

Minutes – April 6, 2017

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

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Thursday, April 6, 2017	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Waterbury State Office Complex – Elm Room HC 2 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671
Meeting called by	Adam Leonard, Chair at 12:30 PM	
Members Present	Brian Smith, Ashley Pulaski, Adam Leonard, Christopher Kane, Sam Liss, Max Barrows, Sherrie Brunelle, Leslie Walker Mitchell and Samantha Brennan	
Members Absent	Martha Frank, Olivia Smith-Hammond, Diane Dalmasse, Jessalyn Gustin, Michelle Paya, Julia Burakian and Rose Lucenti	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	David Leonard, VR Analyst	
Guests	Robin Ingenthron, Bonnie Haug - VR Counselor and Lee Reilly - Job Coach	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	Sam Liss will do a few Federal and State Updates under “Other Business”. Sam Liss moved to approve. Leslie Walker Mitchell 2 nd .	
Conclusions	No change in agenda needed. Today's agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
2. Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2017 SRC Meeting		
3 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	No discussion. Sherrie Brunelle moved to approve. Samantha Brennan 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Minutes approved.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	4/14/2017
3. Consent Agenda		
5 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	Consent agenda - Approved Minutes: Steering Committee – January 13, 2017 & February 9, 2017 and the Coordinator's Report. No discussion. Sam Liss moved to accept. Leslie Walker Mitchell 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Consent agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
4. Committee Chair Updates		
20 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	During today's PR Committee Samantha Brennan and Bonnie Haug presented on the draft of the new consumer orientation. James Smith went over Pre-Employment Transition Services; what qualifies as Pre-ETS and how expenditures will be allocated between Pre-ETS and the general counseling program. PR also discussed and determined the questions for the June SRC Pre-ETS panels. The Steering Committee discussed the SRC Video. The video's intent is to gain the interest of potential SRC members and to give a brief overview of what the SRC is all about for new members. The Steering Committee, after discussing the intent in the creation of the AOE Committee and its current purpose, decided that dissolution of the AOE Committee is appropriate. Advocacy issues will be addressed on an as needed basis by the existing committees or by ad hoc committee. The Disability Summit was also discussed. Jessalyn Gustin is	

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reaching out to Ed Paquin one last time to find out if there is any interest from other agencies in a summit.			
If there is no interest the idea will be tabled. Also, the Steering Committee is discussing the possibility of not having an SRC Retreat this year, in consideration of the financial climate and the strain of having the extra meeting on the volunteer membership.			
Conclusions		Thank you, Adam!	
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
5. Presentation/Demonstration – AWARE			
1 hour		David Leonard	
Discussion		AWARE is browser based. The program is very adaptable. David ran a mock consumer through the AWARE test environment. A consumer’s social security number is not required for a referral. VR staff can use a temporary number until a case is opened. Drop down lists are used and can be changed for functionality. If there is a required field, AWARE will not let you progress to the next case status without filling out that field. Counselors will be able to print out standard case data information layouts in AWARE, as well as, custom layouts for their own caseload. Designated agencies will not have access to AWARE. VABIR will have access to AWARE. But it will be limited access based on need. AWARE will let a counselor see how many times a consumer has had an open case with VR. AWARE is much more user friendly than the current system. VR will be offering minimal services to consumers for a couple of weeks in the Fall to allow for the migration of specific consumer plan and service information from the current system to AWARE. AWARE works well on iPad.	
Conclusions		Excellent presentation. Thank you, David!	
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
6. Director’s Report			
35 minutes		James Smith	
Discussion		Diane Dalmasse is recovering well and will be back to work part-time next week. Linking Learning to Careers (LLC) kicked off in March. This program will help students get on the track for successful employment. This is a \$9 million grant over 5-years. Rich Tulikangas is the director of the LLC program. This will be a controlled study with 800 students enrolled in the program but only 400 receiving the program services. AWARE is mostly on track with a go-live date in September 2017. There has been an issue with the contracts module and the processing of contract payments for consumer services. VR was hoping to get a customized automated system for this, however, there was some miscommunication between VR and Alliance. Alliance is saying it is outside of the original contract and would cost more money and delay the go-live date. VR is working with Alliance to come up with a compromise that would not cost VR any more money and won’t delay the go-live date. VR has a proposed balance budget for FY 2018. The Legislature has not made any indication about buying back any reductions at this point. It will be a very tight budget year. Sam Liss shared that there is sympathy in the Legislature for the cuts, but the money just isn’t there. The St. Johnsbury office has been found to be contaminated by chemicals from a dry cleaner that has been in the building for years. VR employees have been moved to the Microdata building in St. Johnsbury. The level of airborne contamination in the building was tested and found to be lower than OSHA standards allow, however more than VT allows. VR will not be going back to the building. This has been a stressful situation, but VR staff has handled the situation well. RSA has been conducting a review of all VR agencies’ Pre-ETS spending. VT VR provided an overview of their spending to RSA. RSA requested a spreadsheet of all the expenditures. VT provided the information. RSA has reported back that VT VR is in good shape. This is good news.	
Conclusions		Thank you, James!	

