

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Meeting
March 14th and 15th, 2011
AmericInn-Teton Island Convention Center, Ft. Pierre

Members present: Dan Rounds, Robert Kean, Carol Kirchgesler, Elaine Roberts, Matt Cain, Melissa Flor, Joe Rehurek, Grady Kickul, Craig Eschenbaum, Lyle Cook, and Brett Glirbas. **Members Absent:** Nikki Darland, Cindy Koupal, Kathy Hassebrook, and Leo Hallan. **Others present:** Bernie Grimme, Rich Eschenbaum, Dr. Greg Cooch, Bob Jahner, Colette Wagoner, Faith Ellis, Gloria Pluimer, and Gary Frenz (via speaker phone).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Dan Rounds, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

OPENING ACTIONS: The meeting protocol was reviewed (attached to meeting agenda). The Chairperson asked if there were any additions or changes to the draft agenda. **MOTION MADE (M) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED (S), AND CARRIED (C) - MSC.**

Chairperson asked for any changes or additions to the minutes from the December 6th and 7th meeting held in Sioux Falls. Upon hearing none, **MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOARD'S DECEMBER 6-7TH, 2010 MINUTES – MSC.** The Chairperson asked if there were any corrections with the Executive Committee meeting minutes from February 28th, 2011. A key element pointed out was the lowered dollar amount being devoted to NDEAM this year, Grady noted it was his suggestion due overall budget constraints, and that this will be discussed in detail later. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 28TH, MSC.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Elaine Roberts reminded members of the "Lighting The Way" Autism Conference (Augustana Campus in Sioux Falls) on June 9th and 10th. The keynote speaker is Temple Grandin's mother, Eustacia Cutler. If you have seen the HBO movie "*Temple Grandin*," you know

how important Dr. Grandin's mother, was to Temple's success. Temple Grandin is one of the most recognized individuals with autism in the world. Ms. Cutler will be at the Parents' Reception on June 9th and deliver the keynote presentation, as well as a breakout session on June 10th. Elaine added that SD Parent Connection awarded five scholarships to help participants attend the autism conference, and she thought the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) might have financial assistance available for persons with disabilities and family members. Contact Arlene Poncelet for further details.

Lyle Cook announced that the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation program in Eagle Butte has been doing outreach in their community even though having to downsize staff. Plans are underway to hold an open house in the future. They are working with BSBVI and hoping several other programs will join in this sharing opportunity, possibly BVR and SILC. Lyle turned to Staff to ask for assistance in making this request to the other groups.

Grady reminded members that if they are interested in attending such events like the Autism Conference or Public Meetings on behalf of the Board contact staff, and assistance will be made for travel/registration.

Dan reminded members of the SD Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference next week in Rapid City.

Grady announced that March 22nd is National VR Counselor Appreciation Day and they are having celebrations at the district offices around the state, members were invited to attend if in the area. Dan asked members to please thank the counselors they know for their dedicated, hard work.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN: Melissa Flor shared a handout entitled, "Part B Tree of Influence" (See Attachment A). It uses the System of SPP Indicators as a Blueprint for a State Improvement Plan. Indicator 14 is the percent of youth who had Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), no longer in secondary school

and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school. Melissa noted this is a large undertaking, which is why the Office of Special Education contracts with Dr. Greg Cooch, Black Hills State University to conduct the study. Melissa introduced Dr. Cooch and turned it over to him.

Dr. Cooch thanked Melissa and the group for having him here again, he feels this study tells an important story that needs to be shared, which he'll try to relay in an understandable and useable manner. He shared a handout of Indicator #14 presentation to follow along (See Attachment B). He started by saying this is about having positive outcomes and can be used as an overall indicator of how effective a school district is working with students with disabilities. The odds ratios show how effective programs and projects are, i.e. Youth Leadership Forum, Catch the Wave.

