	Preston	37	0.97
Grant	77	2.01	Putnam	76	1.98
Greenbrier	107	2.79	Raleigh	101	2.64
Hampshire	76	1.98	Randolph	146	3.81
Hancock	97	2.53	Ritchie	8	0.21
Hardy	175	4.57	Roane	20	0.52
Harrison	93	2.43	Summers	16	0.42
Jackson	51	1.33	Taylor	20	0.52
Jefferson	68	1.77	Tucker	71	1.85
Kanawha	338	8.82	Tyler	11	0.29
Lewis	78	2.04	Upshur	100	2.61
Lincoln	30	0.78	Wayne	49	1.28
Logan	55	1.44	Webster	10	0.26
Marion	96	2.51	Wetzel	31	0.81
Marshall	64	1.67	Wirt	13	0.34
Mason	20	0.52	Wood	140	3.65
McDowell	101	2.64	Wyoming	60	1.57
Mercer	189	4.93			
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>100%</b>



## **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

### ***Executive Committee***

The Executive Committee oversees all duties and operations of the State Rehabilitation Council business, Council office and Executive Director. This committee supervises the actions and directions of the SRC. The committee is comprised of the officers of the SRC: the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate Past Chairperson.

### ***Membership Committee***

The Membership Committee is responsible for determining who is eligible for re-appointment to the Council, those who are not and members in good standing according to the bylaws. The committee meets after the first of the year making a report to the Council at the next regular meeting. Letters and emails for soliciting of new members are distributed to potential members. Prior to the April meeting, the committee is responsible for reviewing all applications and presenting perspective names to the Council.

During the selection process, the committee ensures new SRC members have met the Council's high standards and federal requirements. Profiles of the selected nominees are presented to the DRS Director for review. Nominations will then be sent to the Governor's office for official approval by September 30th. After receiving written notifications of the appointments from the Governor, the Membership Committee conducts an orientation for new members to ensure they understand the roles and responsibilities of the Council.

### ***Nominating Committee***

The Nominating Committee is accountable for securing nominations annually for Council officers and to fill any vacant positions on the Executive Committee as they may arise during the year. The committee meets during the June meeting to develop a slate of prospective officers for the Council. The committee will prepare a ballot for the yearly elections held at the first meeting of the fiscal year.

### ***Consumer Satisfaction Survey Committee***

The Consumer Satisfaction Survey Committee develops and monitors the consumer satisfaction survey data which is distributed to the persons who have applied for services with the Division of Rehabilitation Services. The survey consists of various questions and areas for comments regarding the quality of services they may or may not have received.



## **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The survey tool is reviewed annually for content of information. An independent person not affiliated with the Council or DRS provides a written summary of the gathered data. This report is presented to the full Council orally as well as electronically and written copies to assure the survey is accurate and available for dissemination.

### ***Annual Report Committee***

The Annual Report Committee is responsible for amassing the information collected throughout the previous fiscal year on activities of the Council including the Consumer Satisfaction Survey summary to be used in the Annual Report. This report is submitted to RSA, DRS, state and federal elected officials, partners and nationally to SRCs.

### ***State Plan Committee***

To develop the State Plan, the assigned committee reviews; the State of the Agency reports that have been given at every Council meeting by the Director of DRS or her representative; Council activities; and, information gathered throughout the fiscal year pertaining to the services and programs at DRS. The written recommendations are presented to DRS for comment. This committee works directly with the DRS liaison responsible for the State Plan to critique the recommendations, complete the document and assure submission to RSA within the required time period.

### ***Bylaws Committee***

The Bylaws Committee annual reviews the bylaws and recommends any changes that may be necessary. All Council members are provided copies of the bylaws at their orientation of the SRC. Any changes or additions to the bylaws are provided to the members thirty (30) days prior to voting on the bylaw(s) modifications.

### ***SRC/DRS Partnering Committee***

The SRC / DRS Partnering Committee assures that communication and partnership remains at the highest possible level. The committee will meet with the Director of DRS and other designated VR staff to review the agency's position, financial status, policies and any issues that the SRC may offer assistance and support.



