

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor



New York State
Office of Children & Family Services
Commission for the Blind
Capital View Office Park
South Building, Room 201
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144-2834
www.visionloss.ny.gov

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

December 11, 2013

Dear Friends:

As we enter 2014, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' newly renamed Commission for the Blind celebrates another year of strong support from our State Rehabilitation Council. This SRC Annual Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 highlights our productivity last year as NYSCB observed its Centennial. I remain a proud member of our distinguished Council and count this service among the most important of tasks as NYSCB Associate Commissioner.

During the Federal Fiscal Year, NYSCB's administration of Vocational Rehabilitation yielded a 5 percent increase in successful outcomes and continuing satisfaction of our key federal Standards and Indicators. Support from our Council was critical to our success last year.

In managing both the barriers we confronted and the many achievements we realized last year, the Council once again established itself among the leading advisory bodies in the Empire State. We look forward to continuing to work with the SRC and building upon our joint successes in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Daniels
Associate Commissioner
New York State Office of Children & Family Services
Commission for the Blind



An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 11, 2013

Mr. Edward Anthony, Deputy Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration
US Department of Education
Mary E. Switzer Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Deputy Commissioner Anthony:

As Chairperson of the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) for the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) from October 2012 through September 2013, I am pleased to present for your consideration the FY2012-13 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Annual Report.

Each year, the SRC produces this report to inform federal and state officials and the public about its work and accomplishments. This report highlights the SRC's activities for FY2012-13 and the goals for FY2013-14.

The SRC works in partnership with all of the key stakeholders responding to the needs of New Yorkers who are blind and/or visually impaired. Each member, as does the SRC as a whole, has a well-defined purpose, but our influence does not come merely from legal or regulatory mandates. Our influence comes from the completion of our key work. Each member serves as the voice of the constituencies which he/she represents, and with that voice, each represents the voice of many.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Godino
NYSCB SRC Chairperson

cc: Joe Pepin, State Liaison, Rehabilitation Services Administration
Tracy Breslin, SRC Coordinator/Liaison, NYSCB

December 11, 2013



The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

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Michael Godino

NYSCB SRC Chairperson

cc: Edward Anthony, Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Joe Pepin, State Liaison, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Tracy Breslin, SRC Coordinator/Liaison, NYSCB

State Rehabilitation Council

To The

**New York State
Commission for the Blind**

**Annual Report
FY2012-2013**

Introduction

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) (or the Council) for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) is pleased to issue its Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to Governor Andrew Cuomo and Deputy Commissioner Edward Anthony of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This report includes an overview of the Council's activities during FY2012-2013 and outlines SRC's plans for the upcoming year FY2013-2014.

The State Rehabilitation Council is an advisory body mandated by Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The nature and scope of the Council's deliberations and recommendations include NYSCB policies, procedures, and operations as they may affect consumers or applicants for agency services statewide. Additionally, the SRC assists in the development of federally required State plans and annual updates to those plans. Much of the Council's business has been conducted in committees, which focus on the NYSCB priority areas of workforce development, quality assurance, policy, procedure and planning as well as SRC membership. The SRC holds its meetings once each calendar quarter.

The Council is comprised of members representing consumers who are blind, consumers who are deaf-blind, parents, educators, the Client Assistance Program, Section 121 Native American Rehabilitation Programs, business, industry and labor, consumer advocacy groups, the New York State Workforce Investment Board, and the New York State Independent Living Council. Ex-Officio members represent Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and various representatives from NYSCB who provide information and assistance as requested by the Council. Meetings are open to the public and always include a public comment segment during which individuals are invited to provide input or bring issues of concern to the Council's attention.

Functions of the State Rehabilitation Council (as stated in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act)

