

Minutes – March 10, 2014

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, March 10, 2014	1:30 am – 3:30 pm	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Sarah Launderville (Chair) at 1:35 pm	
Members Present	Anthony Williams via phone	
Members Absent	Patti Shane, Whitney Nichols and Diane Dalmasse	
SRC Liaison	n/a	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	n/a	
Facilitator	n/a	
1. Today's Agenda		
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Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Accepted.	
2. Approval of Minutes – November 7, 2013 and January 9, 2014 (cancelled) Committee Meetings		
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Discussion	A simple majority of members were not in attendance today. A simple majority is considered 1 more than half. The AOE committee consists of 4 voting members. 3 members are needed to reach a quorum for voting purposes. Minutes could not be voted on today as a quorum was not reached.	
Conclusions	Vote carried over to May 1, 2014 AOE committee meeting agenda.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Put approval of minutes – November 7, 2013 and January 9, 2014 (cancelled) Committee meetings on May 1, 2014 AOE agenda		Rebekah Stephens
		4/17/2014
3. Follow Up to the Testimony in House Human Services		
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Discussion	Laura Flint, Department of Mental Health, testified around Supported Employment. James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager, testified around the efforts of DVR. The members of the House Human Services invited 2 individuals from the Department of Labor to testify. The 2 individuals were able to share how DOL is addressing employment and individuals with psychiatric disabilities. Sarah was able to testify regarding her personal experiences with gaining employment. Jackie Gould, a VR consumer, testified to her personal experiences and the problems she has faced in regards to employment. Sarah feels that the testimony was well received. This was an excellent opportunity to provide information to the House Human Services members on the issues of employment and individuals with psychiatric disabilities.	
Conclusions	This was an excellent opportunity.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
		n/a
4. S. 1356		
-----	Sarah Launderville	
Discussion	Senator Harkin is continuing his efforts to move this bill forward.	
Conclusions	No other updates available at this time.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
		n/a
5. Access Project		
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Discussion	VCIL made a video about the Access Pilot Project. Sarah Launderville suggested showing the video at a full SRC meeting in the future. The focus of this project is on youth with disabilities that want to work but have significant barriers to employment. Sarah feels that it would be helpful to have some real life stories to go along with the video.	
Conclusions	The video is approximately 7 minutes in length. Put on May 2014 Steering Committee agenda for approval to show at next full SRC meeting. Sarah will draft an email to VR counselors looking for youth stories. Sarah will send email to Rebekah Stephens. Rebekah will forward email to James Smith.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put request to show Access Pilot Project video at next full SRC meeting (June 2014) on Steering Committee agenda (May 2014)	Rebekah Stephens	4/17/2014
Draft email to VR counselors requesting youth stories to go along with Access Pilot Project video. Send draft email to Rebekah Stephens	Sarah Launderville	3/31/2014
Send out email to VR counselors requesting youth stories to go along with Access Pilot Project video to James Smith for distribution to VR counselors	Rebekah Stephen	4/1/2014
6. Veterans Employment Fair		
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Discussion	At the recent Disability Awareness Day, Sarah had the opportunity to meet with several individuals from various disability advocacy groups. Sarah left the meeting with the understanding that the idea of a Veterans Employment Fair may be in the works to be held at Norwich University. Sarah shared that Diane Dalmasse came away from the meeting with a different understanding around this idea.	
Conclusions	Sarah suggested this agenda item be carried over to the May 1, 2014 AOE committee meeting agenda. She would like to get Diane's input on this topic. The topic for the May 1, 2014 AOE agenda will be "Joint Project with Governor's Committee and SILC" instead of "Veterans Employment Fair".	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put "Joint Project with Governor's Committee and SILC" on May 1, 2014 AOE committee agenda	Rebekah Stephens	4/17/2014
7. Minimum Wage Update		
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Discussion	Federal minimum wage for federal contracts is now \$10.10 per hour. Any program that receives federal contract money will now pay the \$10.10 per hour for minimum wage. Both federal and state legislatures are looking at the topic of minimum wage. Vermont minimum wage is currently \$8.73.	
Conclusions	This is an ongoing issue.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. Updates from VR Director		
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Discussion	Diane Dalmasse is out ill today. No discussion.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
9. Other Business		
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Discussion	Anthony Williams wanted to know if AOE could go to the Legislature about tax incentives for hiring older individuals. VR/VABIR are seeing an increasing number of older individuals with	

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disabilities trying to gain employment. However, it appears that companies are hesitant to hire from this population. Is it possible to offer an employer tax incentive for hiring from this population of individuals.		
Sarah mentioned that progressive employment may be beneficial with this population. Progressive employment would provide availability to on-the-job skills and specific job training. Sarah is going to reach out to Ginny Milkey of COVE – Community of Vermont Elders to see what work is being done in this area currently. Sarah also suggested Anthony speak with Diane Dalmasse about what DVR is or has done around this population. Sarah suggested doing some fact finding around this issue to determine what role AOE may take on this issue of employer tax incentives and special populations.		
Conclusions	Sarah will connect with Ginny Milkey of COVE. Anthony will connect with Diane Dalmasse of DVR.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put this topic – “Tax Incentives and Special Populations” on May AOE agenda	Rebekah Stephens	4/17/2014
Sarah Launderville to connect with Ginny Milkey of COVE	Sarah Launderville	4/15/2014
Anthony Williams to connect with Diane Dalmasse	Anthony Williams	4/15/2014
10. Adjournment		
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Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 2:20 pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	4/8/2014
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	4/8/2014
Draft minutes emailed to Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	4/8/2014
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	5/1/2014
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	5/9/2014