

Minutes – May 2, 2013

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, May 2, 2013	1:30 pm– 3:30 pm	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Sarah Launderville (Chair) at 1:36 pm	
Members Present	Ellie Marshall, Sam Liss, Diane Dalmasse and Whitney Nichols (via phone)	
Members Absent	John Alexander and Jennifer Whitmore (on approved leave)	
SRC Liaison	-----	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	-----	
Speakers/Presenters	-----	
Facilitator	-----	
1. Today's Agenda		
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Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	No changes.	
2. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2013 Committee Meeting		
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Discussion	Sam Liss made motion to approve. Ellie Marshall 2 nd . No discussion.	
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Approved minutes to be uploaded to SRC website		Rebekah Stephens
		5/10/2013
3. Discussion to Identify AOE Committee Advocacy, Outreach and Education Priorities		
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Discussion	Brainstorming session on priorities: Sarah Launderville asked Diane Dalmasse to list the current strategic plan goals and priorities for VR. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) reduced their grant to the Department of Labor and have taken those funds to apply towards a mental health initiative. The Senate Appropriations Committee has restricted the amount that DCF can reduce its grant from \$600,000.00 to \$150,000.00. Creative Work Solutions has been caught in the middle. There needs to be a new focus on Creative Work Solutions (CWS). Diane would like the legislature to know how much good is being done on the local level with CWS. It would be wonderful to make the connection between employment being a priority and that all jobs are important. The Governor has stated that “employment is a priority”. However, he is working with a budget deficit. VR’s priority goal is to educate the constituents on these issues. VR will move forward on this initiative once the legislative session is over. The Performance Review and Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committees’ focus on the topic of “Making Employment a Priority for Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities” fits right in with the focus on CWS. The SRC could further assist by developing a workable plan to educate legislators about CWS and finding employment for people with disabilities. The upcoming, May 9 th , testimony before the House Human Services Committee is a great start. Holding local meetings focused on educating people about CWS is also a possible idea. Whitney Nichols offered to focus his attention on information gathering on supported employment. Diane wanted to know if the AOE Committee could engage other relevant groups to come up with a campaign or Public Service Announcements on the topic of “Employment for All”. Sarah suggested that the Vermont Workers’ Center be contacted about this idea. Currently the VT Workers’ Center is engaged with producing the “People’s Media Project”. This project produces videos around the public forums they hold. Sarah believes that if the SRC works with the VT Workers’ Center some really great videos for marketing on this topic could be come out of the joint effort. Paul Cillo, Executive Director of Pubic Assets Institute, is another possible source. Paul has some innovative ideas about fitting the revenue to the need in order to produce a constant revenue	

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stream. Diane wanted to know if it would be productive for a small group of SRC people to talk to the		
Workers' Center. Sarah thinks it would be a great idea. Diane had another idea: There is positive movement		
in Congress right now about ending the BOND and implementing 1:2. James Smith has been approached		
with the possibility of testifying on this topic. If this gets any traction at all, the SRC should jump on board		
and support this initiative nationally anyway we can. Whitney suggested engaging in a partnership with the		
relevant parties. One last idea: Sam Liss suggested making funding of transition counselors an AOE priority.		
Conclusions	Identified advocacy, education and outreach priorities for 2013 and 2014: 1.	
Creative Work Solutions – Education of constituents and legislators about the priority of employment and		
mental health, as well as, what the SRC is and what its role is in advocating for individuals with disabilities;		
2. Funding of Transition Counselors; 3. National level support of 1:2 initiative; and 4. Gathering information		
on supported Employment.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
See Agenda Item 4. Development of Work Plan Focusing on Identified AOE Committee Advocacy Priorities	n/a	n/a
4. Development of Work Plan Focusing on Identified AOE Committee Advocacy Priorities		
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Discussion	The AOE Committee has identified 4 priorities. See Agenda Item 3. Conclusions.	
Conclusions	Sarah Launderville will set up a meeting with James Haslam, Executive Director of	
VT Workers' Center. Sarah and Diane Dalmasse will attend that meeting. AOE Committee members will		
participate in testimony before the House Human Services Committee on May 9, 2013. AOE Committee will		
host a second "Making Employment a Priority" meeting sometime in January 2014. Discussion of this will		
be put on September AOE agenda. The Performance Review Committee hosted the first meeting on January		
10, 2013. Committee members would like to see how Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired handle		
their transition counselors. Sam Liss suggests bringing in Ellen Vaut and Michele Hubert in on this		
discussion. Whitney Nichols will begin to gather information on supported employment and send out to AOE		
Committee members. Sam and Sarah will attempt to schedule a meeting with Tom Cheney while in		
Washington during the week of July 22, 2013 to discuss 1:2 initiative.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Summary of May 9, 2013 testimony before the House Human Services Committee to be emailed to Rebekah Stephens	Sam Liss	6/3/2013
Sam Liss' summary of May 9, 2013 testimony to be emailed to January 10, 2013 "Making Employment a Priority" meeting attendees	Rebekah Stephens	6/3/2013
Put discussion of 2 nd "Making Employment a Priority" meeting on September 5, 2013 AOE Committee agenda	Rebekah Stephens	8/21/2013
Set up meeting with James Haslam, Executive Director of VT Workers' Center	Sarah Launderville	6/14/2013
Contact DBVI to gather information on how they handle transition counselors	Sarah Launderville	6/28/2013
Attempt scheduling of meeting with Tom Cheney while in Washington	Sarah Launderville and Sam Liss	7/26/2013
Upload PDF files of supported employment research to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	ongoing
Put discussion of supported employment research on September 5, 2013 AOE agenda	Rebekah Stephens	8/21/2013
Follow up with Diane Dalmasse regarding VR's current plan for education of constituents and legislators around CWS	Sarah Launderville	7/31/2013

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5. Brief Update on Upcoming MH/Employment Testimony – House Human Services		
2 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	Testimony is scheduled for May 9, 2013 from 8:30am – 9:30am. Ellie Marshall needs to reschedule a doctor’s appointment so that she can testify. Whitney Nichols will be contacting Leo Schiff, VR Brattleboro Supervisor, to arrange transportation. Sarah Launderville stated that George Nostrand of Psychiatric Survivors would like to testify. Sarah will be available to testify at 8:45 am.	
Conclusions	The Committee members are excited about this opportunity.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact George Nostrand, Psychiatric Survivors, to confirm testimony	Sarah Launderville	5/3/2013
Reschedule doctor’s appointment	Ellie Marshall	5/3/2013
Arrange for transportation to Montpelier State House	Whitney Nichols	5/3/2013
6. Other Business		
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Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
7. Adjournment		
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Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	5/30/2013
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	5/30/2013
Draft minutes emailed to Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	5/30/2013
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	9/5/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	9/13/2013