The Council shall, after consulting with the State Workforce Investment Board —

1. Review, analyze, and advise the designated State unit regarding the performance of the responsibilities of the unit under this title, particularly responsibilities related to:
 - a. eligibility (including order of selection)
 - b. the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and
 - c. functions performed by State agencies that affect or that potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes under this title;
2. In partnership with the designated State unit
 - a. develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities in accordance with section 101 (a)(15) (C); and
 - b. evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program and submit reports of progress to the Commissioner in accordance with section 101(a)(15)(E);
3. Advise the designated State agency and the designated State unit regarding activities authorized to be carried out under this title, and assist in the preparation of the State plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by this title;
 - a. To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with the functions performed by the designated State agency
 - b. vocational rehabilitation services provided by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities under this Act; and
 - c. employment outcomes achieved by eligible individuals receiving services under this title, including the availability of health and other employment benefits in connection with such employment outcomes;
4. Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State, and make the report available to the public;
5. To avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the number of individuals served, coordinate activities with the activities of other Councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council established under section 705, the advisory panel established under section 612(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (as amended by section 101 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997; Public Law 105-17, the State Developmental Disabilities Council described in section 124 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6024), the State mental health planning Council established under section 1914 (a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-4(a)), and the State workforce investment board;
6. Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated State agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the state; and
7. Perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this title, as the State Rehabilitation Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.

Meeting Highlights and Activities for FY2012-2013

Listed below, find meeting highlights and activities for FY 2012-2013 (including participation in the development of the 2014 State Plan, recommendations, public forums, communication with NYSCB Executive Board, as well as presentations that the SRC participated in throughout the year.

The fiscal year began with our first quarterly meeting on November 29, 2012. The Chair, Mike Godino and Vice Chair, Aaron T. Baier welcomed the members back for FY2012-2013.

As discussed in FY2011 and again in FY2012, the first order of business confronting the Council was the matter of timeliness of having new members appointed to the Council. The Chair reported with much pleasure that we had one member representing the Client Assistance Program and one consumer representing people with numerous disabilities including blindness appointed; however, the Council also had one resignation under the Business and Enterprise category during this reporting period. The Council is still waiting for the appointment of representatives for: (1) Native American, Section 121 VR Program; (2) SUNY/CUNY system; (3) two representatives for business and enterprise; and (4) a replacement for the current representative of the National Federation of the Blind of New York. NYSCB SRC finds itself with a deficit of five representatives as we enter FY2013-2014.

*****NYSCB is working under a state plan assurance for full SRC compliance*****

Meeting Highlights, SRC Business:

The NYS SRC under NYSCB conducts its Council business at four (4) quarterly meetings each year. At each of these meetings the Council follows an agenda created and proposed by the Executive Committee. A standard agenda consists of introductions, report from the Chair, report from the Associate Commissioner, presentations, public comment, committee meetings and reports, Council business and action items. In addition, during FY 2012-2013, the Council held a special joint meeting with the Governor's Executive board to NYSCB. Following is a brief synopsis of the SRC business for each of the four (4) quarterly meetings for FY2012-2013 as well as the special meeting.

Meeting highlights for November 29, 2012

The first meeting for FY2012-2013 was in November 2012. At this meeting, the Council discussed the upcoming State Budget, the NYSCB State Plan for 2014, the FY2013 annual report and operations of the Council for the New Year.

Prior to the meeting, the Chair distributed the draft NYSCB SRC annual report for FY2011-2012 to each of the committee chairs and requested they bring back recommendations at the first meeting for FY2012-2013. At the meeting the Council read through and made several recommended changes to the drafts which were accepted by the body. Following the acceptance of the changes, the Council moved and adopted the FY2012-2013 annual report.

Meeting highlights for March 20 and 21, 2013

State Plan

At the March meeting, the SRC conducted one of its critical activities as an advisory body to NYSCB. After the NYSCB State plan was prepared, presented, and vetted in the community, the SRC had an opportunity to review and add final comments and suggestions at the March meeting. Upon its preparation, the NYSCB state plan was distributed to the members of the SRC by the chair for review. Upon distribution, the chair asked that each member review the plan and bring their comments and suggestions to the March meeting.

As the plan was presented, the members shared their observations on how the plan should be altered to better include communities they represent throughout the state. Some of the more significant recommendations made by the SRC for the 2015 State Plan were:

Attachment 4.8(b)(2) Coordination with Education Officials

Preparation for the Core Curriculum must begin early with comprehensive vision evaluations to ensure full participation of all students with visual impairments. This recommendation was made in order to ensure that students do not fall into gaps caused by the lack of thorough vision evaluations.

Attachment 4.8(b)(3) Cooperative Agreements with Private Nonprofit Organizations

Set minimum credentialing standards at the hands on level of the private nonprofits providing services in New York State. This recommendation, due to on-going concerns related to hiring of nonqualified personnel

and further due to the need to assure every New Yorker who is blind parity of services, was adopted after deliberating on the best method of achieving such credentialing. As New York State consumers have sought to license individuals who provide many services to people who are blind or visually impaired, the Council believes that supporting licensure would serve its goals.

