

Minutes – June 4, 2015

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)		
Thursday, June 4, 2015	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	VR Office 27 Federal Street, Suite 200 St. Albans, VT 05478
Meeting called by	Adam Leonard, Vice-Chair at 12:35 p.m.	
Members Present	Spencer Lemons, April Tuck, Patti Shane, Sam Liss, Diane Dalmasse, Anthony Williams, Samantha Brennan, Ben Wimett (via Scopia), Whitney Nichols (via phone)	
Members Absent	Julia Burakian, Alaina Clements, Michele Hubert, Sarah Launderville, P. Neal Meier, Leslie Walker Mitchell and Ellen Vaut	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	Hugh Bradshaw, VR Employment Services Manager	
Guests	Martha Frank and Olivia Smith-Hammond	
1. Introductions and Welcome to New SRC Members		
-----	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	SRC pins were given to new members and soon to be new members.	
Conclusions	Welcome to the SRC!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
2. Agenda		
-----	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	No discussion. April Tuck moved to accept. Sam Liss 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Today's agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
3. Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2015 SRC Meeting		
-----	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	No discussion. Spencer Lemons moved to approve. Sam Liss 2 nd .	
Conclusions	April 2, 2015 SRC meeting minutes approved.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	6/12/2015
4. Consent Agenda		
-----	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	Consent agenda includes approved minutes – P&P Committee – November 6, 2014, January 8, 2015 and March 5, 2015; Steering Committee – March 5, 2015 and Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee – March 5, 2015 and Coordinator's Report. No discussion. April Tuck moved to accept. Samantha Brennan 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Consent agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
5. CCV Employment Training Program Demonstration		
50 minutes	Hugh Bradshaw, VR Employment Services Manager	
Discussion	Hugh presented a power point to the Council, "Employment Services Certificate: Course Overview." This training program is designed to provide consistency among the employment services provided by VR and its partners to the business community and the consumers. This course is designed for the employment staff within the CWS network. VR has partnered with CCV (Community College of Vermont) to	

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develop this training program. The training program was recently tested using a test group of 15 students.		
Based on the feedback of this test group, tweaks were made to the training program. The tweaked program will be retested by the end of June 2015. There are 4 modules in this program – 1. Application of Core Values and Principles of Practice, 2. Individualized Assessment and Employment/Career Planning, 3. Community Research and Job Development and 4. Workplace and Related Supports. This is an online course. This is an optional training and VR is offering the training for free for the next two years to all partners. Diane Dalmasse shared that where VR is funding the program it may be made mandatory. It is 40 hours of course time. The course will assist in eliminating “silos” between the various VR employment partners. VR is considering offering an in-person graduation ceremony for participants in order to provide the face-to-face meeting that the online course doesn’t offer. CCV has been an amazing partner throughout this project – very professional. Taking this course will help prepare the students for the APSE (Association of People Supporting Employmentfirst) exam. The APSE also requires 1 year of fieldwork before an individual can sit for the exam.		
Conclusions	Excellent and informative presentation! Thank you, Hugh.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
6. Green Mountain Care Presentation		
25 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	Sam walked the Council through the power point in the packet, “Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) Presentation and Beyond.” “Because of suspension of single-payer, universal health care project, GMCB no longer has oversight of Medicaid benefit packages.” S. 138, “An act relating to promoting Economic Development has passed. As a result of S. 138 passing, we are hoping that people will be able to work more hours and if their wages go up they will be able to go off the program (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities) entirely. This impacts approximately 700 - 1150 people in Vermont.	
Conclusions	The Governor signed S. 138 yesterday, June 3, 2015 in a public ceremony. Excellent work and great efforts. Thank you, Sam, Whitney Nichols and Sarah Launderville!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
7. Order of Selection		
10 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	There are no new Category 3 applicants at this time.	
Conclusions	No vote needed today as there are no new Category 3 applicants at this time.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. Director’s Report		
20 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	AWARE is becoming a reality. VR has permission to purchase AWARE from Alliance Enterprises. It is a well tested and widely used off the shelf computer product that works. An independent review is currently in process. An independent review is required because of the cost, \$1 million. VR hopes to have a contract in place by June 2015. Lisa Young is now the AWARE coordinator for VR. The program will hopefully go live statewide in early 2017. AWARE has the capability to interface with other programs. WIOA proposed regulations were issued April 15, 2015. The deadline for comments is June 15, 2015. VR now has a plan in place around Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) and is confident that they will meet the 15% federal requirement by July 1, 2015. VR Counselor caseloads have been realigned to meet the PETS goals. The General Assistance (GA) program is just about ramped down. VR will no longer process GA eligibility or benefits. However, VR will still provide VR services to these individuals if they are eligible. VR GA counselors	

