**ACTION ITEM**

**DRAFT**

**MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES**

**3490 Belle Chase Way, Suite 110**

**Lansing, MI 48911**

**517.887.9370 or 877.335.9370**

**Business Meeting Minutes**

**Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP) Training Center - Kalamazoo**

**Tuesday November 17, 2015**

**Members Present:** Ed Benning, Carol Bergquist, Sharon Bryant, Sheryl Diamond, Deanna Middlebrooks, Caryn Pack Ivey, Michael Poyma, Anne Riddering, Zach Tomlinson, Jennipher Wiebold.

**Members Excused:** Suzanne Howell (Department of Health and Human Services – Michigan Rehabilitation Services DHHS-MRS), Adam Kaplan, Ed Rodgers (Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons LARA-BSBP), Brian Sabourin, Mitch Tomlinson.

**Members Absent:** Trina Edmondson, Sara Grivetti.

**Guests Present:** Eleanor Canter, Rodney Craig (Statewide Independent Living Council), Tina Fullerton (DHHS-MRS), Joe Harcz, Sherri Hybeck (LARA-BSBP), Leamon Jones (LARA-BSBP), Lisa Kisiel (LARA-BSBP), Shannon McVoy (LARA-BSBP), Mike Pemble (LARA-BSBP), Larry Posont, David Robinson, Joe Sontag, Star Turner.

**Staff Present:** Marlene Malloy, Shori Teeple.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice Chairperson A. Riddering. Roll call determined that a quorum was present.

**Welcome & Introductions**

A. Riddering welcomed Council members and guests. Introductions were made.

**Agenda**

The draft agenda (November 17, 2015) was reviewed by the membership.

*A motion, made by C. Bergquist and seconded by C. Pack Ivey, was passed to approve the draft agenda as presented.*

**Minutes**

The draft minutes (September 15, 2015) were reviewed by the membership.

*A motion, made by C. Bergquist and seconded by J. Wiebold, was passed to approve the draft minutes as presented.*

**Public Comment**

The public comment statement was read aloud.

Star Turner

Well I’m kind of chasing all over the state to try to find out where I can speak and a little bit of advocating for my son who is 32. He has autism and he’s nonverbal. I’m just here on behalf of a lot of the autistic individuals, who are a lot of men that aren’t being trained to do anything. A lot of them are just being put in group homes and they’re drugged and they end up in a wheelchair. I think we can do a little bit better for them, even if they need someone to help them work, and that’s just what I’m about. I brought, somebody mentioned the last time I was here that the Disability Act of, I think, 1973 hasn’t been touched. Well, I got a copy of it and I’d like to just take a look at it and I’d like other people if they would like to talk about it. That’s my comment.

Joe Sontag

Hello, I’m Joe Sontag and I don’t have a whole lot for public comment, but just a couple of points. Number one, mostly I’m here for the purpose of really getting to know more thoroughly what really happens around here. I have attended a few meetings in the past, a little bit rustier lately; I’m working toward getting up to speed. I’m going to be paying attention generally to what’s going on, particularly to the matter of obtaining meaningful information about what is really happening with BSBP. That is an old theme, someone might argue with me that it’s a worn (?) thing. Worn (?) or not, it’s a very relevant theme nowadays. I, speaking personally, don’t know much more now than I did 5 years ago, even 10 years ago, relatively speaking to what’s going on in the Commission, or the new Bureau. If anything, it’s gone from bad to worse. When you have to pay $600 to investigate the relevance of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, or in my case maybe $1200. I know an individual who was asked to pay in excess of $745,000, and I don’t hesitate to make than an issue because it’s literally ridiculous. That’s the kind of thing I’ll be looking at, among other things. The second thing I would like to mention is that I was one of a number of people who was invited to the September 17th, 2015 ADA (Americans with Disabilities) celebration. Unlike most of the people who were invited, however, I and a certain number of other people were barred from participating. On that day, I was looking forward to maybe carrying a sign, maybe not carrying a sign, but I decided that my goal was to listen and to find out kind of what other people were feeling and express a few feelings that I had. For example, 25 years of the ADA, it’s a great law, and in spite what Penn and Teller would tell you, it’s a great law, but in Michigan there is precious little evidence that it’s been implemented, anywhere. The state capitol has no signage, whatever, not large print not braille not anything, and that’s the kind of thing that’s very easy to deal with and should have been dealt with back in 1992. Instead, I and a number of others were blocked out. The only way we were able to make any kind of impression at all was to protest. I didn’t plan on a protest, but that’s what happened and I will just say that I will be continuing to work on that one as well, perhaps even with more vigor, and sooner than later there will be an accounting. Thank you very much