Attachment 4.10 Comprehensive System of Personnel Development

Change the term "Qualified" to "Certified" when sign language interpreters are provided. This was suggested in order to ensure that all sign language interpreters were duly qualified.

Attachment 4.11(c)(1) State Goals and Priorities

Work to ensure more comprehensive integrated services to individuals with multiple disabilities including blindness receiving services in non-blind service provider agencies. This recommendation was made after considering the observation that certain agencies serving consumers with multiple disabilities fail to provide training and services that are targeted to the consumer's blindness or visual impairment.

Attachment 4.11(c)(4) Goals and Plans for Distribution of Title VI, Part B Funds

Ensure that individuals with multiple disabilities including blindness receiving services in non-blind service provider agencies receive VR services relative to their blindness. Similar to the SRC's recommendation under Attachment 4.11(C) (1), the goal of the Council was to ensure full support of blindness and visual impairment in the rehabilitation process when consumers with multiple disabilities are served.

Attachment 4.11(d) State's Strategies and Use of Title I Funds for Innovation and Expansion Activities

In sections (3) and (7) recommended credentialing of the service provider agencies to support consistent, professional services at all times.

In section (c) recommended the provision of Support Service Providers SSPs to individuals who are deaf-blind.

Given the push to implement the Olmstead regulations, recommendation to include blind and visual impairment services at Assistive Technology Centers (ATC). NYSCB must begin to address the lack of blindness VR services provided to people with multiple disabilities including those people who are blind or visually impaired receiving services in non-blindness specific service provider settings.

The input to the NYSCB state plan was acknowledged accepted and appreciated by the NYSCB staff working on the plan.

Meeting highlights for April 30, 2013

The SRC held a special meeting in conjunction with the Governor's Executive Board to NYSCB. Held immediately prior to NYSCB's centennial celebrations, this meeting represented an historic occasion for the two bodies. The primary purpose of this combined meeting was to discuss the vital nature of braille in education, early transition, the use of the expanded core curriculum in New York state, and—most important—the significance of a continuum of services needed for blind children and students at an early age. Both the SRC and the Executive Board resolved to work together on achieving goals that will ensure

that blind or visually impaired children receive appropriate education. The two groups further resolved to hold joint meetings in the future in order to discuss items of mutual interest.

Meeting highlights for June 19 and 20, 2013

The June meeting concentrated on the work of the committees. As a Council, the committees often met via phone conference supported by NYSCB as well as meeting in person at the SRC's quarterly gatherings, thus providing the forum to conduct business outside of and in conjunction with quarterly meetings. Some of the work of SRC's committees is shown in the brief highlights of the discussion below.

Committee work for FY2012-2013

Quality Assurance Committee

- Submit questions regarding the data that was found for the Needs Assessment so that the committee could prepare for the consumer satisfaction survey
- Review the survey that will be going out to professionals who serve consumers.
- Based on data available, ask some clarifying questions and take a look at the draft report as a committee.
- Provide questions for consumer satisfaction survey.

Policy Committee

- Consider the confidentiality procedures for vendors to keep consumer information private.
- Review policies and procedures so that NYSCB can ensure consumer involvement in their vocational rehabilitation process.
- Address questions such as, "Do consumers get copies of service reports upon completion?"
- Review the consumer satisfaction survey to understand broad policy implications.

Membership Committee

- Review other state SRC applications and information.
- Create a new application based on diversity and other membership recruitment needs.

Workforce Committee

- Update on planning/info access for transition
- Committee was invited to review placement, Work Experience Training (WET) and contract guidelines.

Membership Diversity and the SRC: Aaron Baier

At the March meeting, an ad-hoc group was created to consider changes to the SRC's diversity plan. Vice Chair, Aaron Baier was empowered to conduct discussions with NYSCB to consider the best approach to increase SRC's diversity in multiple ways.

At the June meeting of the SRC, Mr. Baier reported that the idea of diversity is to emulate and represent our constituents, consumers, and/or stakeholders. A grid was developed comprising of current members and categories that members met. Categories are gender; age, ethnicity (based on federal guidelines), region, disability, expertise in and influence with certain communities. Mike Godino proposed implementation through the guiding principles; the SRC's use of the tracking mechanism (matrix grid) in place, and the membership committee to develop an interview process.

