

Exploring the Intersection: Parent Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation Services - *A Deep Dive*



Presented by Susan Barlow



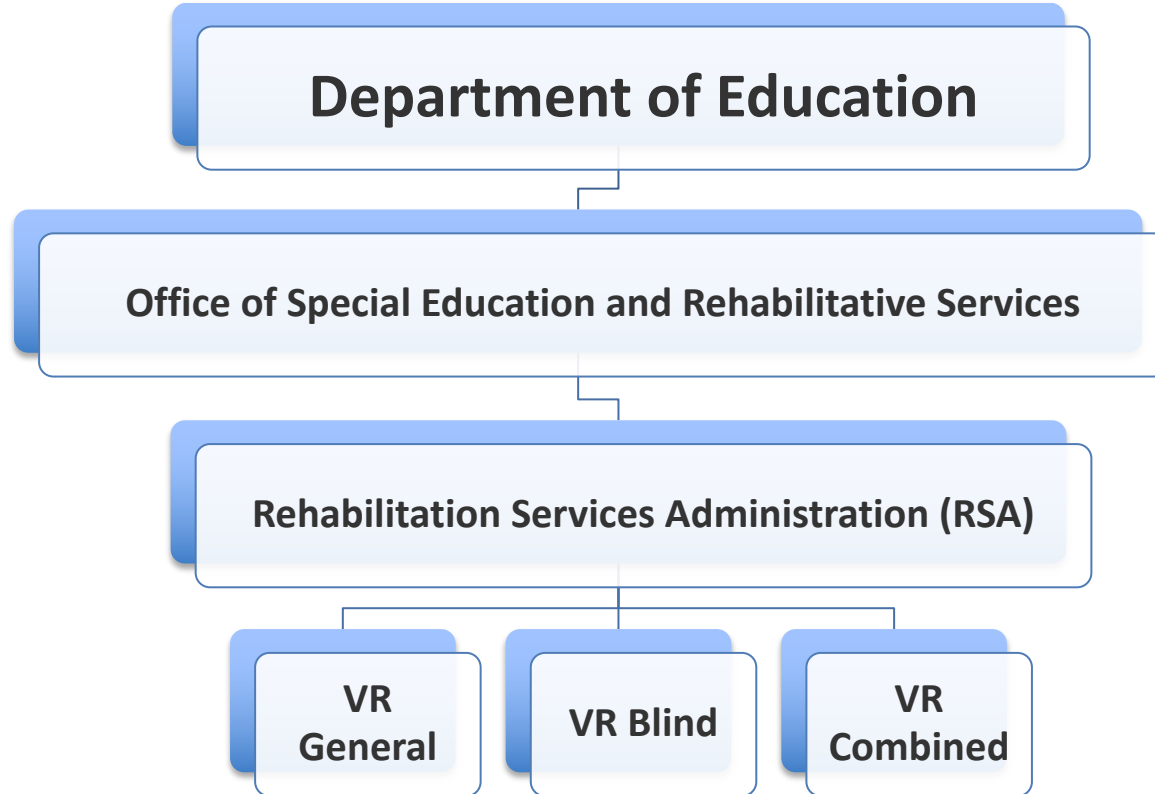
Kick off Question

How important is it for your Parent Center to have a solid relationship with local/state Vocational Habitation Services?



On a scale of 1-10 (*with 10 being very important*)

How does Vocational Rehabilitation(VR) fit in the big picture?



What is the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) *in plain language*

- Every State/Territory has a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Office
- This program provides grants to assist states in operating statewide VR programs
- State VR Programs are required to have a State Rehabilitation Council
 - the SRC reviews, evaluates, and advises the VR agency on many aspects of their program.
 - The SRC must have at least 15 members
 - The SRC is required to convene at least four meetings a year which are publicly announced and open and accessible to the general public.

This list goes on and on but let's talk about **you and why this is important to **you**!**

