

#

HPM&B

Judging Dept.

Joe Katagiri

Student

HPM&B

3

Geraldine Malone Kraushaar/Michael Peluso

Dept or Program Years in program

Mentor

New York State Rehabilitation Council

Author (s)

Joe Katagiri

Background: The NYS Rehabilitation Council was established to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and to advise the NYS Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, and the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities with regard to the provision of vocational rehabilitation services. The Council must review, analyze, and advise regarding the performance of the responsibilities of VESID under the Rehabilitation Act, particularly relating to: eligibility; the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and functions performed by State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes.

Objective: To effectively manage the State Rehab Council. The Council provides advice and support to The State Education Department's Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities on behalf of people with disabilities and their families regarding the delivery of effective rehabilitation services which lead to employment for people with disabilities. Policies and programs are designed and carried out in order to address emerging issues in the following areas: Returning Veterans' Healthcare, Traumatic Brain Injury, Transition, Transportation, Quality Improvement and Assurance, Health Policies (the appropriation of funds), Workforce Development and more.

Results: The SRC has been functional and active in its role as a policy and program think-tank and regulator. Recently the SRC has moved to provide a quality analysis of VESID's Model Transition Program, to convene a "best practices" business forum and develop a new needs assessment for NYS.