

# Minutes – September 1, 2016

## SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee			
Thursday, September 1, 2016	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (VABVI) 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403	
Meeting called by	Alaina Clements, Chair at 1:30 pm		
Members Present	Diane Dalmasse, Sam Liss, Martha Frank, Olivia Smith-Hammond and Leslie Walker Mitchell		
Members Absent	n/a		
SRC Liaison	n/a		
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens		
Interpreters	n/a		
Speakers/Presenters	n/a		
Guests	Ashley Pulaski		
1. Today's Agenda			
2 minutes	Alaina Clements		
<b>Discussion</b>	No discussion.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Today's agenda accepted.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
2. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2016 Committee Meeting			
3 minutes	Alaina Clements		
<b>Discussion</b>	No discussion. Sam Liss moved to approve. Martha Frank 2 <sup>nd</sup> .		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Minutes approved.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved minutes to <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>		Rebekah Stephens	9/9/2016
3. Updates – Federal and State			
15 minutes	Sam Liss		
<b>Discussion</b>	The legislature is currently out of session. It is anticipated that three out of the four changes to the Work Incentives for Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities (MWPD) will be approved by CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). This is good news. The Newsline budget has been confirmed (\$24000) and will now be a recurring line item in the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) budget. Work on extending Medicaid Buy Ins for individuals after the age of 65 is happening on the federal level. The Career Access Project is still in the initial stages of trying to secure funding for a 4 state pilot program. It is hopeful that language will be included that will not require youth to prove that they can't work in order to get limited benefits.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thanks, Sam!		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
4. Updates – VR Budget, WIOA, Career Access Project & How is the PETS Rollout going in VT?			
30 minutes	Diane Dalmasse		
<b>Discussion</b>	VR is excited about a grant proposal that is being submitted tomorrow around work based learning for students (1.8 million over 5 years). This would be a wonderful opportunity to serve youth in transition. VT VR is suggesting a strong partnership with Community Colleges of VT (CCV), youth employment staff and VR transition counselors in schools. Olivia Smith-Hammond suggested VR consider		

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<p>taking advantage of the resources that tech schools have to offer. Diane explained that students will not be restricted to just attending a community college. Martha Frank shared that the Accuplacer Assessment test required by CCV has been a barrier to students without the skill set to pass the test. The Accuplacer Assessment “provides a snapshot of a student’s reading, writing and math skills.” Diane agreed that addressing these barriers as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade would be one of the benefits of working with youth early. James Smith has been working on this grant. James and Diane went to a day-training on the final WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) regulations. Nationally, VR has been made a gatekeeper for students with disabilities entering the workforce and not allowing schools or other agencies to send these students into a sheltered workshop or subminimum wage employment. VR will need to sign off on each job placement. This is a real effort to get states to close their sheltered workshops and use community based employment. The final regulations have walked back on some of the pre-employment transition services (PETS). Now not all PETS counselors time can be charged under the 15% budget requirements, even though the PETS counselors are working only with youth. 50% of Title 6B funds (\$150,000) will need to be spent on youth going forward. And only the job supports will be allowed to be included in this 50%. VT VR will figure it out. A lot of policy work needs to be done around the final WIOA regulations. VT VR will need to write many memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with their partners around the new regulations.</p>		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thank you, Diane!	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>5. Discussion – AOE 2017 Goals</b>		
30 minutes	Committee members	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Sam Liss suggested taking a look at doing some outreach and education through statewide meetings with SRC/AOE, VABIR (Vermont Association of Business Industry and Rehabilitation) and VR. Martha Frank suggested doing some presentations or workshops in collaboration with other well attended organization’s meetings. Suggestion was made to put a direct SRC link on the VT VR home page. The suggestion was made to come up with some ways to build a stronger relationship with DOL (Department of Labor) through outreach efforts using the Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) teams. The suggestion was also made to begin some outreach efforts with DOC (Department of Corrections.) Ashley Pulaski, DOC employee and recent SRC applicant, will be a great resource for these efforts.</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Committee will firm up these goals at the October Retreat.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>6. Progress Update – Disability Summit</b>		
15 minutes	Sam Liss & Diane Dalmasse	
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>The sub-committee has had one meeting. The discussion of the meeting was around who to invite. Invitees will be limited to 45 or so. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. The next step is to bring in representatives from collaborative partners to discuss the broader planning of the Summit. A venue has not been chosen however the sub-committee has discussed holding the event towards the end of May 2017 or early June 2017. There are approximately 15 collaborative partners on the list to be invited to the broader planning meeting. Jessalyn Gustin, chair of the sub-committee is reaching out to VCDR (Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights) president, Ed Paquin. Martha Frank asked if anyone has reached out to the Federation of Families? Sam responded no. Sam made a note to discuss with sub-committee. Note: Ed Paquin is also the executive director of Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT).</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thanks, Sam!	

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Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Include Progress Update – Disability Summit on November 3, 2016 AOE Committee meeting agenda		Rebekah Stephens	10/21/2016
<b>7. Discussion – 2018 Statehouse Event (Possibly 2017)</b>			
10 minutes	Committee members		
<b>Discussion</b>	The SRC is not yet on the schedule for 2018. Rebekah Stephens will send in application for 2018 on January 3, 2017. Currently the SRC is 13 <sup>th</sup> on the waiting list for 2017. The question was asked, “Was this year’s event worth the time and effort?” Alaina Clements and Sam Liss shared that they felt it was a good use of time. Olivia Smith-Hammond wondered if doing outreach in other ways then the cardroom would be better? Alaina and Sam shared that the video was not productive as it could not be heard very well in the cardroom. However, legislators did come over and ask questions. But it was the same legislators that always come by and are known to be supporters of the disabled community. How do we reach out to other people? Sam suggested maybe having a definite date to do an educational session at the Statehouse. Using room 10 or 11 and having SRC and VR present together. The question was asked, “Do legislators care about this and want to attend?” The committee decided that putting in an application for the cardroom wouldn’t be a commitment. As the discussion progresses, the application could be withdrawn if the Committee decides not to proceed with a cardroom event.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Committee will discuss this topic again at October Retreat.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Put in application for cardroom 2018 session		Rebekah Stephens	1-3-2017
<b>8. Other Business</b>			
10 minutes	-----		
<b>Discussion</b>	None.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	None.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
<b>1. Adjournment</b>			
<b>Discussion</b>	Olivia Smith-Hammond moved to adjourn. Sam Liss 2 <sup>nd</sup> .		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted for approval		Rebekah Stephens	9/30/2016
Draft minutes uploaded to website <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>		Rebekah Stephens	9/30/2016
Draft minutes emailed to Committee members		Rebekah Stephens	9/30/2016
Minutes approved by Committee		Committee Members	11/3/2016
Approved minutes uploaded to website <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>		Rebekah Stephens	11/11/2016