Meta-analysis takes pieces of data from many places and provides a broad picture. He spoke about a large research project conducted in the 1960's by the Department of Education (DOE) called, "Project Follow Through", which looked at the effectiveness of a learning method, "direct instruction". This study proved that direct instruction worked. Currently, the definition of direct instruction is that it is sequential, highly scripted, and teacher lead - no reflection or interacting with the learner. Granted this method is a bit boring, but has been proven effective in learning and having positive outcomes.

Dr. Cooch explained there could be a fine line between saying these programs and project areas are working, whether it is the schools or vocational rehabilitation paying for the cost of services. The results reflect that students engaging in these activities demonstrate better outcomes.

A copy of the survey instrument was shared with members, noting the items in red are the questions that were revised in an attempt to garner more pertinent, usable data (See Attachment C). Cleaning up the language on some questions resulted in clearer answers.

Dr. Cooch continued with the review of Indicator 14 - the percentage of youth who are no longer in secondary school, had IEPs in effect at the time they left school, and were:

- A. Enrolled in higher education within one year of leaving high school.
- B. Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school.
- C. Enrolled in higher education or in some other postsecondary education or training program; or competitively employed or in some other employment within one year of leaving high school.

Here, "higher education" is defined as, youth who have been enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis; in a community college (2-year program); college/university (4-year program); for at least one complete term or semester, at anytime in the year since leaving high school. He also defined what "competitive employment", "other employment", meant in terms of this study.

Examples of opportunities that youth with disabilities participated in:

- ✓ Catch The Wave (CTW),
- ✓ Youth Leadership Forum (YLF),
- ✓ Project Skills,
- ✓ Project SEARCH,
- ✓ Self-advocacy (SA) classes in the school, and
- ✓ Other work experience programs.

The data showed the odds of a student with disabilities who participated in CTW, YLF, Project Skills or SEARCH, or SA, were:

- ✓ 26% more likely to be employed and postsecondary only, or
- ✓ 51% more likely to be employed only, or
- ✓ 100% more likely or twice as likely to be in postsecondary only.

When stated together, the current overall Engagement Rate for those students, odds said they're more likely to be engaged than if they hadn't participated in those programs.

- ✓ 2006-07 showed 48% more likely,
- ✓ 2007-08 showed 50% more likely, and
- ✓ 2008-09 showed 100% more likely.

The data reflects that students with disabilities are experiencing more positive outcomes in their lives after leaving the high school setting.

Dr. Cooch explained the research uses 16 Predictors of Post-School Success (See Attachment D), these are the factors that affect the overall lives of students that VR may or may not have any control over, and it's good to note certain predictors can be helped and others are truly circumstantial. Predictors of Post-School Success are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Academic/General Education | 9. School Integration |
| 2. Career Awareness | 10. Self-Advocacy Skills |
| 3. Community Experiences | 11. Self-Care or IL Skills |
| 4. High School Diploma Status | 12. Social Skills |
| 5. Interagency Collaboration | 13. Student Support |
| 6. Occupational Courses | 14. Transition Program |
| 7. Paid Work Experience | 15. Vocational Education |
| 8. Parental Involvement | 16. Work Study |

Dr. Cooch stressed collaborative efforts with DOE, school districts, special education teachers and counselors, DOL and vocational rehabilitation. He complimented these groups for their hard work coordinating programs and encouraged that they continue these efforts.

Grady asked how can we use this information to advertise or promote the usefulness and importance of students participating in these types of programs while in school. He also asked, how we get this information to parents who are struggling with decisions to let their children participate in such opportunities? The next step is making use of this information in

a manner to encourage more students with disabilities to get involved at a younger age.

One member suggested creating a piece that shows a timeline of a successful student's path, and how it increased opportunities in which they were involved at a later age. Another member suggested selecting districts that have great predictors and sharing these best practices.

Grady concluded by saying this is a wonderful validation of what we're doing in the area of transition for youth with disabilities. It reinforces what he frequently hears from parents, especially with the larger programs such as Project Skills. Dan thanked Dr. Greg Cooch for his presentation and valuable time, Dr. Cooch replied he was very appreciative of the time allowed to share this data, which everyone should be proud of.