## **National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC)**

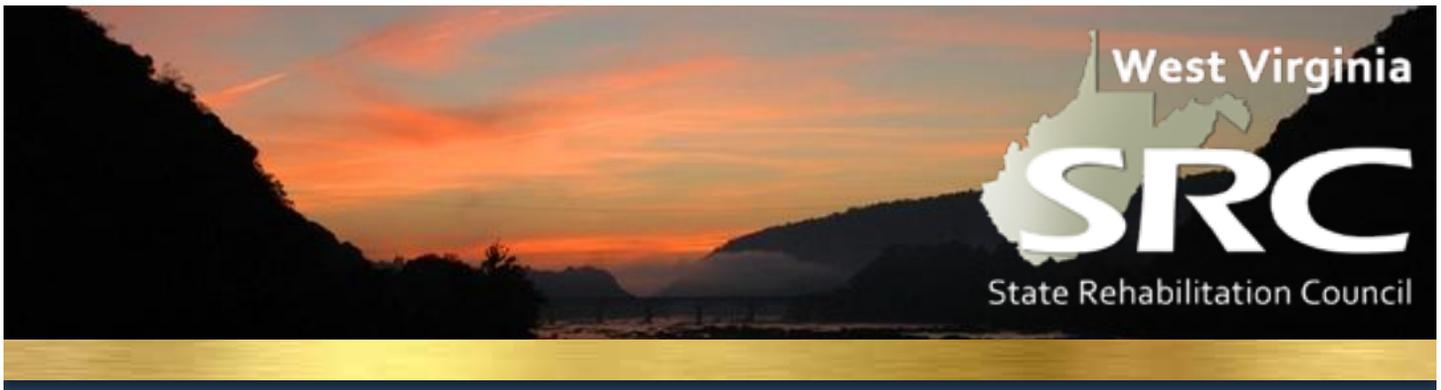
In November 2005, a group of individuals representing their respective State Rehabilitation Councils (SRC) met during the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Conference in San Diego, California. The group began considering the benefits and drawbacks of establishing a national organization. Those present were not elite, some were Governor-appointed volunteers serving on their respective Councils. Others were staff with the sole responsibility of working for a Council, while some were agency staff assigned to provide support to their SRCs.

There was vast diversity in the structure of those Councils from various states and territories attending this key meeting from staffing and budgets to meeting schedules. These individuals represented combined or general agencies and/or Blind services. Despite the notable differences in services or programs and geographical locations, there was a great deal of vision and common interest to develop a more intense training opportunity.

That common ground and the power of the collective potential is what led a motivated core of individuals to move forward from brainstorming to organizing. A National Steering Committee was formed and with the support of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has convened regular national conference calls of the SRCs on a bi-monthly basis. In addition, the Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to further the structure and development of the NCSRC.

Since 2011, prior to each CSAVR Conference commencing, the NCSRC has been providing an extra day of training on Saturday for any members to network with other states increasing the opportunity to enhance the tools needed to be a more effective Council. Members choose the topics areas in which they would desire training or guidance. This benefits SRCs in having a clearer understanding of their duties and responsibilities according to the law.

The Sunday SRC Sessions has focused on strategic planning that has included the drafting of the mission and vision statements, core values and bylaws. The organizational documents along with the strategic plan goals and activities have evolved during the CSAVR Conferences at the Sunday Sessions. As a result of tenacious commitment by a number of SRC representatives, the hard work was finalized at the CSAVR 2007 Fall Conference held in San Antonio, Texas.



## **National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) continued**

The result is seen in a foundation which will position all SRCs to be more effective within their respective states and as a national entity. The NCSRC encourages all states who have not signed the NCSRC Resolution to do so for the enrichment of their Council.

### **NCSRC MISSION:**

On behalf of people with disabilities, our national membership coalition will advocate for and work in partnership with the national public vocational rehabilitation system's continual quest for excellence.