Joe Harcz

Today is the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disability Education Act, another fundamental landmark civil rights law that is uniformly violated, just as the Americans with Disabilities Act is violated. Just as everyone, every partner in this room, has violated the civil rights of people with disabilities. As Mr. Sontag just alluded to, I was one of the people that was armed with public information, pamphlets, literature to distribute about the lack of compliance with the ADA, about the ongoing violations of the ADA, and about the hideous civil rights violations of people with disabilities in sheltered workshops at sub-minimum wage. This council, ladies and gentlemen, under the Rehab Act is supposed to be independent, autonomous and consumer driven, and yet it is not. It is run by MARO and the DSUs (designated state units). The conflicts of interest are prevalent. The funding comes from BSBP and MRS, fully federally funded to MARO, which operates this operation, in which Mitch Tomlinson and Ms. Bergquist are both board members of. Now, don’t tell me that’s not a conflict of interest, and both in receipt of federal funds from the DSUs, major contracts. And also, I’m sorry that Mr. Sabourin isn’t here, I was kind of wondering how our CAP (Client Assistance Program) complaints are going. BSBP has never sent me anything in accessible format in a timely manner, and in a timely manner is very important by the way, you know that means real time, that doesn’t mean months later, which by the way, I did get my advocate to get my braille copy of my complete fraudulent written file, in braille, oh, 9 months after I requested it and 9 months after my so called FOIA administrative review, which was a phone call saying we didn’t find anything wrong. Look, the fox is running the hen house here ladies and gentlemen. This is a corrupt operation. The DSUs are corrupt operations. They have been documented to be so. I’m sorry Mr. Tomlinson isn’t here today because he’s really been pretty much exposed in WikiLeaks entries on all the violations by Source America, which by the way was one of the things that protesters were protesting against, to public officials ladies and gentlemen, on the state capitol grounds, which is the most precious, public forum for first amendment rights ever put into that first amendment. People with disabilities, including myself by the way, have first amendment rights. You folks, you folks, were party in violating those, and I mean that. You funded that operation, you’re state actors, and you all stood idly by, while 20 people with disabilities were put upon at the direction of state actors, by people with disabilities for even handing out leaflets, which exposed, by the way, the major civil rights violations that have been ongoing and the major corruption that riddles this state to major political actors, including, by the way, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights itself, which is supposed to be defending our civil rights, and actors therein, members of the Statewide Independent Living Council, including its Chair, and by the way the person who is absent from this board and is another conflict of interest, is a public official, and I remind you ladies and gentlemen, I remind you, you all are public officials for public employees. You are answerable to the public. You are not answerable, Mr. Poyma, as we had a discussion a long time ago, to the governor. You don’t work for the governor. You work for we the people, and we the people with disabilities. Thank you.

David Robinson

My name is David Robinson and I too was one of the people trying to distribute pamphlets on September 17th. I don’t want to reiterate everything that Joe said, but I agree with everything that Joe said, and there is definitely a level of responsibility that you ladies and gentlemen have as far as sitting on the state rehabilitation council to us as disabled people. I think a lot of it is due to the problem that you have in terms of dealing with people with disabilities, and it’s demonstrated throughout the various programs that DSUs and private agencies put on as far as what they provide for people with disabilities. The laws in this country are designed so that they will provide an equal opportunity and equal treatment for people with disabilities, so that’s what the law is for. The ADA, the Rehabilitation Act and other laws that protect us as disabled people. You, as appointed officials, have an obligation to adhere to those laws, and yet, it seems as though you act in a way that allows you to make the money and us as disabled people to be disrespected. We fought for these laws so that we can achieve a level of equality and respect in our society, and we expect that to happen. If you don’t want that to happen, and if you think that disabled people are less of a human being in our society and should remain second class people in our society, then you need to step aside, you need to go away, you need to be somewhere else other than representing services that provide rehabilitation services to blind people or to disabled people. We don’t need you here, we don’t even want you here, and if you decide to leave, then that would be good for us because we’re going to be here we’re going to fight for what we believe in and fight for our rights, and if we have to walk over you, step over you, or push you aside, we will do that very thing. So, take your attitude, take your money, take your perspective on who disabled people are and leave us alone. We’ll make our lives better, we’ll make our lives better for ourselves, we don’t need you to put up barriers. Thank you.