Break

DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director's Comments: Grady reported that he met with two representatives of the SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities - Dave Miller, Board President, and Shelly Pfaff, Executive Director. The topic was sustainability ideas for the federally funded Medicaid Infrastructure Grant - Freedom To Work Project. He reminded members that DRS contracts with both Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) and The Coalition to conduct Freedom To Work business. This grant ends this year - December 31st, 2011. They discussed ideas and possible grant opportunities for continuing to work together to sustain some of the training projects, similar to the Mike Walling Employment and Benefits Trainings held in the state. Shelly Pfaff and Brooke Lusk, of BHSSC, are working together to create and implement similar trainings. More details will follow as they become available.

Review of Legislative Session and it's impact on DRS: Grady talked about Session in comparison to previous years. The focus was on proposed

budget cuts in the attempt to close the structural budget deficit of nearly \$37 million. Initially it was proposed to have a 10% budget cut across the board for everyone and every program as suggested by Governor Dennis Daugaard. After many budget hearings, testimonies, emails, letters, phone calls, it was worked out as a graduated cut to Medicaid providers, with larger entities taking higher cuts than smaller providers.

Grady reminded members that the 10% cuts still apply to the agency as far as travel expenditures for staff, and restrictions on out of state travel.

With the new Governor's administration came his first executive order for reorganization within the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Interim Director of DHS is now Amy Iversen-Pollreisz. Grady added that a couple of other changes include moving three units from DHS to Department of Social Services (DSS). Those three are the Division of Mental Health, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Human Services Center (Yankton). These three units will now fall under DSS in a new division entitled, "Division of Behavior Services". This transfer also included five certification/governing boards.

Grady added that a "Transition Team" has been created to oversee the reorganization with Lt. Governor Matt Michels, chairing it. The effective date is April 14, 2011. DHS will have four divisions remain - DRS, SBVI, DDD, and the Developmental Center in Redfield. DHS's full-time equivalency (FTE) will be reduced from 1,200 to 550.

During session, DHS sponsored three bills that were passed and signed by the Governor. They were:

- ✓ SB 16 – Allow candidacy status for the USD Social Work program.
- ✓ SB 15 - revise the definition of accredited prevention or treatment facilities, and authorized the Division of Drug and Alcohol Abuse to inspect these facilities and access their records.
- ✓ HB 1013 – Add an educator to the Board of Counselor Examiners

Grady stated he was not sure of the impact of the budget cuts yet, but feels confident it won't force the Division onto an Order of Selection, especially now that the cuts are only 4.5% vs. 10%. Another cost saving method being utilized by the Division is the state's video-conferencing system to host trainings and supervisor meetings, which reduces travel. The Activities of Daily Living Services (ADLS) program was also slated for a 5% cut and it was only reduced by 3.5%. The Traumatic Brain Injury program at Community Transitions in Rapid City was also cut, which was an optional Medicaid funded program. Grady reported that the four individuals served would convert over to the vocational rehabilitation system.

A member raised the question of where exactly the newer Division of Behavior Services will be housed and Grady replied that he has not heard if this has been decided or not. Reality is, all state office buildings and spaces will be reviewed at this point.

DRS Budget: Grady reported the Division is under budget in all areas of case services, reinforcing the feeling that we can do ok with the coming 4.5% cuts. He reminded members, DRS cannot control who "comes into" the system, especially during an economic downturn, but he is still confident they can avoid going onto an Order of Selection, which means waiting lists.

A member pointed out that the Federal government will soon be cutting \$12 billion, which is bound to have trickle down effects. As an example, the current budget and labor union troubles in Wisconsin appear much worse than SD. Compromises have to be made on many sides to make budgets balance and the message will have to be carried far before the economy is better. Several members commented on the need to change the dialogue, focus on real issues and hope for relief in the next year. Some need a clearer picture of what duties state employees perform as public servants. Bernie added that due to the recession VR caseloads are

still increasing, and have yet to hit a plateau, and we can expect them to rise even more.

