

New York State Rehabilitation Council

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Presenters

Kevin Smith, Deputy Commissioner ACCES
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ACCES-VR Mission

ACCES-VR assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation and career development.

ACCES-VR Overview

- Twenty- five District Offices across the state
- 651 staff including over 300 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs)
- Approximately 93,000 participants
- Disabilities: physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health, developmental disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, substance abuse and autism (not blind/visually impaired)
- 55% of caseloads consist of youth

ACCES-VR Services

- Services are primarily provided by contracted vendors (over 600 contracts)
- Job Placement
- Supported Employment
- Psychological Assessments
- College Supports
- Non Degree Technical Training
- Vehicle Modification
- Home Modification
- Independent Living Centers
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Peer Mentoring

What is the SRC?

- Every state has a State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
- Established as part of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Purpose of the SRC is to advise the Board of Regents and State Education Department on issues related to the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to New Yorkers with disabilities.

SRC Membership- Voting Members

- Twenty-one voting members representing:
 - Disability Advocacy Groups
 - Transition Educational Services
 - Community Rehabilitation Service Providers
 - Businesses
 - Parent Training and Information Centers
 - Independent Living Centers

SRC Membership Non Voting

- Non voting members:
 - State Education Department
 - ACCES-VR and Office of Special Education
 - Commission for the Blind
 - Office of Mental Health
 - Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
 - Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
 - Department of Labor
 - Justice Center

SRC Committees

- Executive Committee
- Membership Committee
- Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee
- Transition from School to Adult Life Committee
- Workforce Development Committee
- Policy and Planning Committee

SRC 2018-19 Priorities

- Recruit new members
- Explore ways to engage businesses and encourage the hiring of workers with disabilities
- Advise ACCES-VR on changes to policies impacting the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services
- Encourage cross system collaboration among state agencies that provide services to people with disabilities
- Advise ACCES-VR on strategies to serve transition age youth
- Advise ACCES-VR on the implementation of goals and priorities associated with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Questions?