Eleanor Canter

First, shout out to my girl Sara Grivetti for negligence and inattention to independent living philosophy is the reason you have the pleasure of our company today. As a citizen with a significant disability, I have serious concerns about the sheltered, segregated work environments and sub minimum wages provided by Peckham and other MARO members. Unlike other states where sheltered work is winding down, this outdated and discriminatory practice is actually ramping up in the state of Michigan. Sheltered work and deviated wage are disability based employment discrimination, plain and simple. These practices violate the Americans with Disabilities Act and cannot be allowed to continue. Even more alarming, from my perspective, is the way MARO has aggressively overtaken over the agencies and organizations that are taxed with defending the civil rights of Michiganders with disabilities. Unintelligible comments/poor connection. …who has ever worked in a sheltered workshop for a deviated or sub minimum wage. I very much fear that decisions that affect the freedom of my brothers and sisters in the disability community are being made by professionals that have no experience as people with significant disabilities. MARO’s infectious greed has taken over the Michigan Rehabilitation Council, the Statewide Independent Living Council, Michigan Protection and Advocacy, and many of our centers for independent living. Centers for independent living are not supposed to be working with sheltered work providers. These incestuous relationships are depriving Michiganders with disabilities of our right to design the services that are delivered to us, while executives line their pockets by exploiting our community. Thank you.

**Executive Team (ET) Report**

One redacted MRS Hearings Report was reviewed by the membership. Overviews were provided for Council member and staff attendance at recent conferences, including the 2-day National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) training sessions in Seattle and re:con the Convention of New Beginnings in Traverse City. C. Bergquist shared about her experiences with attending re:con, which included a pre-conference option on Wednesday, shorter 1-hour sessions during the rest of a 1 ½ day conference, and panel presentations that differed from previous years. One of the pre-conference sessions featured 4 MARO members who collaborated with consultants and federal agencies on a grant associated with the Employment First initiative, which is a huge, cutting edge positive systems change. M. Poyma was acknowledged for his outstanding session about Veterans and their personal experiences. Sessions were attended and the MCRS exhibit was managed by members and staff. The council was a sponsor for the event, with staff assisting during registration and facilitating two sessions.

A Bylaws Work Team is being formed to manage updates needed for the bylaws.

A. Riddering shared about her experiences in attending the ADA Celebration at the Capitol on September 17th, as well as the success of the Council’s first involvement with hosting BSBP’s Honor Roll Awards event in October. Highlights were also shared about the Council’s hosting of the 7th annual MRS Champion Awards event, which also took place in October and was well attended by numerous legislators and their staff. Both events were emceed by Chairperson B. Sabourin. Success stories were shared by nominators and customers, employers, business partners, and staff who received awards for their outstanding efforts to find, maintain, and help facilitate employment with/for individuals with disabilities statewide.

The ET will hold a strategic planning session in early December to review, update and manage the upcoming work of the Council.

The proposed final ET minutes for August 25, 2015 were reviewed.

*A motion, made by M. Poyma and seconded by D. Middlebrooks, was passed to accept and place on file the final ET minutes as presented.*

**Financial Operations**

An overview was provided for the Council’s current financial status. With FY 2015 ending on September 30, 2015, approximately $24,000+ was returned to the DSUs (nearly $20,000 returned to MRS and close to $5,000 returned to BSBP). Staff has met with MARO to discuss year-end issues, including line items related to funds for focus groups. For FY 2016, the Council currently has a 12-month budget from BSBP and a 6-month budget from MRS, with hopes that it will be extended through the last 6 months.

MARO serves as the fiscal agent and employer of record for the MCRS. MARO also has an organizational agreement with the Council, which details what the employer of record responsibilities include. While MARO has grants with both DSUs with which to pass money through to operationalize the Council, MARO has no involvement with the Council’s daily business operations or management of staff.

Members reviewed the financial statements for August and September 2015.