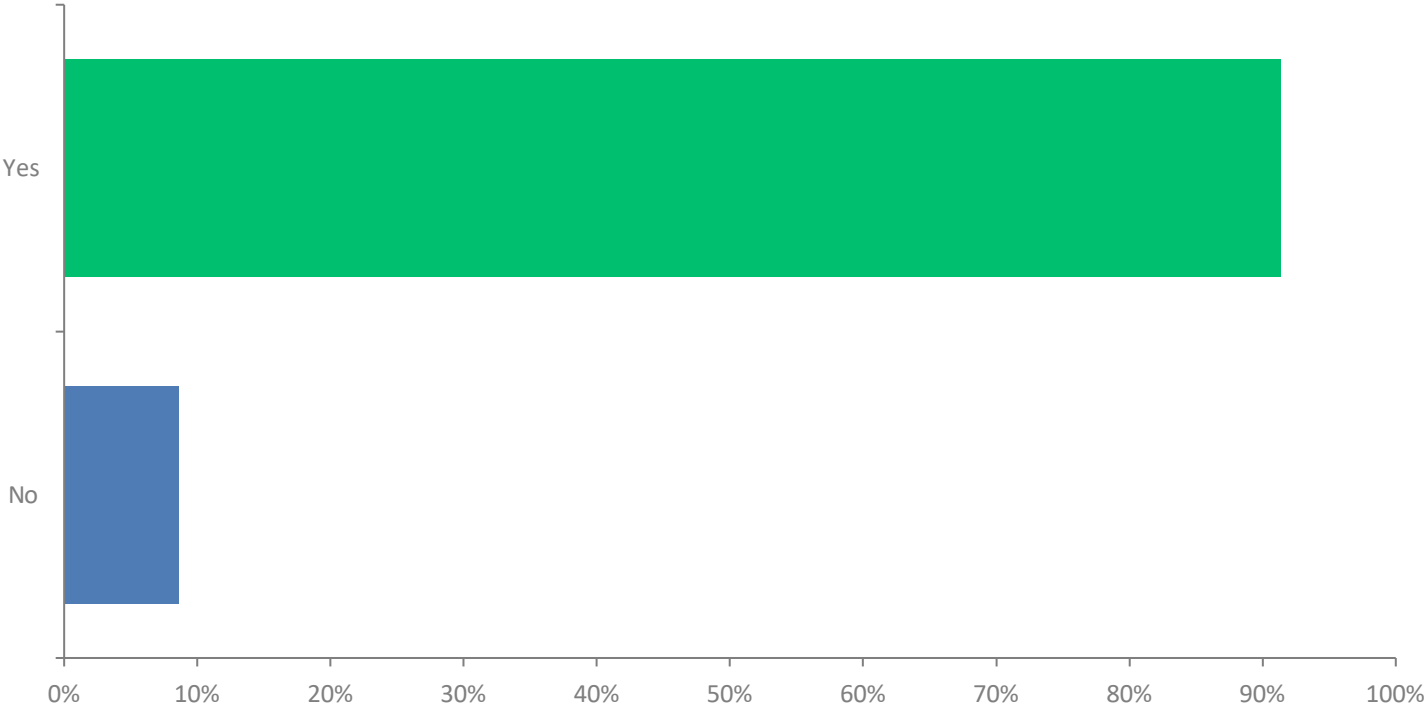


The Survey

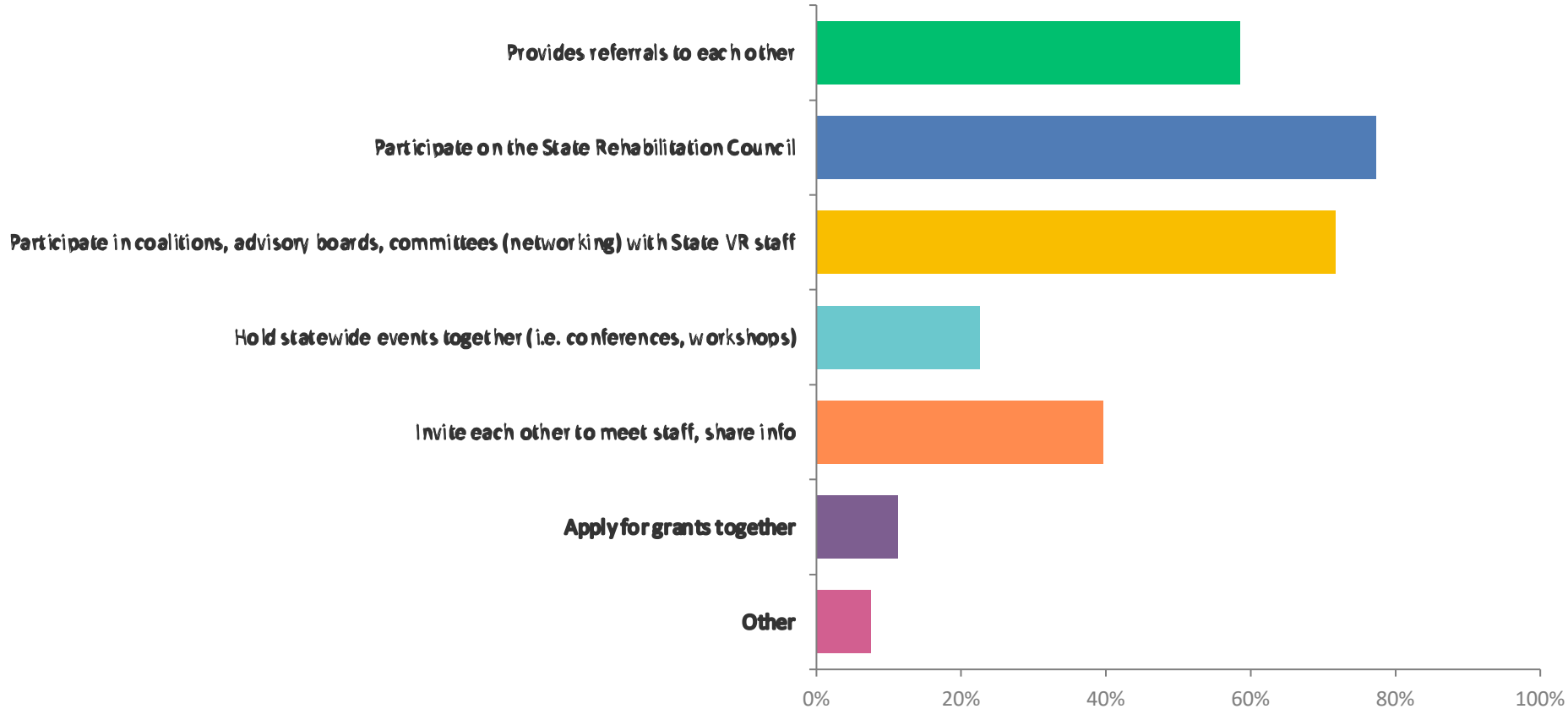
- 8 question survey was distributed all Parent Center over the past few months
