

## South Dakota RehabACTion Annual Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2010

Via DDN

1. **Call to Order:** Eric Weiss- lunch provided at meeting by RehabACTion. Thanks to site coordinators in handling local arrangements.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Eric Weiss -Bernie to make motion to approve last year's annual meeting minutes. Sara Kumpf seconded. All approved. Those minutes posted out on the RehabACTion website, which is [www.sdrehabaction.org](http://www.sdrehabaction.org).
3. **South Dakota Legislative Update:** Shelly Pfaff- Big issues are School for the Deaf, funding related to TRS. Budgets for IL and DRS faired ok and better than some. Board of Regents suffered. Could be some adjusting of budget if federal approval of more Medicaid funds. Disability Advocacy Network hosted a disability policy summit. Invited advocates of people with disabilities. Had over 20 advocacy groups represented. Encouragement from summit for advocacy groups to work together. Video conferences during session identifying key people to get more information from. Coalition to draft document fact sheet or letter to send out to network members when they get a position on an action to take place. No date set yet for disability policy session for 2011. Unsure how new leadership will lead and view things for next legislature. Some concerns with healthcare reform. Trying to get solid information out there about this. Grady thanked Shelly and SDCCD for their work in legislative process on behalf of people with disabilities. He asked Shelly to bring compliments back to the Board of Directors. Grady likes to receive updates of status of bills going through the process.
4. **National Legislative Update:** Grady Kickul- Grady pleased VR in SD got COLA increase in case services of \$368,000. Thanks Governor and legislature for that. There were four department bills this session. One in DRS, HB 1028 which was well received and passed both houses without dissent and signed by the governor to improve interpreter certification in SD. Nine years overdue of RehabACT. Other pieces of legislation keep pushing reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act back because of other bills that have greater impact, and delay things. Predictions that WIA will be taken up now that healthcare reform has been completed. Senate willing to look at most recent version of reauthorization from past legislative session and moving that forward but House of Representatives is discussing starting over. Grady would be surprised if WIA passes this year or next year. Some positive movement nationally. We have a new RSA Commissioner (haven't had one for 4 years or more). Fred Schroeder was last appointed commissioner of RSA. Without authority of commissioner, a federal agency tends to not make much progress. Renae Ruttledge, former state VR Director out of Washington State knows Rehab, and was appointed as the new Commissioner. DRS state office staff are going to meet with Renae Ruttledge and Carl Suter, CSAVR, in Colorado in May to share rural Midwest Rehab. Her initial goals when appointed: increase visibility of RSA, increase employment of people with disabilities by working with state VR agencies, partner with state agencies and CSAVR to draft an American journal to celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of public VR in America.
5. **Membership Report:** Bernie Grimme- If interested in being members, can go to website, find list of current members, board members, and application form to join RehabACTion. Cost is \$35 for membership. Have 88 members currently. Send check to SD RehabAction. Thanks to Sara Kumpf who set up the new web site, which will soon be able to take membership funds through the website.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Bernie Grimme-Handouts available. Reviewed summary. CD interest rate has decreased so Bernie to check into other banks for their CD interest rates. This can also be found on the website. There will be a monthly website fee. Grady moves to accept Treasurer's report. Sara seconded. All approved.
7. **Certification Awards for RehabACTion Members:** Bernie Grimme- Some RehabACTion members have been certified. Awards sent out by mail. Two people in Yankton office, Jennifer Trenhaile and Chad Kollars got certification. One in Aberdeen office, Ann Fortin obtained certification. Congratulations!
8. **Highlights of Board-SD** rehabACTion affiliated with National rehab, but no longer collecting dues from state organizations or funding lobbyist to promote public VR on a National level. Board will meet to discuss SD RehabACTion's relationship with the American RehabACTion Network and our annual dues. This year is the second time we've done our annual meeting by video conference. Will talk about moving this annual meeting to be in conjunction with fall conference, possibly beginning Fall 2011 conference. Eric reviewed a list of events/activities RehabACTion was involved with in the past year.
9. **Passing of the Gavel Ceremony:** Eric Weiss & Dawn Backer- Dawn Backer voted in as President Elect. Eric passed the gavel (via video) to Dawn Backer. Bernie presented to Eric as outgoing president a leadership framed print.
10. **Election:** Dawn Backer – Dawn announced slate of people to be officers. Members will get an email and the ballot will be in the body of the email. It needs to be emailed back to Dawn Backer. Don't hit reply as it will go back to Bernie.
11. **Old Business:** Dawn Backer – None.
12. **New Business:** Dawn Backer – Dawn thanked Sara Kumpf for the new website. Grady thanked RehabACTion for the pizza.
13. **Adjournment:** Jane Williams made a motion to adjourn, Ardell Fiedler seconded the motion to adjourn.