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<p>have been reassigned. VR had to stop offering supported employment services through the designated agencies CRT programs. The funding was moved to serving youth within the same designated agencies. The designated agencies did not see an overall change in budget just where the money is now to be spent. The Jobs Program expansion is the result of this change in funding. VR will be working with youth up to age 26. The Benefits Counselors are now going to be working in the schools alongside the Transition Counselors. The goal is to include the families in these discussions. Common performance measures will now be used across the board for VR, Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Board. The targets will be set with the Governor's office. This is a huge change for VR. The homemaker position is no longer allowable as a viable case closure. VR is at a critical junction with VR Reach Up program. The program is being restructured to better serve this population.</p>		
Conclusions	WIOA has created a lot of change and VR is on track for meeting the new expectations.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
		Deadline
None		n/a
<p>9. WIOA Update & Approval of Proposed SRC Recommendations for Public Comments Hearing on WIOA Proposed Regulations</p>		
30 minutes	Diane Dalmasse and Adam Leonard	
Discussion	<p>The WIOA update was included in the Director's Report, above. The Policy & Procedures Committee proposed that the SRC make comments on the proposed WIOA regulations. Sam Liss submitted a few comments for review. Kerry White suggested that the SRC make a brief statement about the regulations and VR's comments. James Smith quickly reviewed the VR comments document in the SRC packet. VR will be adding a comment on the new performance reporting regulations and the potential administrative burden to VR. Alice Porter will be working on this comment. The one main comment that VR is making is about the position that RSA has taken on PETS stating that direct services only and administrative time is not included in the 15%. Also, the definition is all over the place on what is considered administrative time ie: vacation and travel time and when not meeting with the students. VR is proposing that if a transition counselor has been hired to work exclusively with the students then 100% of the cost of this counselor should count towards the 15%. The intent of the law is to get services to students. VR likes that the new regulations allow VR to have a general goal for employment and allow VR to provide services to students without opening a case. The regulations better define what competitive integrated work is and VR supports this language. James commented that Sam Liss's third comment is in the law and there is nothing that can be done on this topic. Sam responded that it was more of a philosophical concern. Adam asked if the Council would like to write any comments or write a statement of support of VR's comments. Diane asked if it would be beneficial to put it out to the whole Council as an email vote to determine if the SRC would support VR's comments so that VR can put it in their cover letter that the SRC endorses their comments.</p>	
Conclusions	Put out email to full SRC to vote on endorsing VR comments.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
		Deadline
Email full SRC for consensus vote on VR public comments		Rebekah Stephens
		6/10/2015
<p>10. Other Business</p>		
15 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	<p>Diane Dalmasse suggested that Alice Porter be invited to a future SRC meeting to discuss the new "Common Performance Measures." Council agrees it would be a good idea.</p>	
Conclusions	Include discussion of this agenda topic on next Steering Committee meeting agenda.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
		Deadline
Include "Common Performance Measures" as future full SRC agenda item on next Steering Committee meeting agenda		Rebekah Stephens
		8/21/2015

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11. Parking Lot			
10 minutes	Adam Leonard		
Discussion	No discussion.		
Conclusions	None.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
12. Round Table			
5 minutes	Council Members		
Discussion	Diane Dalmasse is really excited about the CCV training. Anthony Williams commends VR on all their efforts. Samantha Brennan is really excited about AWARE and the anticipation of how productive she will be able to be. Whitney Nichols appreciates the appreciation for the work on MWPD. Adam Leonard thanks everyone for a great meeting. Both meetings today were very productive. Spencer Lemons is excited to see where the CCV training goes with helping employment. James Smith thanked Sam Liss and Whitney Nichols for their work on MWPD. James suggested balancing presentations with more interactive work at the next SRC meeting. Ben Wimett congratulated everyone on MWPD and is excited about the implementation coming down the pipe. Sam Liss shared that Adam did a great job chairing today's meeting.		
Conclusions	Great meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
13. Adjournment			
-----	Adam Leonard		
Discussion	Anthony Williams moved to adjourn. Spencer Lemons 2 nd .		
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned 3:25pm.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval		Rebekah Stephens	7/3/2015
Draft minutes emailed to all Council members		Rebekah Stephens	7/3/2015
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens	7/3/2015
Minutes approved		Council Members	10/1/2015
Approved minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens	10/9/2015