



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

December 17, 2018

Dear Readers:

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Commission for the Blind is proud of its success and the many stakeholders and advisory bodies who support our work daily.

As our Commission continues its successful implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and moves forward with our ambitious priorities and agenda for 2019, we look forward to sharing these priorities with our Council for support and sound advice.

We thank our State Rehabilitation Council for its efforts in 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian S. Daniels".

Brian S. Daniels

Associate Commissioner

New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Commission for the Blind

December 17, 2018

Ms. Carol Dobak, Acting Deputy Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration
US Department of Education
Mary E. Switzer Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Deputy Commissioner Dobak:

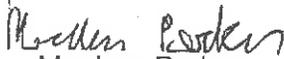
As Chairperson of the New York State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) for the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) from October 2017 through September 2018, I am pleased to present for your consideration the FY2017-18 State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Annual Report.

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 FY2017-18 and the goals for FY2018-19.

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,


Meghan Parker

NYSCB SRC Chairperson

cc: Chris Pope, State Liaison, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Tracy Breslin, SRC Coordinator/Liaison, NYSCB

December 17, 2018

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

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Respectfully submitted,


Meghan Parker

NYSCB SRC Chairperson

cc: Carol Dobak, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration
Chris Pope, 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
Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Introduction

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) is pleased to issue its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and Acting Commissioner Carol Dobak of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. This report includes a discussion of the Council's activities during FY 2017/2018 and plans for upcoming FY 2018/2019.

The SRC ("the 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 participants of 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 focusing on the NYSCB priority issues of work force development, quality assurance, policy, procedure and planning, and transition to adulthood. The SRC meets once each calendar quarter.

The Council is comprised of members representing participants who are blind, participants with multiple disabilities, parents, disability advocacy groups (National Federation of the Blind and American Council of the Blind), the Client Assistance Program (CAP), community rehabilitation program service providers, New York State Educational Department, business, industry and labor, the New York State Workforce Investment Board, Section 121 Native American Rehabilitation Programs, and New York State Independent Living Council. Ex-Officio representation on the Council includes 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 FY 2017/2018

Listed below are meeting highlights and activities for 2017/2018 including participation in the development of the Combined State Plan, recommendations, public forums, communication with the NYSCB Executive Board, and presentations.

The NYSCB SRC 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 Council's Executive Committee. A standard agenda consists of introductions, report from the Chair, report from the Associate Commissioner, presentations, public comment, committee reports, council business, and action items. The following is a brief synopsis of the SRC business for FY 2017/2018.

MEETING ONE: November 8th & 9th, 2017

The fiscal year began with the first quarterly meeting in November. Chair Meghan Parker and Vice Chairs Debbie Fiderer and Chris Kchao welcomed the members back for the new fiscal year 2017/2018.

Presentation by the Associate Commissioner

NYSCB Associate Commissioner, Brian Daniels reported on four pending appointments to the SRC; the goal of having a full SRC has been a challenge. The Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) project is moving forward; volunteers have been recruited to sit for practice exams in different modalities to reinforce a fully accessible exam this year.

Commissioner Daniels reported on the awarding of two new Assistive Technology Center contracts and the AT Task Force will have the opportunity to review them and provide comments. NYSCB co-hosted an open forum with the American Council of the Blind at their state convention and will be co-hosting an open forum with the National Federation of the Blind during their upcoming state convention. Finally, Commissioner Daniels informed the SRC of NYSCB's reporting to RSA on 911 data.

Other Presentations/Activities

- Combined State Plan/Open Forum: Julianne Venneman, SVRC

This is a modification year for the NYS Combined State Plan. The SRC provided comments and recommendations to Description o: State's Strategies. NYSCB prepared responses to the SRC's comments and recommendations are in the draft version "Proposed DRAFT Modifications to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Service".

- TASC Updates: Brian S. Daniels, Associate Commissioner & Theresa Drum, SRC member

Theresa Drum reported on the progress of the SRC's project to test the TASC for accessibility in different modalities and that the SRC is still looking for volunteers for this project. The new TASC would be released January 1, 2018.

- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) update: Louise Werner, BEP Director

Louise Werner began her report with an update on BEP's efforts to publicize openings for interested BEP candidates, and the many activities NYSCB has done to help promote BEP and their additional plans for promoting BEP in 2018. Louise Werner also spoke about the training of BEP Managers and gave an update on the new accessible point of sale (POS) system BEP managers are beginning to use in their facilities. Finally, Ms. Werner provided an update on NYSCB's efforts to expand BEP to new locations including SUNY campuses, and on having BEP's vending machines branded with the Governor's Taste New York Initiative containing products produced in New York State.

- Transition Update: Lauren Corp, AVRC

Lauren Corp reported that the Report of Legal Blindness form will be updated. There is a proposed expansion of the definition of legal blindness to include a category called "functions at the definition of legal blindness" due to the increase of children and youth that are diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI).

- Executive Board update- Carena Collura, Executive Board Liaison

Carena Collura reported that there was a scheduling conflict and the Executive Board had not yet met.

- WIOA Update-Peter Herrig, AVRC

Peter Herrig updated the SRC about reporting data to RSA on a quarterly basis; his work on the WIOA Interagency group; the work of the Accessibility workgroup, which continues to review the career center systems; and the Business engagement work group working with NYSCB to gain access to the DOL One Stop Operating System (OSOS) that will allow NYSCB to track pertinent data.

Committee Work

- AT Taskforce-There were no updates to report.
- Quality Assurance: The committee did not meet.
- Policy, Planning and Procedures: Chris Kchao reported that they are keeping goals: TASC, high stakes testing research, other states legislation about accessible information, communication, and technology procurement.
- Workforce Development: Debbie Fiderer reported that the committee will review the use of supported employment services statewide by blind and visually impaired job seekers with multiple disabilities and make recommendations for improving efficacy of service provision. Also, the committee would like to provide feedback and recommendations related to implementation of WIOA regulations through the following activities: review curriculum developed to train DOL career center staff to best serve blind and visually impaired job seekers and provide feedback request information regarding the development of mechanisms to collect the business engagement measurements.
- Transition Committee: Lauren Corp reported that the committee would like to utilize the survey results to make recommendations for trainings developed for transition counselors, take action steps to raise awareness about transition services with the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center's Professional Learning Center (RSE-TASC PLC), explore how transition counselors and BOCES counselors should make families aware that they should be at ISP meetings and promote self advocacy for students with disabilities ages 14-21 and youth with disabilities until their 25th birthday.

Public Comments

Four people provided information regarding: not knowing their rights to obtain documents from their file & participants not receiving information in their preferred format by counselors.

MEETING TWO: March 14 & 15, 2018

Presentation by the Associate Commissioner

NYSCB will be monitored by Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in April. Associate Commissioner Brian Daniels reported on NYSCB's plans for their annual Vision Rehabilitation Institute (VRI) to be held in June. Commissioner Daniels reported on the status of the upcoming Comprehensive Services Contracts, training for NYSCB staff on LGBTQ training for service delivery to elders, and on the appointment of the new RSA Commissioner, Mark Schultz. Mr. Commissioner Daniels concluded his updates with a report on the activities of the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC).

Other Presentations/Activities

- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Update: Louise Werner, BEP Director

Louise Werner began her update with the progress of the businesses and licensed managers. She reported on legislation that could affect BEP sites. Ms. Werner provided a report on growth within the BEP program and the use of the new accessible Point of Sale (POS) systems, which continue to increase around the state. Ms. Werner concluded her presentation reporting on all the presentations she is conducting to promote the BEP program.

- TASC Updates: Meghan Parker, Chair

Chair Parker discussed that volunteers who will be taking TASC for accessibility in many different formats have identified their chosen test locations, though dates have yet to be set for taking the exam. Tim Jones from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) will continue to assist the SRC. NYSED will get back to the

SRC on whether a nondisclosure form will need to be filled out by the volunteers.

- NYSCB Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment: Jennifer Amstutz, JA Strategies
JA Strategies presented their findings to the SRC.