After discussion, a modified diversity matrix was adopted by the SRC as its official way forward for future recruitment. The Executive Committee and the Membership Committee were asked to write a preamble as well as develop recruitment material that conformed to the newly adopted matrix.

September 19 and 20, 2013

As this was the final meeting of the year, the Council continued the committee work with recommendations, election of the Chair and Vice Chair and action items for the next year. Additionally, as the NYSCB was preparing to attend the two state conventions of the American Council of the Blind of New York and the National Federation of the Blind of New York. The Chair made a special request to all members that they try to attend at least one of the town meetings to observe the proceedings.

Elections

The Nominating Committee report was presented; and the committee chair called for other nominations from the floor. As no other nominations were presented from the floor, the SRC chose to retain Mike Godino as Chair and elect Pratik Patel as Vice Chair.

Goals for FY2013-2014

Finally, as the work for FY2012-2013 was completing, the chair asked the Council for recommendations moving forward. Below find several goals the SRC plans to work on during the next year in addition to its mandated requirements.

Policy, Procedures, & Planning Committee

Goal 1: Ensure confidentiality procedures such that vendors maintain consumer's privacy.

Goal 2: Ensure consumer involvement in their vocational rehabilitation process.

Membership Committee

Goal 3: Develop an application and process to ensure diversity within the Council.

Goal 4: Start a concerted effort to fill SRC's diversity goals.

Quality Assurance Committee

Goal 5: Continue to work with NYSCB staff and committee members on completing the 2013 Needs Assessment.

Goal 6: Work with NYSCB to put together a consumer satisfaction survey and conduct an analysis.

Workforce Development Committee

Goal 7: Closely work with NYSCB to develop a plan to ensure that individuals impacted by sheltered workshop closures are presented appropriate work opportunities.

Goal 8: Develop workforce opportunities by creating and maintaining relationships throughout NYCB district offices and agencies for the blind in New York State.

Goal 9: Develop a three-year plan for increasing workforce opportunities.

Presentations by the Associate Commissioner Brian S. Daniels:

The following reports were provided by Mr. Daniels during the SRC meetings:

November 2012

- In Federal Fiscal Year 2012-13, NYSCB passed all six federal Standards & Indicators and increased employment outcomes by 3.8%.
- NYSCB has worked to change its preferred source from Industries for the Blind of New York State (IBNYS) to the National Industries for the Blind (NIB).
- District office staffing requirements, shortages throughout the state due to difficulties in filling positions.
- NYSCB will be awarding 7 Assistive Technology Centers (ATC) contracts during FY2012-2013.
- The Contract Services Contract (CSC) and Placement/DVE contracts and committees are working with providers toward new 5 yr. contracts for FY2014.
- Outreach projects with Aurora and Visions will be extended. NYSCB is working with TACE who are the training advisors to increase cultural competency.
- Recognized NYSCB staff contributions to Hurricane Sandy recovery.
- Announced the centennial celebration for April 2013 and that the SRC's work would be highlighted during the event.

March 2013

- Impact of the sequestration and the effects on the NYSCB budget. The amount of sequestration on NYSCB vocational rehabilitation funding dollars is 5%. Some other areas of loss: Older Blind Grant: Value of a 5% cut in 2 million annually is \$100,000. Independent Living Part B funds \$173,000 cut from that is \$3,000. None of these deductions are projected to impact any of NYSCB's service delivery, contracts, and level of staffing.
- The NYSCB case management system will be getting updates regarding the collection of social security reimbursements for successful closures after 9 months. This will maximize the reimbursements and increase our intake of social security.
- There was insufficient diversity on the Council. With the expectations of the federal funders, RSA, the Council needs to be as diverse as possible. Recommended that the Council work on an initiative to increase participation from additional diverse members.

June 2013

- NYSCB is one of twenty-four blind agencies in the country and one of only two agencies in full federal compliance of all six standards in part one and the standard in part two of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Standards and Indicators that were recently released
- Additional regional NYSCB's centennial year celebrations are continuing to be planned and executed locally throughout the state.
- The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) will be obtaining the largest IRS food service in Holtsville, NY and all property run by the state parks in NYS vending machines in July.
- The NYSCB state plan was completed and submitted early to RSA.
- The Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) name change bill was officially passed through the Senate and Assembly. The new name is the Commission for the Blind.

