The **Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)** is a group of individuals, most of whom have disabilities, appointed by the Governor to work on behalf of people with disabilities by serving as a source of advice, information, and support for the Commonwealth's Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services vocational rehabilitation and supported employment programs. The SRC constantly is searching for ways to communicate with DARS consumers, other people with disabilities, and those who support them.

https://sp.wwrc.net/wwrcInfo/SitePages/Home.aspx

Just renewed my seat and representation for Deaf in Virginia and VAD for another 3 years. VAD needs to consider who will replace me in 2023 after going thru extensive background check application. Each representation for VAD can serve up to two terms: each term is 3 years long.

SRC meets 4x a year with one retreat (2 days) a year. Due to COVID-19, our last in-person meeting was March 16, 2020 held at DARS office in Richmond. Since then SRC has met online, and keeps their Zoom meeting for SRC members, and simultaneously live stream the SRC meeting in real time on YouTube open to public. ASL interpreters are pinned for easier access and there is captioning.

Besides me, there is one other Deaf person and one Coda/Goda, and the majority of our SRC members are people with disabilities. DARS had a major financial cut back via the government, and yet has remain strong with DARS Commissioner Kathy Hayfield's lead.

DARS serves two population:
Potentially Eligible Clients (Students with Disabilities who require pre-employment services (Pre-ETS)
Vocational Rehabilitation Clients (have applied and been determined eligible for services)

Currently serving 17,352 Clients (both populations)- 146 are on the waitlist (last year DARS had 2,704 on the waitlist. Breakdown to each population of Pre-EST (4,311) clients, and VR (12,895) clients.

Primary Impairment of Clients served in FFY 2020 breakdown:
Cognitive/Other (almost 50%) (Memory/reasoning/autism/adhd/TBI
Psychosocial (around 30%) (Anxiety, personality disorders, compulsive disorders)
Physical/Respiratory 8%
Ortho/Neuro/Mobility 4%
Deaf/Hearing 4%
Communicative Impairments 1%
Blind/Vision 0.6%
*DeafBlind are counted with Deaf category

Severity of the disability of clients determined eligible by DARS as increased. Decrease in the number of clients determined ineligible. In the past DARS would not accept for services (some clients have as many as 7 documented disabilities).

In FFY2020 DARS achieved 73% of the statewide yearly goal of 3,015 and 4 offices met their employment goals (Culpeper, Franklin, Pounding Mill and Wytheville)

Median hourly wage at closure of Client's case was $10.25 (up 25 cents from FFY19).

In StateFY2020 DARS spent $15.3 million on clients. This is $1.8 million less than 2019. Reason is Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (Formerly known as Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center) closed for a while then opened in September on a limited basis.

DARS at have agreed to start assessing Deaf and Hard of hearing people's English literacy (via Woodcock-Munoz Language assessments) so that we have some tracking on language skills of our people.

SRC's next meeting is the annual 2-day retreat held on November 16 and 23, 2020 via Zoom/YouTube and their minutes are available online https://va-src.org/default.htm#meetings.

Submitted
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