### **NCSRC VISION:**

NCSRC will be the premiere national organization of the consumer voice to enhance the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities through the public vocational rehabilitation system.

### **NCSRC WEBSITE:**

For more information: National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) or [www.ncsrc.net](http://www.ncsrc.net)

### **NCSRC CORE VALUES:**

**INTEGRITY** - We are honest and straightforward in all that we do. We treat everyone with dignity and respect. We act responsibly with resources entrusted to us. We are accountable and act in accordance with these values.

**COMMITMENT** – We support the full implementation and enforcement of disability non – discrimination laws, particularly the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

**EXCELLENCE** – We trust that customers of public vocational rehabilitation will be empowered to make choices which lead to ultimate independence.

**ADVOCACY** – We will work to educate and inform the public and government policy makers regarding issues affecting people with disabilities

**DIVERSITY** – We will uphold a broad definition of diversity that honors and appreciates disability alongside race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion as an integral part of the human experience.

**LEADERSHIP** – We will foster leadership among people with disabilities that upholds excellence, quality and inclusive opportunities.

# NCSRC/CSAVR Fall Conference 2012

## San Diego, California



# District Offices

**DRS Administrative Offices**  
**107 Capitol Street**  
**Charleston, WV 25301**  
**304-356-2060 / 800-642-8207**

Beckley District  
800 New River Town Center  
Beckley, WV 25801  
304-256-6900

Cabell Midland High School  
2300 US Route 60 East  
Ona, WV 25545  
304-743-7496

Charleston District  
4701 MacCorkle Avenue, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304  
304-356-2371

Disability Determination-Charleston  
500 Quarrier Street, Suite 500  
Charleston, WV 25301  
304-343-5055

Disability Determination-Clarksburg  
Federal Center  
320 West Pike Street, Suite 120  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
304-624-0200

Clarksburg District  
107 Cambridge Place  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
304-842-2951

Elkins Branch Office  
1025 North Randolph Avenue  
Elkins, WV 26241  
304-637-0205

Fairmont Branch Office  
Veterans Square  
320 Adams Street, Suite 106  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
304-367-2714

Huntington District  
2699 Park Avenue, Suite 200  
Huntington, WV 25704  
304-528-5585

Huntington High School  
Highlander Way  
Huntington, WV 25701  
304-528-6511

Keyser Branch Office  
67 North Tornado Way  
Keyser, WV 26726  
304-788-2313

Lewisburg Branch Office  
777 North Jefferson Street, Suite 105  
Lewisburg, WV 24901  
304-647-7515

Logan Branch Office  
216 Dingess Street  
Logan, WV 25601  
304-792-7060

Marshall University  
Prichard Hall, Room 113  
Huntington, WV 25755  
304-696-2394

Martinsburg District  
891 Auto Parts Place, Suite 131  
Martinsburg, WV 25403  
304-267-0005

Moorefield Branch Office  
1929-1 State Road 55, Suite 217  
Moorefield, WV 26836  
304-538-2701

Morgantown Branch Office  
Sabraton Plaza  
1415 Earl Core Road  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-285-3155

Mullens Branch Office  
316 Howard Avenue  
Mullens, WV 25882  
304-294-5653

Oak Hill Branch Office  
549 Mall Road  
Oak Hill, WV 25901  
304-465-3025

Parkersburg Branch Office  
State Office Building  
400 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
304-420-4580

Parkersburg South High School  
1511 Blizzard Drive  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
304-420-4916

Point Pleasant Branch Office  
209 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Point Pleasant, WV 25550  
304-675-0867

Princeton Branch Office  
195 Davis Street  
Princeton, WV 24739  
304-425-1256

Rehab Tech Department – North  
5000 Greenbag Road F14 and F15  
Morgantown, WV 26501  
304-285-3163

Rehabilitation Programs  
10 McJunkin Road  
Nitro, WV 25143  
304-760-7166

Ripley Branch Office  
206 Stone Drive  
Ripley, WV 25271  
304-373-0313

Romney Branch Office  
WV Schools for the Deaf & Blind  
P. O. Box 943  
Romney, WV 26757  
304-822-3957 or 304-822-3233