- 58 Parent Centers Responded



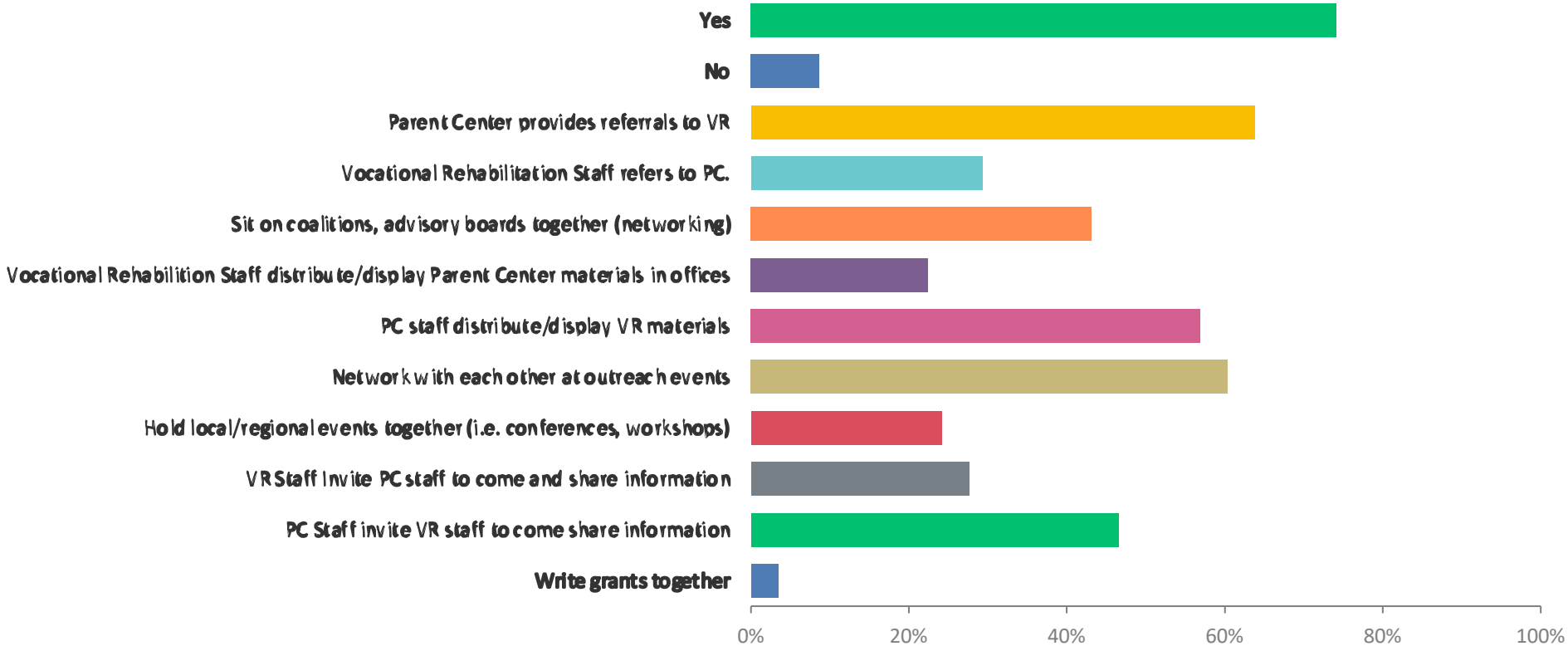
Do you have a relationship with your State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Staff?