Navigator Update: this was a Department of Labor (DOL) program, which was started with federal funds several years ago and ended last April. It created four positions known as “navigators” to assist people, to “navigate” programs, paperwork, and community resources. Those four positions were located in Sioux Falls, Yankton, Aberdeen and Rapid City. The positions will be continued by DOL along with other assigned duties.

BVR Appointments: Grady stated he learned the Governor requested the Division to start the process of soliciting nominations for the Board, among others. For our purposes, we know that Cindy Koupal is declining re-appointment due to a promotion and change in duties. Other members who are up for re-appointment are still getting back to us with their decisions. Staff will be coordinating with both SILC and BSBVI to conduct a solicitation of nominees. If you have ideas on qualified persons from the disability community, please give it some thought and approach them about serving.

EMPLOYER RESOURCE NETWORK - Kathy Hassebrook was unable to attend, but she emailed to express her interest in continuing to be active and serve ERN in the Aberdeen area. She had thought she could back away from it some, but feels strongly about not losing ground.

Kathy had also shared information to be announced on an ERN event this Thursday, March 17th, in Aberdeen. In conjunction with their HR meeting, ERN is bringing in the “Attitude Doctor” for a 1-hour presentation. This event is being provided in appreciation to Aberdeen area employers, including Avera St. Luke’s, for their involvement with ERN and Project SEARCH.

Dan added that similar to the Freedom to Work project trying to come up with sustainability ideas, ERN is doing the same. Kim Crossan, from Aberdeen VR office, has been named the State Diversity Chairperson for

the State SHRM Chapter. His goal is to set up a recognition system for chapters that provide increased training on diversity topics. Ronda Williams, DRS Pierre, is also working on this ERN project with Kim.

NEW TEC: Dan Rounds shared a brochure (Attachment E) with members about a newer program in Aberdeen called New Tec - which stands for North Eastern Work and Technical Education Center (formerly the Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center). They provide work and technical skills training to meet the needs of regional employers. Bob Compton is spearheading this project, which is similar to the R-TEC program in the Vermillion/Yankton area. They want to be known for rapid response partnering to industry employers with certain labor force demands in our area. Common classes include computers, Spanish, Building Trades, Commercial Drivers License, Team Building, Welding, and Certified Nursing Assistant. Dan also shared a flyer of the Building Trades Technology 6-month diploma option outlining course descriptions (See Attachment F).

This endeavor took many partners, including DOL, VR, Lake Area Technical Institute, Aberdeen Development Corp, Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and Presentation College. Dan shared that Bob Compton is very involved and committed to New Tec's success.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS NOMINATIONS: Melissa Flor reported that the designated committee of nomination reviewers from BVR, SILC and BSBVI met last week, in person, and conference call. It was herself and Craig Eschenbaum/BVR, Shelly Schock/SILC, and Lyle Cook/BVR & BSBVI. They liked the mix of reviewers from the three groups, and said it worked out well.

Melissa reported that there were a higher number of overall award nominations in the various categories compared to last year. They all agreed the judging was extra tough this time; there were many deserving candidates with great personal stories. She continued by encouraging members to spread the word to those we know, that if they didn't get it

this year, to re-submit next year. The reviewers felt strongly that there were that many truly deserving of recognition.

Grady added that the spring timeline for the Governor's Awards and Luncheon will be similar to the past, we should be on target to notify the recipients and nominators, arrange the luncheon, and coordinate a date with the Governor's office. The "recommendations" are forwarded to the Governor for review and approval. Once we learn of his decision, details will be released. A member inquired if the Governor usually accepts the recommended recipients as selected or has there been a time they were rejected or passed over? Grady said that once a long time ago, there had been one change in the selection, but basically, they have been approved and awarded as the review committee had selected. Grady encouraged members to attend the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, if their calendar allows. Any necessary travel expenses would be covered, simply contact Staff.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC) UPDATE:

Grady reported that the SILC meets tomorrow afternoon and Wednesday morning. They will hear from Bob Jahner on the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. He added that SILC had representation on the Governor's Awards Review Committee and the NDEAM Funding Request Review Committee, Shelly Schock and Ann Fortin. The SILC has also been represented during the Joint Chairs' Executive Committee meetings, with SILC Chairperson, Margot Burton attending.