Sistersville Branch Office  
714 Wells Street  
Sistersville, WV 26175  
304-652-2354

Spencer Branch Office  
321 Market Street  
Spencer, WV 25276  
304-927-0954

Summersville Branch Office  
830 Northside Drive, Suite 113  
Summersville, WV 26651  
304-872-0813

Teays Valley Branch Office  
115 Liberty Square  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
304-760-7082

Weirton Branch Office  
100 Municipal Plaza, Suite 200  
Weirton, WV 26062  
304-723-5311

Welch Branch Office  
110 Park Avenue  
Welch, WV 24801  
304-436-3175

Weston Branch Office  
346 Market Place Mall  
Weston, WV 26452  
304-269-0547

Wheeling District  
Central Union Building  
40 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304-238-1092



## **JOINING THE WVSRC**

The Council is made up of a minimum of fifteen (15) members, comprised of both voting and non-voting (ex-officio) status. The majority of our members must be persons who self-identify as having or represent someone with a disability. Our membership must include representatives from the following:

- Disability and advocacy organizations
- Business, industry, and labor
- Community rehabilitation service providers
- Client Assistance Program
- Vocational Rehabilitation/Visual Services Counselors
- Current or former consumer of DRS Services
- Parent Training Information Center
- State Board of Education
- State Workforce Investment Board
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Director of DRS

There must be this balance that reflects our state's diversity. The Council continuously accepts applications for membership from interested citizens. Those applications which meet the specific areas needed are reviewed by the Council and then forwarded to the Governor's Office for appointment. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor of West Virginia. Members may not be employed by WV SRC or the State of West Virginia.

Members may serve no more than two consecutive three year full terms. Attendance to the meetings is expected. If a member shall have two consecutive absences, a letter of explanation will be requested, and resignation may follow. The Council meets six (6) times a year. The February meeting may be a conference call if there is inclement weather. There are various committees of the Council which may require additional time spent on those specific functions.

Members will receive reimbursement for approved reasonable and necessary Council expenses as needed to support their active participation at business meetings and other related functions. This may include travel, meals, lodging, registration for meetings and personal assistance services.

You may request membership applications by contacting the WV SRC office at (304) 356-2089 or (800) 642-6207 or email [sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov](mailto:sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov) for more information.

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**  
**Section 105 (a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, as amended**

***Nomination for Gubernatorial Appointment***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*My disability is:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Race** \_\_\_\_\_

***\*This information is voluntary and is requested only to assist the nominating committee in ensuring diversity on the Council.***

The Rehabilitation Act requires that individuals with disabilities who are not employees of the Division comprise at least a majority of the Council membership.

While the disclosure of a disability is not mandatory, it is very helpful in the selection process. Under the Rehabilitation Act, the following definition of "an individual with a disability" applies for purposes of disclosure ~ "any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, or has record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment."

Members of Council mandated for appointment by the Governor that are subject to the nomination process are listed below. Please check all that apply:

- Representative of a parent training and information center
- Representative of a community rehabilitation service provider
- Individual representing:
  - business
  - industry
  - labor
- Representative of disability advocacy groups representing a cross-section of:
  - Individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental disabilities
  - A representative of an individual who has difficulty in representing themselves or is unable due to their disability to represent themselves
  - Individual who is a current or former applicant of, or recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board
  - Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Experience & Qualifications (you may attach sheet with additional information):**

---

---

---

---

---

**I am interested in serving on the Council because:**

---

---

---

---

**References:**

Name	Address/Organization	Daytime/Cell Phone
<hr/>		
<hr/>		
<hr/>		

Questions regarding the Council or the application process may be directed to:

WV State Rehabilitation Council  
P. O. Box 445  
Institute, West Virginia 25112-0445