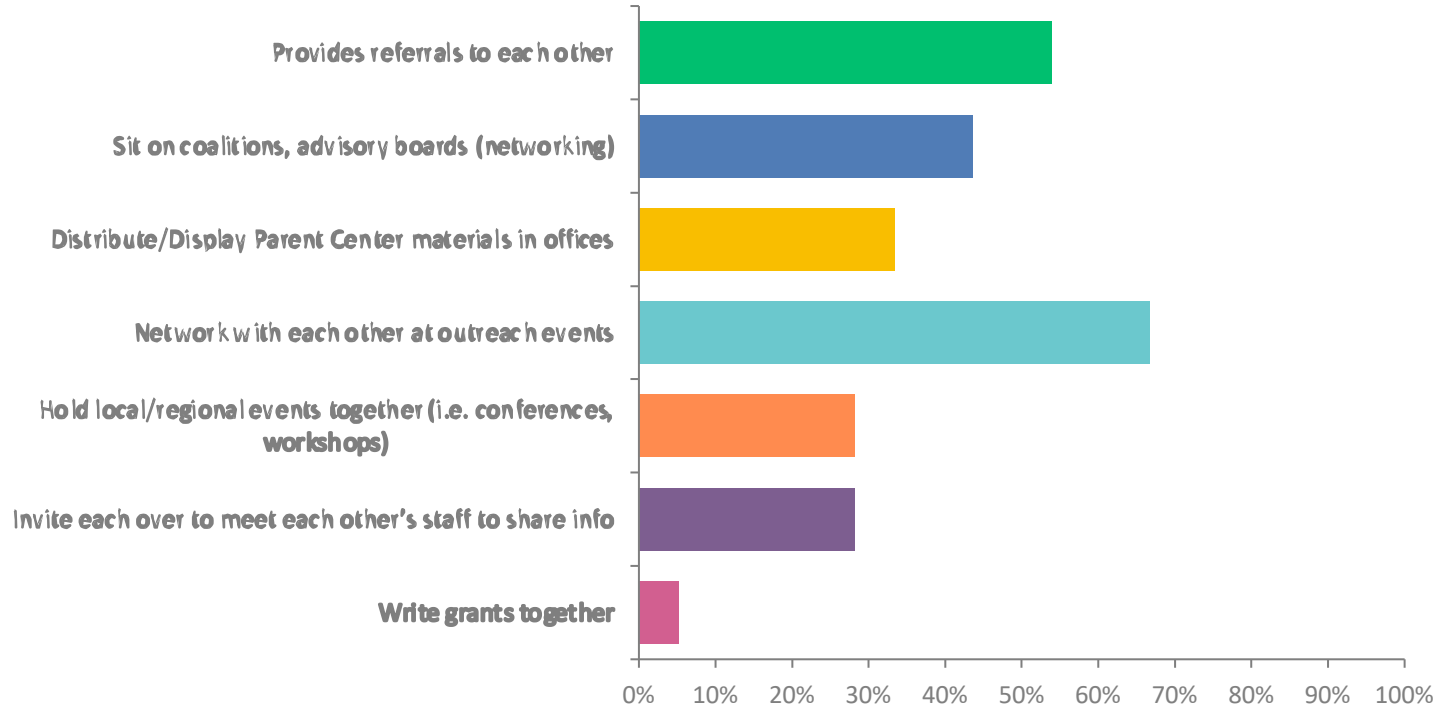
Which below best describes your relationship