*A motion, made by E. Benning and seconded by C. Bergquist, was passed to accept and place on file the financial statements for August and September 2015 as presented.*

**Other ET Business**

*Managing DSU Data Reports*

Members discussed ways to manage education and interpretation of data reports as they are received quarterly from both DSUs. There was agreement for staff from DSUs to be identified and invited to speak to the membership at future MCRS meetings about the reports. The MCRS Staff will work with the DSU staff to determine a template for future data reporting.

*BSBP State Plan and Attachment 4.2(c) Management*

Members discussed ways to manage review and support of the final draft of BSBP’s State Plan and the Council’s Attachment 4.2. A suggestion was made and supported for the ET to review the State Plan and Attachment 4.2 and send it to the membership for comment, with a vote for support by email.

*January 2016 Business Meeting*

Members discussed the opportunity to change the January 19th business meeting from a full-day in-person meeting to a 2-hour teleconference meeting. With consideration for the weather at that time of the year, there was agreement that a shorter teleconference meeting would be beneficial.

*A motion, made by C. Bergquist and seconded by M. Poyma, was passed to approve changing the MCRS January 19, 2016 business meeting to a 2-hour teleconference meeting, as presented.*

**Customer Service System Issues**

*Client Assistance Program (CAP)*

A written report was included in meeting packets.

*DHHS-MRS Administrative Hearings Reports*

Written reports for the end of FY 2015 and beginning of FY 2016 were included in meeting packets.

**Partner Reports**

A written SILC report was included in meeting packets.

**Update - Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs – Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (LARA-BSBP): Lisa Kisiel, Acting Director, BSBP Rehabilitation Services Division and Mike Pemble, BSBP Deputy Director**

Thanks were extended to the Council for having its business meeting at the BSBP Training Center, with a tour of the Center to take place at the end of the meeting.

An overview was provided for the history and location of BSBP, as well as their partnership in working with the Western Michigan University College of Health and Human Services, which is where the Blindness and Low Vision Studies Department is located.

As a result of retirements, BSBP is currently working to fill some staff vacancies in Escanaba and Kalamazoo, with some positions recently filled at the Training Center.

For FY 2015, BSBP completed 181 competitive, integrated closures. This number is an increase of 20-25 from the previous year.

BSBP is working on its State Plan for FY 2017-2020, with a draft copy already provided to the Council for review and comment. Staff continues to work with the Unified State Plan Committee to make assurances that new WIOA requirements are accounted for. Thanks were extended to BSBP managers and division directors and everyone in the bureau who has contributed time, effort and energy to contribute to development of the State Plan. Thanks were also extended to S. Teeple and B. Sabourin from the Council for their attendance at and contributions to the State Plan meetings. BSBP really appreciates the Client Assistance Program and the assistance and services they provide.

New WIOA requirements for qualified rehabilitation counselors were discussed, along with BSBP’s ongoing commitment to hiring applicants with master’s degrees in rehabilitation counseling.

BSBP continues to attend Prosperity Meetings in line with the Governor’s initiative to connect with employers around the state. The Michigan Works! Conference has been attended, along with BSBP presence at the Lt. Governor’s Hidden Talent Tours and Governor’s Summit.

In terms of case management, BSBP is looking at revising its comprehensive assessment of rehabilitation needs. Accessible assessments, along with a document or tool, will be developed that will be used consistently across the state so that similar information is assessed and generated for consumers.

**Public Comment**

The public comment statement was read aloud.