September 2013:

- Aaron Baier was commended on his dedication to the diversity and membership of the SRC. Gladys Carrion, Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Commissioner sent Mr. Baier a letter of appreciation.
- NYSCB is on track of surpassing last year's final successful closures. In 2012, NYSCB had 403

successful closures. It is projected that with the 504 cases that are in Status 22-26, NYSCB will have an increase.

- NYSCB staff is at 132 and despite stagnant resources, the agency is still successful. There have been waivers to fill some openings sent to the division of budget.
- The SRC assurances to RSA: We have an assurance that states that we will continue to show incremental progress of getting the SRC fully constituted, as well as Ex-Officio and Director of VR participation in background checks.
- There will be 6 additional, regional centennial celebrations.
- Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization: Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) is opposed to RSA moving to the DOL.

Other Presentations

November 2012

Budget Update: Roger Gray, Chief, Fiscal and Program Support Director

- NYSCB was in a single state audit with OCFS, Audit Quality and Control (AQC). There were no findings against NYSCB.
- Contracts: The Pre-College contracts were awarded to Aurora and Visions and are currently in the Comptrollers approval process.
- Comprehensive Services Contract (CSC) workgroup has started meeting for the new contract for 1/14.
- There will also be a new contract for DVE/Placement services for 1/14.
- Recreation Services for Children RFP has not yet been approved
- Equipment Loan Closet will become a contract service.
- Carroll Center and HKNC's contracts have also been extended.

2014 State Plan & Forums updates: Mike Rose, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

- The American Council of the Blind (ACB) Conference was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy.
- The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) conference and NYSCB open forum did occur.
- The open forum took the full allotted time.
- NYSCB asked for ideas about innovative ways to prepare people for today's job market, encouraging people from unserved and underserved populations to participate in vocational rehabilitation services and get ahead of technology curve (keeping up with assistive technology).
- Comments were recorded by a NYSCB White Plains staff person.

March 2013

NYSCB Policy Changes: Sharon Flom, Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

- As a result of findings during RSA's monitoring review, NYSCB is revising the Trial Work Experience and Extended Evaluation sections of the VR policy Manual
- NYSCB will implement policy changes to strengthen the use of trial work experiences that include information about providing multiple experiences in various settings to give the person the best opportunity to succeed.
- NYSCB can provide support during medical and other evaluations/assessments to permit the individual time to demonstrate the usefulness of being involved with a trial work experience.
- NYSCB is developing a new form to document the assessments and evaluations that can be provided before the IPE is developed. Training will be provided for district office staff as the changes are finalized in the coming months.

State Plan Amendments & discussion/approve comments to State Plan: Mike Rose, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

In preparation for the SRC reviewed of the State Plan,

- Mr. Rose explained the eleven attachments to the plan.
- The State Plan will go to Budget and Legal for preliminary review
- OCFS internal clearance in mid-May followed by, final clearance by the Commissioner of OCFS & Public Information Office (PIO).
- The Plan then enters final submission to the RSA system no later than July 1, 2013.

Update on NYSCB Centennial: Susan Loeb, Statewide Manager/Public Engagement and Community Building

April 30th will the kick off the NYSCB centennial, at Hotel Albany. The program includes Governor Patterson as the keynote speaker, Commissioner Carrión, acknowledgments from the SRC, Executive Board, ACB, NFB, NYVRA, and Senior Counselor Barbara Campbell.

Executive Board update: Mindy Jacobsen

- Adolescents are coming into NYSCB unprepared, without skills that can be taught by the proposed core curriculum and the skills of blindness.
- The Expanded Core Curriculum should become an integral and mandatory part of education.
- The Executive Board would like the legislature to allocate funding to NYSCB from other sources for both seniors and children.
- Executive Board would also like to see vision screening for infants and toddlers.

NYSILC State Plan 2014-2016 (NYSCB Partnership): Brad Williams, Executive Director of the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC)

- The state plan for 2014-2016 was approved on March 15, 2013
- In New York, the state plan is jointly developed in partnership with NYSILC, NYSCB, and ACCESS-VR.
- The NYSILC public hearings and the needs assessment are used to set priorities for the state plan. Feedback from both the independent living (IL) community and those outside the community is combined to achieve a balance of perspectives.

June 2013

NYSCB Needs Assessment Report: Arun Karpur Research Faculty at Cornell

University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in the Employment & Disability Institute

Arun Karpur provided an overview of the NYSCB Needs Assessment to the SRC. Each SRC member was provided both an accessible PowerPoint and regular PowerPoint for review. SRC members found the presentation very interesting and useful for future endeavors with NYSCB.