You may contact us at:  
Telephone: (304) 356-2089 or 1-800-642-8207  
Fax: (304) 760-8749  
Email: [sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov](mailto:sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov)

**I certify that the information I have given in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# WVSRC Council Membership Roster 2012-2013

Sherry A. Taylor, Executive Director  
Hurricane, West Virginia

Kathy L. McKinley  
South Charleston, West Virginia

## **Members**

Scott Gossard, Chairperson  
Petersburg, West Virginia

Ray Morton  
Beckley, West Virginia

Sheryl Johnson, Vice Chairperson  
Charleston, West Virginia

Joyce R. Okes  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Brenda Lamkin, Secretary  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Karen Ruddle  
Charleston, West Virginia

Dr. Lawrence S. Dolecki, Treasurer  
Baker, West Virginia

Duane J. Ruggier, II  
Hurricane, West Virginia

Ginny Gattlieb, Past Chairperson  
Charleston, West Virginia

Cindy Tucker  
Dunbar, West Virginia

Marsha Faris Allman  
Bridgeport, West Virginia

Vanessa Van Gilder, SILC Chairperson  
Charleston, West Virginia

Donna Ashworth, Director  
Div of Vocational Rehab Services  
Charleston, West Virginia

Deborah Wanzer  
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

Ronald Brown  
Charleston, West Virginia

Dr. Gregory Epps  
Cross Lanes, West Virginia

Megan Piggott  
Bridgeport, West Virginia



## Council Member Quotes



Marsh Farris Allman,  
Bridgeport

Serving on the SRC makes me feel that in some small way my work might improve the lives of West Virginians with disabilities. It is an honor to be a part of a group which envisions and strives to enhance vocational services in our State.



Ron Brown,  
Charleston

I am honored and pleased to serve as a member of the WV SRC. Being a council member allows me to be closely aware of the plans, activities, and exceptional accomplishments of DRS which is recognized nationwide as a model for other states. Rehab services provided my own college tuition which allowed me to obtain an engineering degree and subsequently a career in engineering and project management.



Dr. Lawrence S.  
Dolecki,  
Baker

It is a privilege to be associated with a group of individuals whose mission is to assist members of the disability community in their effort to achieve employment. For most of us, employment provides a means to attain independence. In turn, independence gives us the flexibility needed to help others. This is what is meant by being a productive, positive member of society.



Dr. Greg Epps,  
Charleston

The West Virginia State Rehabilitation Council consists of individuals who truly care about the well being of others. It continues to be a privilege for me to work with the other members of the Council who are so passionate about what we are doing. I am honored to be involved with what I believe is something that is very impactful and provides great opportunities to several citizens in our state.



Ginny Gattlieb,  
Charleston

As the PTI representative and a parent of a young man with disabilities, I understand firsthand the need for independence, employment and necessary supports. The VR staff strives to assure that individuals seeking services are truly heard and their personal plans are a reflection of their individual goals. Watching the agency's growth over the past several years has been gratifying and being a part of that transition a pleasure. I wish WV DRS many years of continuing success.



Scott Gossard,  
Petersburg

It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. I consider the work we do on behalf of persons with disabilities is for the betterment of our citizens and the communities.



Sheryl Johnson,  
Charleston

Since becoming a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, I have traveled and met many different people belonging to our similar organizations throughout the U.S. It makes me proud to realize West Virginia has one of the best councils due to its strong connections with WVDRS and other partners whose foremost concern is for West Virginian's with disabilities.



Brenda Lamkin,  
Buckhannon

It is a great opportunity and learning experience to serve on the SRC Council and Executive Committee. It is encouraging as a parent, of a young adult with a disability, to learn about services that DRS offer students with disabilities on transition and vocational services statewide.

## Council Member Quotes



Kathy McKinley,  
South Charleston

As a long-standing member of the State Rehab Council, I most enjoy meeting people the state plan serves and knowing council input helped shape the plan for the best outcome.



Ray Morton,  
Beckley

As a business person with a disability, I know my weakness in one area is overcome with strengths in other areas. WVSRC gives me the vehicle to share my strengths to help others find theirs.