Larry Posont

My name is Larry Posont, President of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Michigan. I want to point out a couple things from this morning’s public comment real quickly. It’s perceived and understood clearly in the blind, and probably in the disability, community what the makeup of this council is. It’s not consumer oriented, it’s not driven consumer, and when you have no consumer input or very little consumer input, you will have a lack of services. When I listened to this morning’s dialogue, everything was, the talking, it looked to me like at the national level and at the state plan level of merging your state plans, the MRS general agency and the BSBP agency together, is a merger of the agency. Blind citizens will not be serviced well in an agency that’s merged except a separate agency. It’s been proven, there’s facts, all the facts are there. The truth is we need to invest in our clients, but we need to invest in our staff in training. I believe what’s gonna happen is the merger will happen with MRS and the blind community will be downgraded at services in this state. Let’s understand it clearly: if you’re blind, black and poor in Michigan, you don’t get services. This Council has to understand that. You don’t want to hear that, but I’m going to tell you, that as the president of the NFB of Michigan, I get phone calls all the time and the majority of them are from blind, black, poor people living in Detroit that get zero services, and I mean zero. They get some, but they don’t get enough. I had last week a person in their thirties that lost their sight approximately 5 years ago. She went to a training center for a short time, she had some computer, she had some Braille, but she’s been sitting 3 years to do her next step in her rehabilitation. That’s not acceptable. That’s not acceptable and I’m trying to make her the best advocate for herself, because if I get involved in it, guess what happens, the agency will do nothing. But I’m trying to make her the best advocate for herself, and the advocacy? Zero in Michigan, zero. You don’t want to face it, because most of you around this table are being paid by the tax dollars. We, the blind, are facing it. Let’s face it, it used to be said ‘welfare to work’. We call it ‘work to welfare’ now. For reception in this state to clients is you can get the minimum training and then you’re done. Coming to this training center for 10 weeks is not acceptable, from our point of view. It shows that if you get into a training program, an extensive training program with the extensive staff being trained properly on blindness, it takes 8-12 months. We got the facts and we got the figures. I came back through the residential school in the 70s and I can tell you, I can show you blind people are in and out of the schools for the blind in the 70s that moved to work. I don’t know 5 people who are working under 30 years old today, and I run into a lot of blind people. Think of that: 5 people under 30 I don’t know. You know what’s happening? Listen to this one: at Eastern Michigan University, this semester, there was one person applying for an undergraduate training in teaching the blind in the VI (visually impaired) program. One: it was my daughter, and that’s what they have. We’re not even bringing people into the field to teach our children. I understand, and I don’t got this for fact, but I think it’s pretty correct: after the graduate at Michigan State graduates this semester, they have 40 students roughly at Michigan State who are legally blind and not a one will read Braille. That tells us a lot. That Braille is my pencil and my paper that you, the sighted people, use. That Braille is not gonna have the skills. How many of those 40 people, even if they use computers, how many of those 40 people are gonna be competitively employed in 5 years. No one’s gonna be willing to look at that, because guess what, the blind people get off the charts and they don’t keep track of what’s happening in the past or in the future. The truth is, rehabilitation has failed blind people in the state and a separate agency for the blind is the only way it’s gonna work. Training of the staff will bring staff long term, it’s gonna take time. We said this years ago, it’s gonna take time to get proper staff and to train them properly about the attitudes and the beliefs of blindness, and guess what, it works. When you do it right, it works at the other end, for states that will make it work. So, if you’re blind, black and poor, you don’t get services in Michigan. Thank you.

(Eleanor Canter started to make a second public comment, but was reminded of the Council’s policy of one public comment per individual for each meeting.)

**Report of the Executive Director (ED): M. Malloy**

A written staff report was included in meeting packets. Highlights were shared from the NCSRC sessions in Seattle, which included 50 attendees. While Chairperson B. Sabourin was unable to attend, M. Malloy was in attendance and co-facilitated the sessions with other NCSRC Board members. In addition to SRC 101 activities, the most recent Institute for Rehabilitation Issues publication was discussed, which focuses on return on investment for public vocational rehabilitation. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Commissioner spoke in support of state rehabilitation councils (SRCs) and shared updates about the regulations and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; Kathy West-Evans from the Council of Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation spoke to attendees about working with their DSUs to encourage them to enhance their services to business and employers.

**Advisory Work Team Reports**

A highlights document for work teams was included in meeting packets

*Customer Experience (CE) – M. Poyma (Chair)*

The work team has had further discussion about the pilot MRS customer focus group in Lansing, including input, summaries and outcomes from the information, which will be incorporated into a draft report to MRS. The proposed final CE minutes for July 8, 2015 and September 15, 2015 were reviewed.

*A motion, made by A. Riddering and seconded by D. Middlebrooks, was passed to accept and place on file the final CE minutes as presented.*

*Regulatory Guidance (RG) - A. Riddering (Chair)*

The work team has been working on the State Plans and FY 2015 Annual Report, with additional discussion about the BSBP Customer Satisfaction Survey project. The proposed final RG minutes for July 8, 2015 and notes for August 18, 2015 were reviewed.

*A motion, made by J. Wiebold and seconded by S. Bryant, was passed to accept and place on file the final RG minutes and notes as presented.*

*Nominations - A. Riddering (Chair)*

The Nominations Work Team met one time on September 11th to manage the needs of the ET election that took place at the September 15th business meeting. The proposed draft Nominations minutes for September 11, 2015 were reviewed.