- WIOA Updates: Sharon Flom, AVRC and Peter Herrig, AVRC

Peter Herrig informed the SRC that WIOA Interagency meetings will now be held monthly, but there is now more of a focus on the workgroups. Mr. Herrig updated the SRC on the work of the Accessibility workgroup, on the status of MOUs, and on Business Engagement.

Sharon Flom updated the SRC about the Release and Referral workgroup, the Training and Assistance workgroup, and the Data Integration workgroup.

- Annual Client Assistance Program Report (RSA-227): Erica Molina

The Annual Client Assistance Program (RSA-227) report was submitted to RSA in December 2017. The report was reviewed and discussed with SRC.

Committee Work

- **Quality Assurance**: Erica Molina reported that the AT taskforce is now dissolved, however will still "exist" through the Quality Assurance committee. A new topic to be researched is the participant evaluation of AT services. There are seven Assistive Technology Centers (ATC) and about nineteen providers across the state. QA will also review the needs assessment report and compare it to past needs assessment reports.
- **Policy, Planning and Procedures**: Chris Kchao reported that the committee continues to discuss getting intake materials on NLS cartridges, researching other state's procurement practices and looking at accessibility issues in future systems.
- **Workforce Development**: Debbie Fiderer welcomed Alan Gallagher to the committee. The Workforce Development committee would like to see the SRC membership increase. Supported employment and cuts in funding were discussed during their meeting.
- **Transition Committee**: The committee did not meet.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

MEETING THREE: June 20 and 21, 2018

Presentation by the Associate Commissioner

Commissioner Brian Daniels kept the SRC well informed of the RSA monitoring, with a final report expected by the fall. Commissioner Daniels also reported on the renewal of the Comprehensive Services Contract (CSC), the release of the Needs Assessment report, and the work of the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC). David Dodge was recognized by Commissioner Daniels and presented with a citation from OCFS Commissioner Sheila Poole.

Other Presentations/Activities

- Blindness and Emergency Preparedness: Steve Taylor, OCFS Emergency Management Coordinator & Julie Hovey, AVRC

Steve Taylor described the many emergency management practices at OCFS including: Emergency Response plans, NY Alert, and tracking anything that can be used in a disaster. He also developed an active shooter

guide and reported that OCFS is a disaster preparedness member. Julie Hovey made the group aware of NYSILC's advocacy work around emergency preparedness. She reported on available disability integration tools available at Disability Recovery Centers (DRC).

- Facilitated Access to Electronic Case Record: Brian S. Daniels Associate Commissioner of NYSCB & Julie Hovey, AVRC

This is a form that will coincide with the VR handbook at intake. It will be a signed document noting the participant's preferred format and that they have the right to request information from their case file.

- Pre-Employment Transition Services (ETS) discussion: Lauren Corp, AVRC

Lauren Corp asked the SRC to review the updated draft Transition policy and provide feedback. RSA monitors reviewed draft of transition policy. She also gave an overview of Pre-ETS services and eligibility.

- Test of Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) Update: Theresa Drum

The 8 volunteers planning to take the TASC were asked to try out the TASC Online Testing Tools site (OTT). In doing so, it was discovered that a built-in screen reader does not exist. A teleconference was held between all parties to discuss and the lack of an integrated screen reader was confirmed. A DRC representative reported that overall, the platform is accessible with JAWS, but were not sure whether the TASC is compatible. An update will be provided in September.

- WIOA update: Sharon Flom, AVRC & Peter Herrig AVRC

Sharon Flom reported about the Training and Assistance Workgroup. The Release and Referral form is close to completion and covers all areas of confidentiality. Peter Herrig discussed the accessibility initiative with Career Centers and uniform equipment in all 96 centers. All 33 workforce development areas have completed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process, which have been approved and signed. Lauren Corp also mentioned that there is now a youth work group.