As Chairperson, Dan asked with time remaining this afternoon, if the group would mind moving a couple of items from tomorrow morning's agenda to now. General consensus was agreeable.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE: National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Proposals Update: Melissa explained the NDEAM sub-committee reviewed the funding requests from ten communities wanting to host NDEAM events totaling \$19,500. The committee reviewed the proposals carefully for areas to trim costs (i.e.

luncheon costs, give away items), and they reduced the total amount of requests to \$14,650. It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve \$11,000 of BVR Strategic Planning funds, which leaves the budget \$3,650 short. Lyle Cook, also BSBVI representative on the review committee reported that Gaye Mattke, SBVI Director has committed up to \$4,000 if needed to meet that budget. In light of that news, thank you to BSBVI, Grady suggested we approve the NDEAM funding requests.

IT WAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2011 NDEAM FUNDING PROPOSALS AS MODIFIED AND SUGGESTED BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR \$14,650 WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT BVR STRATEGIC FUNDS WILL CONTRIBUTE ONLY \$11,000; AND THE REMAINING WILL BE COVERED BY BSBVI AND/OR SILC - MSC.

Afternoon meeting was recessed; Dan and Grady thanked everyone for their time and encouraged them to enjoy themselves while in Pierre for the evening.

Tuesday, March 15, 2011:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Dan Rounds, Chairperson, reconvened the meeting at 8:40 AM. He welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves again.

Elaine Roberts asked permission to share with the group a short reading she had found the night before in a book called, "Perseverance" by Margaret Wheatly. She felt it had summarized what was talked about yesterday regarding sides fighting against each other. It stressed there always has to be a, "middle", that each side can't stand their ground forever. This is true in any workable compromise, with some give and take there can always be solutions. Elaine added that she hopes we can keep the middle in mind when discussing budget woes in SD. *(For a copy of this reading, please contact Elaine Roberts at SD Parent Connection, 1-800-640-4553.)*

STATE PLAN SUBMISSION PROCESS - Bernie Grimme explained how every year by July 1st, the Division submits the "State Plan" to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), reporting activities in the delivery of VR services in our state. He shared a copy of the "condensed" version of the State Plan (See Attachment G).

Bernie talked about the outline listing Public Meetings held for gathering public input, a brief description of a state plan, the Preprint section, and the Attachments. There are a few attachments that remain the same, no need for an annual update. The timeline shows that we're currently in the rough draft stage. The State Plan will be presented to the State Workforce Development Council for approval; and submitted to RSA by the end of June. Final versions will be shared when completed. The State Plan and draft attachments are available for public viewing on the web at the DRS home page at: <http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/>. Bernie stated he's available to take comments or questions.

COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CSNA) UPDATE - Bernie reminded members that this is a continuation of what was heard at the June Meeting. The CSNA is conducted every three years and it's a process of gathering data, facts, and figures that can tell a story. It's pulling together the data into categories and then making sense of it all. Bob Jahner, has 30+ years experience in VR in Montana, and has extensive knowledge on state plans and needs assessments.

Bob thanked the group, and started by agreeing with Elaine's reading earlier on "the middle". He said that's sort of what he does, looking at categories, especially problem areas, show you ones mentioned most often, and guide you down a path of meeting the needs for the largest number of people. We help you find what you need to be doing and where. Bob stressed with the survey is that it's hard to ask someone what they need when they're in crisis. Bob said SD is actually doing quite a good job meeting the needs of people with disabilities in many areas. We knew to not expect too many bad things to be reported, in fact the

opposite. Many positive things were reported, which coined the phrase “positive needs”.

Bob shared a handout of his CSNA PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment H). He started with the “process” RSA provides, which is actually a 200+ page document. The Team developed included the three Joint Board Chairperson Committee from BVR, SILC, and BSBVI; and upper management from DRS and SBVI.

Bob stressed it’s always good to limit agency goals to about 4 - 5, too many goals simply means you couldn’t come to a consensus. Again, meet in the middle and compromise on a smaller number of goals, and keep the number of strategies under each goal to a manageable number.