Executive Board/SRC meeting review: Mindy Jacobsen

The SRC and Executive Board met on April 30th in Albany. Both agreed to work on hearings to voice the difficulty that children are having in school.

Needs Assessment Results & What it means to the SRC?- Mary Ann vanAlstyne & Mike Rose
NYSCB

- Needs Assessment results will be utilized to analyze and further the development of the NYSCB state plan.
- The SRC had a good conversation about the Needs Assessment results and how to take the data/information.
- A teleconference will be held with the Quality Assurance Committee over the summer for review of the needs assessment. Mike Rose will also be included.

Update on Disability Rights New York (DRNY) - Erica Marie Molina, Esq., CAP Director
Coordinator, DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK, Disability Advocates, Inc.

- Ms. Molina introduced herself to the SRC. She is the statewide Client Assistance Program (CAP) Director and oversees all CAP Advocates across New York. CAP is a required program under the

Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

- The Client Assistance Program (CAP) was established to advise and inform clients, client applicants, and other individuals with disabilities of all the available services and benefits under the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended, and of the services and benefits available to them under Title I of the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*.
- Services include advising and informing individuals of their rights in direct connection with programs authorized under the Act, including advocacy services.
- Currently, there are 6 CAP advocates working in different regions of the state.
- Disability Rights New York is headquartered in Albany, NY. It is projected that DRNY will have its 2 regional offices established Disability Rights by October 2014.

September 2013

National State Rehabilitation Council Forum –Mike Godino, SRC Chair

- Mr. Godino attended the National State Rehabilitation Council Forum in June in Arlington, VA.
- All presentation material are available should members wish to have a copy.
- Mr. Godino attended the following sessions: The SRC-State VR Agency Partnership, SRC Roles and Responsibilities, SRC membership and issues, RSA Website: Guidance and Technical Assistance, VR Program Financial Management, SRC Participation in State Plan Development, SRC Participation in Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessments, Developing Effective State Goals and Priorities, and SRC eRehab Training Series

Pre-College Program update-Laurie Munro, Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

- 28 students attended the VISIONS Mahattanville College program and 16 attended the Aurora LeMoyne College program.
- All students received an Ipad or Ipad Mini, earbuds, \$40 iTunes card, 2 year Apple care plus protection plan, 3 apps Looktel (money reader), Read2go (e-reader), Pages (word processor), a case with keyboard and training on how to use of their iPads.
- Students lived in dorms, ate in the dining hall and had evening activities on campus. There was 24 hour supervision for all activities.
- Students took an online course in college writing and an on-campus course in college skills.

Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Presentation: Alan Gatoff, Business Enterprise Program Director

- A roundtable discussion occurred with Alan Gatoff and the SRC. Topics included: a general overview of the program, qualifications of BEP managers, and BEP managers training/experiences.

Planned Goals and Activities for FY2013-2014:

The SRC is scheduled to meet quarterly in FY2013-2014. In addition, the Executive Committee and each of the four standing Committees will meet via conference call throughout the year.

The four standing committees will be: Membership, Policy, Procedure and Planning, Quality Assurance, and Workforce Development. Chair Mike Godino will appoint the Chairs and members of each committee and will give each its charge.

The Council will participate with NYSCB in developing the State Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2015-16. The participation will include information gathering from its members' respective constituencies. The 2015 State Plan will incorporate information obtained at the public forums held at the ACB and NFB state conventions.

The SRC will re-examine its current by-laws to determine whether any amendments or restructuring may be appropriate.

The SRC will continue the Orientation and new member training in the future at one of the quarterly meetings based on the timeliness of appointment each Fiscal Year hereafter.

In addition, the SRC will work to strengthen its connections with other SRC's outside New York State, as well as with the National Coalition of SRC's and the National Council of State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies.

Further, the SRC will work with NYSCB to develop one or more mentoring programs, as well as other mechanisms to bring New Yorkers who are blind together so that they may learn from and support one another.

Finally, the SRC will work with NYSCB to bring about implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committees and by the Council as a whole in 2013. Many of the recommendations of the committees overlap with one another as well as with those of the NYSCB Executive Board. Communication and brainstorming among the members of all of these bodies will further refine their recommendations, and thereby result in an across the board improvement in services and opportunities for New Yorkers who are blind or have low vision.