Committee Work

- **Quality Assurance**: There were no members present at the meeting, but spoke by telephone in June about a proposed schedule to complete Quality Assurance reviews by December 2018 and review ATC/CSC together starting in 2019.
- **Policy, Planning and Procedures**: Members were waiting for the entire committee to be present so they can discuss the changes to the VRC handbook and to make sure it will mesh with the latest information presented by Julie Hovey and Mr. Daniels. Next topic will be the Transition Policy and how to make changes related to WIOA work group and changes according to the district offices.
- **Workforce Development**: Debbie Fiderer stated there were potential members for SRC and that they are still "in process" with the Governor's Office of Appointments. Supported Employment continues to be a topic of interest.
- **Transition Committee** will submit feedback by 6/28/18 on Pre-ETS. They discussed ways and/or techniques on how to promote BEP, hoping to have transition coordinator present at next meeting and TASC.

Public Comments

Commissioner Daniels stated that NYSCB is committed to two town forums in the Fall: American Council of the Blind of New York Convention, and National Federation of the Blind of New York Convention, both of which will be held in October.

MEETING FOUR: September 26 and 27, 2018

Presentation by the Associate Commissioner

Commissioner Daniels updated the SRC on RSA monitoring of NYSCB and ACCES-VR. ACCES-VR has received a report from RSA but NYSCB is still working with RSA. NYSCB was awarded more than \$5 million less than the prior year, though this is not expected to directly impact services. The State Committee of Blind Vendors met with Business Enterprise Program licensed managers and NYSCB staff from every district field office. Commissioner Daniels also reported on two upcoming open forums happening in October at the American Council of the Blind's state convention, and the National Federation of the Blind's convention. Commissioner Daniels reported NYSCB has spoken with AmeriCorps to develop a mentoring program and SRC members provided feedback on mentoring programs. Finally, Commissioner Daniels expressed his preference that the SRC dissolve the quality assurance (QA) committee as those issues could be discussed with the full council. Instead, he proposed the creation of an Accessibility committee. After extensive discussion, an Accessibility committee was voted on and approved. The goals of that committee would be helping NYSCB with support on accessibility issues, procurements, etc. The QA Committee remains.

Other Presentations/Activities

- Chair's comments: Meghan Parker

Chair Parker began the meeting with comments regarding her experience at the NYSCB 2018 Vision Rehabilitation Institute (VRI). Chair Parker also recommended revising the bylaws: "The two-term limit does *not* apply to the Client Assistance Program (CAP) or the American Indian VR program representatives". The SRC approved the new addition to the bylaws. It will be added to the bylaws.

- TASC Updates: Meghan Parker, Chair & Brian S. Daniels, Associate Commissioner, NYSCB & SRC: The screen reader developed was not intended for visually impaired people. They are moving forward with testing with large print and braille. There are currently 5 or 6 individuals scheduled in October to test those modes. The application is not accessible, however, it is available in word form.
- Tim Jones from NYSED attended this session of the SRC meeting. He informed the group that at their Quarterly Cabinet Meeting with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), issues with accessibility of the TASC were discussed. DRC is working on making the TASC compatible with screen reading software, and are still working on it. A time frame for completion was requested.
- Preparation for joint Executive Board meeting: Meghan Parker, Chair & SRC: The Executive Board will be attending the next SRC meeting in November. It is known that both bodies have similar critical issues and that accessibility issues are sure to be discussed. Karen Gourgey and Meghan will meet beforehand to set the agenda. Committee chairs were asked to submit their goals for the year and there was also some additional conversation about the report.
- WIOA update: Peter Herrig, AVRC & Sharon Flom, AVRC
Peter Herrig reported that by the end of October, all 96 career centers will have accessibility and adaptive equipment, once complete, training for Career Center staff will be next. NYSCB now has access to DOL One Stop Operating System (OSOS) and can enter data into the system. Mr. Herrig also reported on the 14c sub minimum wage initiative. Sharon Flom reported the Release and referral form to be used by career centers and all partners is almost finished and an accessible, fillable form. She also reported on the efforts of the Training and Assistance workgroup.