He pointed out there will always be a large number of needs of an un-perfect world that we cannot meet. Sometimes you have to be reminded to zoom in on the problems that you can fix, and focus less on things beyond your control.

Upon summarizing the survey responses, Primary Needs Categories Level I was developed – “transportation’ comes up often and everywhere – especially in rural states. Another common thread was the need for additional soft skills training both prior to getting a job and once on the job. Primary Needs Categories were listed in descending weight: transportation, pre-placement services, life transition supports, mental health services, safety net SSA/Public Assistance, and job placement/coaching.

One figure Bob pointed out in the survey, 80% of VR counselors said they have good relationships with their workforce partners, an important key to keep communications flowing. Slide 16 shows high levels of satisfaction among staff.

The good news this data tells? SD has done good meeting all standards and indicators in 2010 - which is quite a feat in this economy. The Ticket

to Work Program quadrupled, which would be a feat in any economy! Project Skills and Youth Leadership Forum are popular, successful factors positively influencing the lives of students with disabilities, and despite being rural; services are provided to rural areas and have higher placement rates than other urban-like areas in SD.

Bob congratulated the Board and the Division for all that to happen, and encouraged the good work be continued in SD. On behalf of the Board, Dan thanked Bob for the interesting report and for his travel time getting here this week.

POST HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL TRANSITION (PHSVT)

SUMMARY: Dan introduced Gloria Pluimer, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC), in Rapid City. Dan explained BHSSC was awarded grant funding through the SD Freedom to Work Project to conduct this study on post high school vocational study (see Attachment I).

Gloria thanked the group for this opportunity, and is always happy to share this data, which required a lot of work to gather but shows encouraging results. This study was designed to help determine the educational and training needs for young South Dakotans, either with or without intellectual disabilities, either considered severe or multiple disabilities, and who have been on an IEP thus far but do not have the cognitive ability to pass entrance exams for formal postsecondary universities or technical institutes in SD.

Students are limited in their training choices in South Dakota having only three school districts that provide some form of programming on employment skills and independent living (IL) skills for youth ages 18-21. Several fast growing occupations or industries require workers with specialized skills, certain employers would therefore benefit from hiring employees who have been trained in a specific skilled trade. This study was to help identify areas to expand those opportunities. Gloria explained that today she'd attempt to summarize some findings.

Two approaches were used to gather information to determine students' needs: parent interviews and survey; and student interviews and surveys. The study conducted face-to-face interviews with parents, advocates of students or young adults with disabilities. A session was videotaped and is available on DVD, and a section of this was played for members.

Many programs were mentioned as pivotal elements in helping students become successful, Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), Catch the Wave, Project Skills, Partners in Policymaking, and Project SEARCH. Some common themes heard repeatedly were:

- ✓ Parental involvement is crucial, search out services needed, ask questions and keep looking.
- ✓ Start parental involvement early, don't wait, it takes pre-planning.
- ✓ Keep long-term planning in the forefront, and keep plans in place to continue supports during and after transitioning phases.
- ✓ Personal safety was an important element for choosing what and where a student may turn next for furthering education.
- ✓ Opportunities to be around other students their own age, either with or without disabilities were sited as very important to grow socially and develop IL skills.

The overall need identified for a postsecondary program or service for young adults with disabilities beyond what is currently available, is to successfully learn a job skill that would provide them meaningful work. The message was clear - that in order for such a program to work, there must be residential accommodations along with formal instruction for young adults to learn IL skills, socialization, and life skills for successful community living.

The parent's (142 respondents) point of view, when asked what supports their son or daughter would need in order to live in a dorm setting or a house or apartment, the top four needs were: money management; coordination of health care needs; transportation (understanding of community transit either available or not); and having a mentor, someone to go to for advice on daily living things or in emergencies.

The student's responses revealed what they're "very concerned" about as they transition into the next phase of their life: personal safety; managing money and their financial decisions; responding to any emergencies such as fire, bad weather; transportation (getting around in the community), and, making good decisions about interacting with people.

