



# New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

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Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

## **POLICY RESOLUTION: SETC #2016-08**

**SUBJECT:** The relationship between the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) and the State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) for both the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) and Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI).

### **Purpose**

It is recommended that both the State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) be recognized as the disability advisory and policy development entities for the SETC. The two SRCs are able to provide the SETC with expertise, advocacy and data when necessary, as it pertains to disability employment and workforce related issues that will impact New Jersey's public workforce system.

### **Background**

Under WIOA, State and Local Workforce Development Boards are encouraged to establish and maintain a standing committee that focuses on all the development of policies, planning, and performance for individuals with disabilities in New Jersey's public workforce system. The SETC first established a disabilities issues committee in 2001. In 2008, the SETC's Disabilities Issues Committee was rebranded as the Discoverability Committee. The committee's work focused on a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant that had various policy-related initiatives, however the work of the committee became more operational in nature and was less focused on policy development and advisory roles.

The two State Rehabilitation Councils (SRCs) were established in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Governor appoints the members of the SRCs. The SRCs give advice to, and work in partnership with, DVRS and CBVI. The two SRCs assist their respective agencies with the development of state goals and priorities, and evaluate the effectiveness of Vocational Rehabilitation programs. The SRCs are a partnership of individuals with disabilities, community-based organizations, state government agencies, advocates, employers and other interested persons. They are committed to ensuring through policy development, implementation and advocacy that New Jersey has rehabilitation programs that are not only comprehensive and consumer-responsive but also effective, efficient and significantly funded. The SRCs are dedicated to ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive rehabilitation services that result in employment. The SRCs are performing many of the functions that the SETC Disability Issues Committee was tasked with providing for the SETC in the past.

The SRCs will provide the SETC with information as it pertains to the needs, wants, and barriers facing individuals with disabilities who are served by Vocational Rehabilitation programs within New Jersey's public workforce system. The SRCs are qualified to perform this function for the following reasons:



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- Each SRC contains members who have the expertise and depth of knowledge to appropriately inform the SETC on the policy needs of individuals with disabilities.
- The SRCs conduct extensive statewide needs assessments of their customers, employees and employers, as well as ongoing customer satisfaction surveys.
- The SRCs provide oversight of programs and services for their respective state agencies.
- Each SRC has the necessary data that will help the SETC in making policy decisions that will further advance the opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

## **Process**

As appropriate, the chairs of the DVRS and CBVI State Rehabilitation Councils will present information, reports, and policy recommendations to the SETC for its consideration. Agenda items will be considered at the discretion of the SETC Chairperson.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**The State Employment and Training Commission hereby recognizes the DVRS and CBVI State Rehabilitation Councils as the entities which will provide disability expertise, policy recommendations and information to the SETC in order to improve New Jersey's public workforce system and its services to individuals with disabilities.**

**Commission Approved: January 19, 2016**