- **More NYSCB updates:** Nat Beyer, Assistant Commissioner, NYSCB Assistant Commissioner, Nat Beyer, provided updates on the Comprehensive Services Contracts (CSC), which have been renewed, and three additional vendors have been added. He reported on how outcomes and services are changing. Assistant Commissioner Beyer also provided a brief BEP update.
- **Election of Officers:** Nominating Committee Meghan Parker was nominated and elected for Chair with no other nominees. Chris Kchao and Debbie Fiderer were nominated and elected as Co-Vice Chairs.

Committee Work

- **Quality Assurance:** Erica Molina reported that she spoke with Tracy and Julie Hovey about sites they have recently reviewed (NCAVI in July, ABVI, AVRE, Olmsted). Once these are complete, the cycle is done.
- **Policy, Planning and Procedures:** Cliff Perez reported that a form has been sent to District Offices for participants to fill out for their preferred format, meeting one of the goals of the committee for the year.
- **Workforce Development:** Debbie Fiderer reviewed goals from last year. The first goal is supported employment. 17 people statewide are receiving this service. They would like to propose NYSCB to report out to the SRC some of the numbers regarding trainings. Regarding business engagement measures, they would like NYSCB to provide details on this.
- **Transition Committee:** Chris Kchao reported that the committee put out a survey, utilize this data to come up with recommendations to strengthen transition and NYSED coordinators. Use this to determine where things are working well.

Public Comments

None

Planned Goals and Activities for FY2018/2019:

The SRC is scheduled to meet quarterly in FY 2018/19. In addition, the Executive Committee and each of the five standing committees will meet via conference call throughout the year.

The standing committees are: Quality Assurance; Policy, Procedure and Planning; Workforce Development; Transition and Accessibility. Chair Parker will appoint the Chairs and members of each committee and will give each its charge. The Executive Committee will ensure that membership will continue to include qualified, diverse candidates to fill new positions or vacancies on the State Rehabilitation Council.

Below are several goals the Council plans to work on during the next year through its committees and task force, in keeping with its mandated requirements.

Quality Assurance Committee

Goal 1: Review the most recent Consumer Satisfaction Survey and the most recent Needs Assessment and generate recommendations to NYSCB based on their results.

Policy, Procedures, and Planning Committee

Goal 2: Work with NYSCB to make intake materials available on National Library Service (NLS) cartridges. Explore the possibility of including voluntary registration for NLS as part of the intake process for prospective participants who may not already be NLS patrons.

Goal 3: Research other state legislation that provides for the procurement of accessible information and communications technologies. Report back to SRC and NYSCB about potential best practices and strategies

for advocacy.

Workforce Development Committee

Goal 4: Work with NYSCB to develop concrete plans to increase utilization of Supported Employment services for eligible blind and visually impaired job seekers.

Goal 5: Provide feedback and recommendations on training curriculum for DOL workforce center staff to improve efficacy in serving the blind and visually impaired community

Goal 6: Request and review information regarding the Business Engagement Measures required under WIOA and how they are determined

Transition Committee

Goal 7: Identify ways to improve on the dissemination of information about transition-related programs, events, services and other area resources to participants and/or families.

Goal 8: Ensure participants and/or families remain involved and aware throughout the transition process.

Goal 9: Strategize ways to increase the participation of schools in the transition process.

Other Planned Activities in FY 2018/2019

The SRC will participate with NYSCB in revising the combined State Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2018/2019. The participation will include information gathering from its members' respective constituencies.

The SRC will continue to work with NYSCB on the 2018/2019 State Plan and incorporate information obtained at the public forums held at the ACB and NFB state conventions as well as any other public hearings held by NYSCB.

The SRC will continue to support and advise NYSCB in its collaboration with ACCES VR to ensure full accessibility it test preparation and test taking for the high school equivalency test (TASC).

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

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.

The SRC and its committees will collaborate with the ACCES-VR SRC to ensure the implementation of the vocational rehabilitation services goals of the combined State Plan.

In addition, the SRC will work to strengthen 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 Agencies for the Blind.

Finally, the SRC will work with NYSCB to bring about implementation of the various recommendations made by the committees and Council as a whole. Many of the recommendations of the committees overlap with each other 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.