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Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
7. Order of Selection			
15 minutes	James Smith		
Discussion	James shared that he was not able to do the legal research on the question "Is an SRC vote to open or not open services binding to VR?" However, he feels that the designated agency (VR) can take the advice of the SRC, but can still make the final decision to open or not open services. Sherrie Brunelle agrees with James on this, but she also has not done any research on the topic. VR is required to review Order of Selection (OOS) with the SRC quarterly. The SRC is the only public input into OOS. There are 3 folks in Category 4, as of today. James is not recommending to open services due to VR's current fiscal situation. Sam Liss made a motion that services not be opened due to current financial situation. Sherrie Brunelle 2 nd . No discussion. Adam Leonard called for a consensus vote.		
Conclusions	James will email the RSA and get a definitive answer to the questions - "If the SRC advises VR to open services can VR determine not to open services?" And "If the SRC advises VR against opening services can VR determine to open services?". Include discussion of answers on June 1, 2017 SRC meeting agenda. SRC agreed not to open services for these 3 individuals by consensus vote. None opposed.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Contact RSA for answer to questions - "If the SRC advises VR to open services can VR determine not to open services?" And "If the SRC advises VR against opening services can VR determine to open services?"		James Smith	5/12/2017
Include discussion of answers to above questions under "Order of Selection" agenda item on June 1, 2017 SR meeting agenda		Rebekah Stephens	5/19/2017
8. Other Business			
10 minutes	Council Members		
Discussion	Sam Liss provided a brief Federal and State update. There has been a decision from Vermont Legal Aid that there will be no retroactive eligibility under MWPD (Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities). There is some good news for work incentives for retired age individuals. Legislation around this has been written. It could be successful. The hope is to level the playing field for individuals with disabilities who are retiring. Legislation has been introduced that will make ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act accounts accessible to more individuals and allow more money to be put in ABLE Act accounts.		
Conclusions	Thank you, Sam!		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
9. Parking Lot			
10 minutes	Council Members		
Discussion	None.		
Conclusions	None.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
10. Round Table			
10 minutes	Council Members		
Discussion	Robin Ingenthron shared that he feels a little bit like a fish in the dessert today. He shared that he used to be a state employee and now owns Good Point Recycling. His company works with VR		

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and VABIR for their staffing needs. He really appreciates the VR and VABIR counselors his company has worked with and was excited when he was invited to join the SRC. Christopher Kane appreciates how VR is handling transition services and really liked the AWARE presentation. Adam Leonard shared that he is very appreciative of how VR seems to have a positive what's next attitude and all the good work being done among the constant changes. Ashley Pulaski appreciated the presentations on the new consumer orientation and AWARE. Brian Smith liked to see how AWARE connects all the data pieces within the larger agency. Samantha Brennan always loves these meetings. She really enjoyed the AWARE presentation and seeing the “live links” and the promise of more efficiency. Bonnie Haug thanked everyone for welcoming her to the meeting. She appreciated seeing how the work she is doing is appreciated. Sherrie Brunelle always appreciates these meetings and likes seeing ways she can better support her consumers. She is doing a lot of work around outreach and will bring some information to the next SRC meeting for Council members. Sam Liss shared that he enjoyed the AWARE presentation. It was very interesting. James Smith thanked Robin for attending. He really appreciates these meetings and welcomes the public input into the program.		
Conclusions	Great meeting! Very informative!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
11. Adjournment		
0 minutes	Adam Leonard	
Discussion	Sam Liss moved to adjourn. Sherrie Brunelle 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 3:13 PM.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	5/5/2017
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	5/5/2017
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	5/5/2017
Minutes approved	Full SRC	6/1/2017
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	6/9/2017