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Congress finds that--  
(1) millions of Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities and the number of Americans with such disabilities is increasing;  
(2) individuals with disabilities constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in society;  
(3) disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to--  
(A) live independently; (B) enjoy self-determination; (C) make choices; (D) contribute to society; (E) pursue meaningful careers; and (F) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society;  
(4) increased employment of individuals with disabilities can be achieved through implementation of statewide workforce investment

## The Public Mandate: A Federal Overview

### Module 4: The Role of SRCs

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## Role of the SRC

- Voice of Consumers, Stakeholders
  - Advocates for VR
  - Works in Partnership with Agency
  - Common Goal - Maximizing employment and independent living

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## Geoff Peterson



SRC Chair  
Colorado Division of  
Vocational Rehabilitation

Director  
Legal Center for People with  
Disabilities & Older People  
Grand Junction, Colorado



Click Icon to play sound

The Legal Center  
for People with Disabilities and Older People



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- Section 105 of Rehab Act
  - At least 15 members
    - Majority with disabilities
    - Cross section of stakeholders
      - People with Disabilities
      - Related Service Agencies
      - Disability Advocates
      - Community Business People
  - May be a Separate SRC for Blind Agencies

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## Tina Treasure



Member  
SRC, Oregon Office of VR  
Services

Executive Director  
Oregon State Independent  
Living Council  
Salem, Oregon



Oregon Department of Human Services  
Vocational rehabilitation



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- At Least 4 Meetings per Year
  - Review, evaluate agency activities
  - Evaluate agency services, outcomes, policies, reports, etc.
  - Help agency judge its performance
- State Agency Must Consult SRC on Policy & Procedure Changes
  - SRC Feedback is Sometimes Challenging

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## Frank Lloyd



Director  
Nebraska Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
Lincoln, Nebraska



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- Helps Develop Agency Performance Goals, Priorities
  - Review of progress at end of year
- Help Agency Amend State Plan
  - Agency submits Plan, SRC comments, & response to SRC comments to RSA

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## Stephaine Parrish Taylor



Director  
Oregon Office of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services

Former Chair  
Oregon Comm. for the Blind  
Salem, Oregon



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- Statewide Needs Assessment
  - SRC & Agency conduct every 3 years
- SRC Reviews VR Program Effectiveness & Consumer Satisfaction
- SRC Can Hold Hearings

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## Marcia Cooper



SRC Chair  
Maine Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services

Director  
Disability Rights Center  
Augusta Maine



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- SRC Annual Report to RSA & State Governor

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Legal Center for People with  
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Grand Junction, Colorado



**The Legal Center**  
for People with Disabilities and Older People



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## Jan La Belle



SRC Chair  
Florida Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation

Director  
Family Network on  
Disabilities of Florida, Inc.  
Clearwater, Florida



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## State Rehabilitation Council

- SRC Requirement Makes State Agency
  - Get local, external perspectives
  - Reach out to other service providers, community groups, and state agencies

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Grand Junction, Colorado



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## The Rehab Act of 1973

- Intent to Create Public Rehab System that is
  - Consumer Oriented
  - Consumer Driven
- SRCs Embody the Partnership Needed for that Goal



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University of Missouri  
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*A product of the RSA National SRC Training Initiative*

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