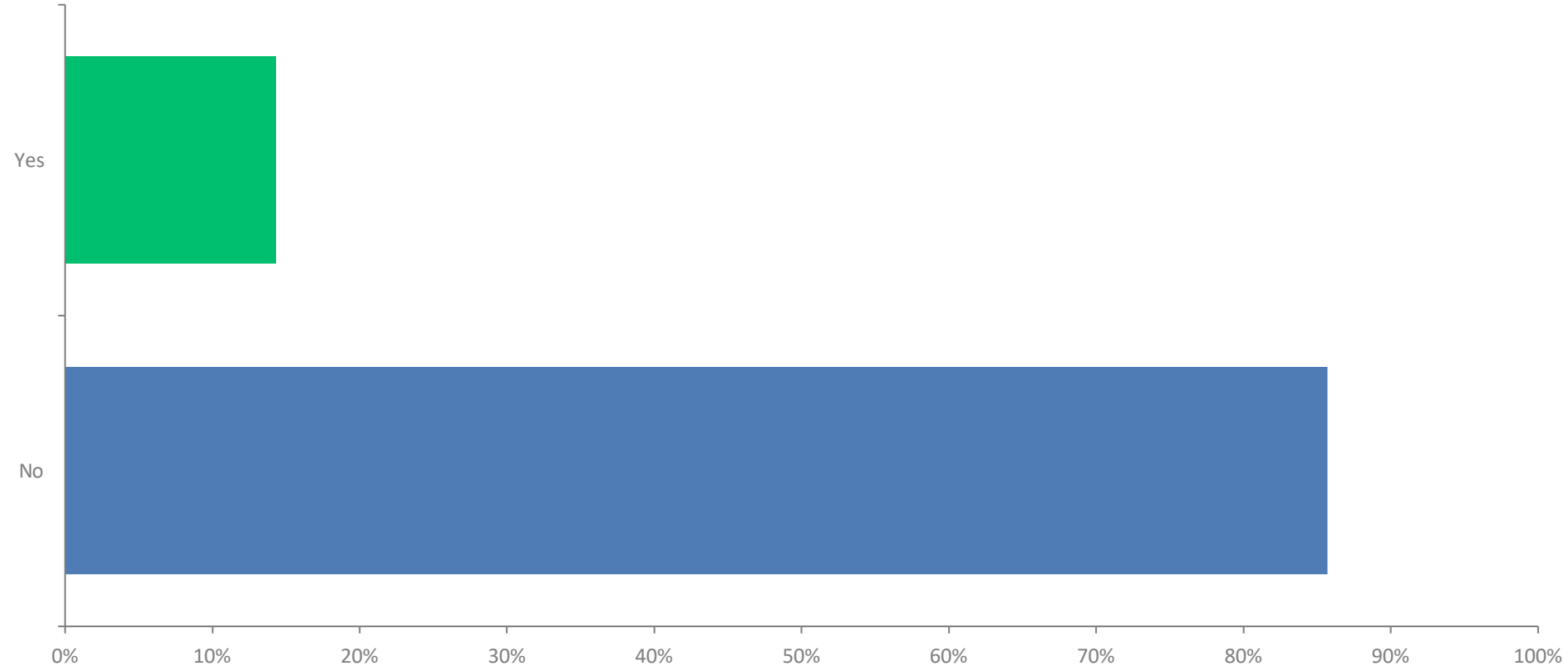
Do you have a relationship with your local Vocational Rehabilitation Staff?



Does your **local** Vocational Rehabilitation Staff reach out to you? If so what for?



Are you a provider of Vocational Rehabilitation services?



Identified relationship barriers between Parent Centers & VRs

- Lack of communication
- **High turn over at VR**
- Operate in silos
- VR works with agencies that they have long history with
- The Parent Center is an afterthought
- Disconnect between state and local offices
- Staffing shortages/Waiting lists

What Barriers are missing?



Examples of strategies that Parent Center's shared about their relationship with VR

- Parent Center staff is chair of the SRC
- Local VR Counselors work well with Parent Centers
- Open dialogue about challenges, they value our opinion
- We have a funded relationship with our State VR ie DIF
- We provide Pre-Ets Services
- We participate in many collaborative initiatives
- VR staff come to some of our Transition trainings

Building strong partnerships with VR

Share collateral resources

Have regular meetings/contacts

Actively participate on SRC

Invite VR to be on an advisory board

Ask VR to speak at conference

Have 'systems' share about themselves

Invite VR to site on advisory board

Write grants together

Do Lunch!!!



Resources

State Rehabilitation Council and Independent Commission Resources
Rehabilitation Services Administration (ed.gov)

National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils [Home \(ncsrc.us\)](https://ncsrc.us)

Looking for your SRC? [SRCs \(ncsrc.us\)](https://ncsrc.us)

Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Quality
Management [Home](#) | [VRTAC-QM](#)