Joyce Okes,  
Parkersburg

The State Rehabilitation Council provides an opportunity to learn about the many services available to assist individuals with disabilities as well as introducing me to a number of people who are dedicated to serving the citizens of West Virginia. Thanks to the many dedicated citizens, employers, and workers who continue to assist in making sure each individual is able to thrive, identifying solutions rather than barriers, and seeing the potential in everyone.



Megan Piggott  
Bridgeport

Being a part of the WVSRC has been an excellent experience for me and has given me insight into the operations of the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services that I would not have had otherwise. I have enjoyed meeting with my colleagues and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of a council with such an important duty to fulfill.



Karen Ruddle,  
Charleston

SRC membership provides me an opportunity to establish relationships with individuals who share the same passion of supporting lifetime success for individuals with disabilities in West Virginia.



Duane Ruggier,  
Hurricane

It is an honor to serve on the Council to help those with disabilities seek and maintain employment.



Cindy Tucker,  
Dunbar

Representing Rehabilitation Counselors on the Council has provided me the opportunity to share insight with the Council from a counselor's perspective. I have also learned so much on the national level of emerging trends in rehabilitation that I have been able to bring back and share with DRS staff.



Vanessa Van Gilder,  
Charleston

As the outgoing chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, I am appreciative and gratified that both councils continue to work with a unified mission and vision. I am sure this united partnership with DRS will remain steadfast to assure people with disabilities in West Virginia achieve their vocational and independent living goals.



Deb Wanzer,  
White Sulphur  
Springs

It is an honor to be a member of the SRC achieving its goal of improving employment services to individuals with disabilities.

## 2012 WV Disability History Essay Contest

*Required Theme:*

*"The significance of the  
disability rights movement in  
today's world"*



## State Winner: *Heidi Dennison*

Nicholas County High School

If one flips through the pages of any American History book, one would find chapters dedicated to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s for the African Americans. The stories of how African Americans suffered for their rights are almost common knowledge because leaders like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. are historic heroes. However, this is not so for the disability rights movement. One would find few pages dedicated to this movement. Names like Ed Roberts and Judy Heumann are not so common, but these two individuals played just as important of a role in changing history as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. The movement led by Mr. Roberts, Ms. Heumann, and others like them changed the course of American history. Thanks to the efforts of many citizens, acts have been passed by Congress that has changed the lives of people with disabilities significantly, including that of my Aunt Linda.

Before the Rehabilitation Act was passed in 1973, people with disabilities lived rough lives. Often times, individuals with disabilities were not only viewed as incompetent or feeble-minded but as less than human. Very few accommodations were made to meet the needs of these people. For example, buildings did not have passable doorways or restrooms for those who used wheelchairs. Children with special needs did not receive the opportunity to get an education like other students. In fact, many were placed in institutions where they would stay away from those who were viewed as normal. Sadly, the common philosophy was to keep them out of sight and out of mind. There were a few prominent people who set out on the daunting task to change the ideals of citizens and of Congress. A man by the name of Ed Roberts, who had overcome serious obstacles of having polio and becoming a quadriplegic, was among one of the most influential people in the movement. He was among the first people with disabilities to attend college. "Roberts and fellow disability rights leaders would challenge widely held myths that people with disabilities were incapable of being educated, working, caring for themselves, or becoming contributing members of society". Judy Heumann also made significant strides in fighting for rights of those with disabilities. Ms. Heumann formed a group called Disabled in Action which held protests to gain support against employment discrimination.

Change didn't come quickly. A few acts were passed in Congress such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This act, gave partial rights to people with disabilities, but it was not the complete freedom so many wished for.