*A motion, made by S. Bryant and seconded by C. Bergquist, was passed to approve the draft Nominations minutes as presented.*

**Update - Department of Health and Human Services – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (DHHS-MRS): Tina Fullerton, Division Director**

*Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*

Christine Quinn from the Workforce Program has taken a federal position and Stephanie Beckhorn has stepped in. MRS continues to work closely with them and other partners regarding WIOA.

MRS sent 3 staff to the conference in Seattle for the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. It was noted that Michigan seems to be ahead of other states with regard to Workforce and VR working together on WIOA requirements, whereas other states/territories are waiting for the regulations to be published.

With regard to pre-employment transition services and new requirements in WIOA, MRS is able to track this information any dollars spent on those services. Transition counselors submit monthly activity reports that account for their time, and all districts have been provided targeted goals they should be working toward, with monthly reports provided back to them detailing their progress toward meeting their goals.

*Review of Quarterly MRS Data*

It was discussed that MRS would like to work with the Council, along with BSBP, to create a template for quarterly DSU data to be assembled so that it relays the pertinent DSU information for the Council’s review.

*Performance*

MRS’ rehabilitation goal for FY 2015 was 6,695, which was missed by about 41 rehabs. With many new counselors hired and trained within the last year, the rehab goal has been increased for FY 2016 to 6,800. The RSA 113 Report was highlighted.

The adjusted rehab rate was discussed, noting that while MRS has struggled in the past to meet this criteria, the rehab rate was not only met but exceeded in FY 2014 and 2015. The adjusted rehab rate reflects those customers who go to work after the initiation of their individual plan for employment (IPE). This is likely due to motivational interviewing and other initiatives that have been put into place.

*Staffing*

The RAM (Resource Allocation Model) Report was reviewed for counselor and other staffing statistics.

*Budget*

The budget forms were reviewed, including overviews of funding sources, federal allotments, amounts relinquished last year, expected amounts to be relinquished at the end of this year, spending projections, and year-end expenditures. For FY 2015, MRS relinquished 6.7 million, with a maintenance of effort penalty of 3.4 million. Neither affected MRS since they were unable to match those funds. The original allotment was 93 million; following money returned, final allotment was 83 million. FY 2016 is 101 million, with 27 million required for match. MRS anticipates that it will be able to match approximately 25 million. In response to a question about where the Council’s funding comes from in the MRS budget, it was stated that the Council’s funding is considered a grant, which along with other grants, comes off the top of the budget before it is used for Title I purposes.

*Special Projects*

With supplemental money received from DHHS, MRS was charged with finding their own match sources through for specific purposes. The following special projects were described: Swift and Sure, Pathways to Potential, Mental Health and Wellness Commission, Department of Natural Resources Work Experience Program, contracts with Centers for Independent Living, export into communities of services provided through the Michigan Career and Technical Institute, and others.

**MCRS Reports on Designated State Unit Work Team Involvement**

*MRS Marketing - M. Malloy*

The Marketing Team’s focus has been on the Champion Awards event.

*State Plan - M. Malloy*

The State Plan process with MRS has been completed. The process for the BSBP State Plan is nearly completed. It was noted that with both DSUs working on their State Plans during different timeframes, this made it easier for the Council to focus on them separately in order to complete its work. BSBP staff also emphasized that both State Plans were facilitated separately because they are separate DSUs and intend to remain separate DSUs. BSBP and MRS are now federally required to work together based on the new WIOA requirement for a Unified State Plan, combining Workforce State Plans; however, this requirement does not include any intentions of combining the separate DSUs into one agency.

*MRS Policy Cadre - S. Bryant*

An in-person Policy Cadre meeting is taking place on this day. Discussion will include finalizing policies related to eligibility and IPE changes due to WIOA requirements, and other topics related to receipts and vehicle modifications. The College Training Policy will also be revisited.

**Adjournment**

There was no further business for discussion.

*A motion, made by C. Bergquist and seconded by S. Bryant, was passed to adjourn the meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**BSBP Training Center Tour**

Following adjournment, members and guests took part in a guided tour of the BSBP Training Center.

***NEXT BUSINESS MEETING:***

***Tuesday January 19, 2016***

***9:30 - 11:30 a.m.***

***Teleconference***