



Florida Rehabilitation Council

Evaluation Committee, Christopher Romero, Chair Teams Meeting Minutes-February 5, 2024

Members on conference line: Christopher Romero, Allison Klein, Darlene Laibl-Crowe, Matt Motko

VR Staff: Roy Cosgrove, Kim Thomas, Libby Moody, Michael Newsome, Terry Hoffman

The following represents a summary of deliberations, advice, comments and motions that comprise this FRC committee meeting.

Call to order-Quorum established

The chair discussed the focus for this committee: 1) Modernizing VR outcomes - A majority of outcomes are in the retail industry and there is concern at how quickly those jobs are either changing or disappearing; 2) Integration of AI – discussion was held on the proper way to move forward, is to embrace AI as it is becoming a job market demand; 3) Increasing the focus on mental health. Past reports have shown that the majority of VR’s participants have a mental health diagnosis so keeping a pulse on that segment of the population is important.

Additional concerns were expressed regarding a need to increase VR support of secondary education, graduate degrees and/or self-employment that could lead to more fulfilling outcomes. The chair suggested a chat bot for the Counselor Policy Manual and the Florida Statutes as they relate to VR, increasing transparency and allowing a better understanding of the services VR is able to provide.

A member discussed her time as a VR participant and said she has seen a great deal of growth in the past few years as VR is continually evolving. Her main concern is the counselors who don’t understand how to deal with individuals with dual impairments. “Self-advocacy is imperative; having that knowledge is extremely important to all, not just youth” She would like to see that area broadened. She would also like to convey that you don’t have to give up on your goals.

Public comment: None

Adjourned