**West Virginia**

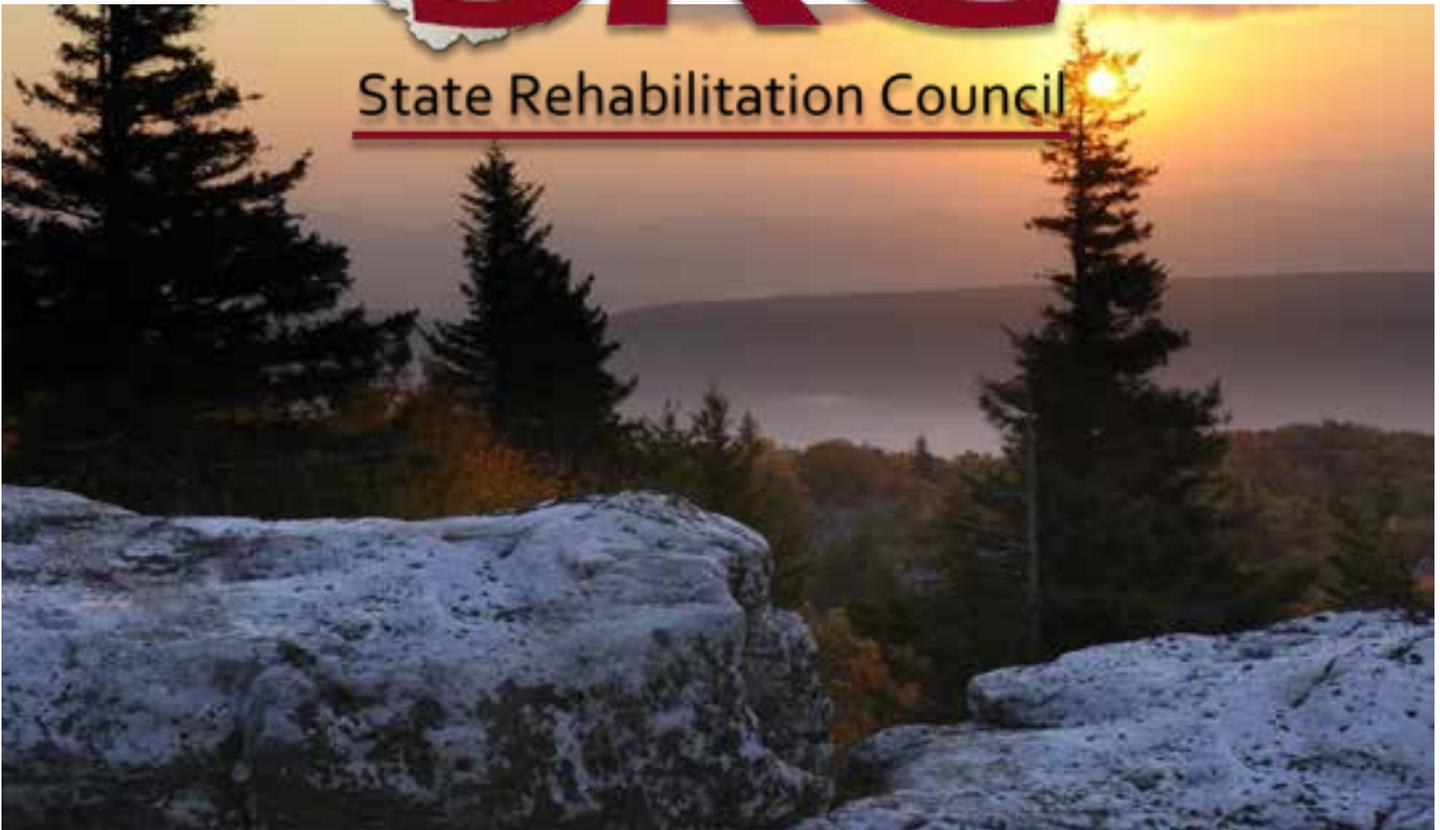
**SRC**

**State Rehabilitation Council**

---



State Rehabilitation Council



WV SRC • 107 Capitol Street • Charleston, WV 25301

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 445 • Institute, WV • 25112-0445

Phone 304.356.2089 • 800.642.8207 • Fax 304.760.8749

Email [sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov](mailto:sherry.a.taylor@wv.gov)