Gloria pointed out that of the 457 students surveyed, half - 50% want to stay and live in South Dakota - and 47.9% or almost all of those want to live on their own. Again, many of the transitional programs are working, we need to get this information into the right hands and have it developed in more places to help more students.

Dan thanked Gloria Pluimer for her time today and wished her safe travels returning to Rapid City.

A question was raised about the availability of this information and Grady responded that the Division wanted it presented to the Board first. There was consensus that this information should be made public and it supports what Dr., Cooch presented earlier - that outcomes are impacted by starting earlier in the transition process which increases the chances of better outcomes in training and employment.

Break

CONTINUED DISCUSSION – INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VR CONSUMERS UTILIZING PASS: Dan reminded members that he's presented on PASS before, which is a detailed written plan a consumer writes to save money from his benefits to meet educational or business goals. Dan invited Gary Frenz, to speak about his success working with consumers who write PASS plans and to provide some insight into what makes a good PASS candidate, and a few of his best practices. Gary joined the meeting via speakerphone.

Gary thanked Dan and the members for their interest in PASS plans. Yes, he's been doing PASS plans for years now, and has helped many consumers successfully complete them. In fact, he's had consumers who have written a second PASS plan. A key is to gauge the ability of the consumer wanting to write the PASS. Gary spoke to the limitations of vocational rehabilitation; he consults with other case staff, and likes to work with consumers on SSDI. He works with one bank to set up accounts, which need prior approval to get funds out; it's a great relationship between the consumer, banker, and vocational rehabilitation counselor. Gary added that his contact in the bank is familiar with the program and contributes his own time to look after these loans. When asked if there are bank fees, Gary replied no, they waive fees for clients, and if there were, those could be written into the plan as an expense and be recovered.

The PASS requires a thought out, well-written business plan that the consumer writes. Gary utilizes the Small Business Development Center that has a computer program that helps write a business profit and loss statement and income projections, etc. Many of these PASS plans involve self-employment and this helps manage income.

Gary mentioned that to contribute to the overall success a PASS needs to be written in the spirit of the consumer getting off benefits. With that and ultimate long-term employment goals, the chances of success are higher. Again, this needs to be thought out and gauged before approving the PASS to move onto the regional office. Gary gave credit to Cassie Stoesser, Benefits Specialist in Pierre. He explained that Cassie has done an excellent job promoting and explaining this program to consumers and getting them referred to the right resources.

Gary concluded by offering to help answer any questions, have Board Staff contact him or Cassie Stoesser. Dan thanked Gary for his time.

OTHER BUSINESS: Dan called for other business. One member brought up the parents' interview on DVD that Gloria showed, it had

Dillon Haug's parents, Reed and Beth; proposed that it would be a good idea to buy Dillon's book for each member of this board. Grady agreed that would be useful. **MOTION WAS MADE FOR THE BOARD TO PURCHASE 15 COPIES OF DILLON HAUG'S BOOK - MSC.**

Brett Glirbas asked permission to submit a proposal requesting funding for travel expenses for him and his attendant to attend the National Business Leadership Network Conference. General consensus was that was within the rules and to submit his request.

CLOSING ACTIONS: Future Agenda Items: Items include: Julie Briggs, Sioux Falls BRN Executive; Project Endeavor update; Project SEARCH; the State Plan, and possibly a Work Incentives benefits presentation by Shelly Pfaff and Brooke Lusk, Freedom To Work Staff. Members were encouraged to contact Staff if they have any other items they would like on the June agenda. Grady reminded members with any activities mentioned, if you're interested in attending (i.e. Governor's Awards Luncheon, Public Meetings) as a BVR representative, contact Staff and travel expenses can be covered.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next meeting was tentatively scheduled by the Executive Committee. Meeting room and motel rooms are reserved for Tuesday afternoon, June 14th, Wednesday morning, June 15th, 2011 at the Sioux Falls Ramada Hotel & Suites on West Russell Street. Please mark your calendars and contact Staff if you know any reason you cannot attend. **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:25 PM – MSC.**