

Minutes – October 2, 2014

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

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Thursday, October 2, 2014	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired 60 Kimball Avenue South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Adam Leonard, Performance Review Committee Chair at 12:31pm	
Members Present	Ellen Vaut, Whitney Nichols, Kerry White, Samantha Brennan, Patti Shane, Diane Dalmasse, Adam Leonard, Leslie Mitchell, Anthony Williams, Sarah Launderville and Alaina Clements	
Members Absent	Michele Hubert and P. Neal Meier (tried phone conference unsuccessfully)	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	Peter Burt – Project Coordinator Benefits Counseling Program, Linda Bird – Benefits Counselor and Boyd Tracy - Benefits Counselor	
Guests	Sam Liss	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Sarah Launderville made motion to accept. Kerry White 2 nd . Unanimous vote.	
Conclusions	Accepted.	
2. Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2014 SRC Meeting		
1 minute	-----	
Discussion	Sarah Launderville made motion to accept. Anthony Williams 2 nd . Unanimous vote.	
Conclusions	Approved.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		Deadline
		10/10/2014
3. Consent Agenda		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	The consent agenda includes Steering Committee approved minutes – May 1, 2014 and the Coordinator's report. Sarah Launderville made motion to accept. Kerry White 2 nd . Unanimous vote.	
Conclusions	Approved.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
		Deadline
		n/a
4. Benefits Counselors – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Presentation		
1 hour 45 minutes	Peter Burt, Linda Bird and Boyd Tracy	
Discussion	Peter Burt presented a power-point titled "Investing in Self-Sufficiency." Benefits Counselors assist individuals in becoming more self-sufficient. Benefits Counselors provide a "one stop" shop for information on benefits. Providing this information helps to alleviate fear and avoid crisis. Benefits Counselors provide information on how employment will affect a person's benefits. The Benefits Counseling staff are knowledgeable about Social Security, Medicaid/Medicare, State healthcare programs, SNAP (3squares a day), TANF/Reach Up, Fuel Assistance, Housing, Vocational Rehabilitation & Special Education and Veterans benefits. Because of this extensive knowledge, Benefits Counselors are a highly valued resource to the Agency of Human Services (AHS). Benefits Counselors will often become advocates for the consumer. Benefits Counselors assist in alleviating the consumer's fear and lack of understanding of the extensive web of benefits that prevent them from seeking employment. Benefits Counseling has a consistently high level of consumer satisfaction. The Benefits Counseling program faces an increased	

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demand for their services due to “increasingly complex benefit systems” and “work disincentives faced by individuals with disabilities.” Peter shared that the increase in the VT minimum wage will not have a huge impact on this population of consumers. There are many partners with the Benefits Counseling Program: mental health, Department of Labor (DOL) and developmental services. As well as, advocacy groups: Vermont Center of Independent Living (VCIL), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Vermont Coalition on Disability Rights (VCDR). Linda Bird and Boyd Tracy shared a few case studies with the SRC.		
Conclusions	Excellent presentation. A lot of interesting information. Thank you - Peter, Linda and Boyd.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
5. VCIL Access Pilot Project Video – Watch Video/Feedback and Discussion		
15 minutes	Sarah Launderville	
Discussion	The Council members expressed their excitement that this video was put together. The CareerAccess Project has a webpage on Facebook.	
Conclusions	Great video. Thank you – Sarah - for sharing the video with the SRC.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
6. Order of Selection		
5 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	Two (2) individuals have applied under Category 3 since the last SRC meeting. DVR has sufficient funds to service these individuals at this time. Ellen Vaut asked if funds were to become unavailable would tier 2 people be bumped? James shared that it could be possible, however, that situation has not been an issue to date. Kerry White shared that she votes against opening to category 3 because the DVR money is limited it should be used for category 1 and 2. Diane Dalmasse shared that the numbers in youth transition outcomes have grown dramatically. Vote was called. 6 ayes and 2 nays.	
Conclusions	Services to the two (2) Category 3 individuals approved. Council members suggested conducting a deeper dive into Order of Selection at some point in the future.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put discussion of deeper dive into Order of Selection on Steering Committee agenda	Rebekah Stephens	2/19/2015
7. Director's Report		
35 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	Employment Staff Consulting Training through CCV will be vetted on October 15 th with VR partners. This training program is good for Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS). Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) will be visiting DVR on October 8 th and 9 th . The focus of discussions will be on “youth in transition” and “employer relationships.” The DVR/VABIR Staff Retreat is all set for October 28, 2014 at Lake Morey. The SRC will be joining the DVR staff at this Retreat. State Purchasing has given the go ahead for DVR to purchase the AWARE software from Alliance without an RFP. DVR will still need to work with Alliance to customize the software for use by DVR. The entire process could take approximately a year and a half. Budget news is not the best for next year. Level funding and a general fund reduction of 5% are on the table. Diane is optimistic that DVR will be able to manage these budget reductions with minimal impact on overall services. The Motivational Interviewing rollout continues with great staff excitement and support. DVR is faced with fulfilling the requirements of the new Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WOIA) of 2014. The youth arena will be the most challenging. However, the pre-employment services section of WOIA may assist in addressing	

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the services to this population.		
Conclusions	Great report! Thank you – Diane.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. Parking Lot		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
9. Round Table		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Sam Liss was glad to be back with the SRC for the day. The SRC wishes Susan Wells the best in her upcoming retirement. Alaina Clements shared that she enjoyed her first AT Advisory Council meeting. Kerry White enjoyed the meeting. “It is great seeing, Sam again.” Samantha Brennan really enjoyed the meeting. Diane Dalmasse enjoyed the Benefits Counseling case studies. James Smith enjoyed the VCIL video – “it was tremendous testimony.” Adam Leonard was impressed with the Benefits Counselors and their extensive knowledge. Leslie Mitchell felt the Benefits Counselor presentation was key for her today. Ellen Vaut learned a lot today and she will be able to take it back to work. Anthony Williams enjoyed the whole meeting. Anthony suggested that as the Benefits Counselors begin to retire; a process be put in place to retain their vast knowledge. Sarah Launderville shared that she really appreciates these meetings and gets a lot of new ideas from them.	
Conclusions	Informative meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
10. Other Business		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Kerry White suggested future agenda items: SRC Bylaws review and SRC membership review. The SRC bylaws were reviewed approximately 4 years ago by the Policy & Procedures Committee.	
Conclusions	Kerry and Adam Leonard requested copies of the SRC bylaws. Review of SRC bylaws to be addressed by P&P Committee. Review of SRC membership to be addressed by Steering Committee.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put discussion to review SRC bylaws on P&P agenda	Rebekah Stephens	12/19/2014
Put review of SRC membership on next Steering Committee agenda	Rebekah Stephens	10/24/2014
11. Adjournment		
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Discussion	Anthony Williams made motion to adjourn. Sarah Launderville 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:31pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	10/31/2014
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	10/31/2014
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	10/31/2014
Minutes approved	Full SRC	12/4/2014
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	12/12/2014