

**MINUTES**  
**ADVOCACY, OUTREACH and EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011**  
**1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**  
**VABIRS, 75 TALCOTT ROAD, WILLISTON, VT**

**Present:** Sam Liss (chair), Diane Dalmasse, Christine Kilpatrick, Ellie Marshall, Don Parrish, Diane Fowler, Whitney Nicols (on phone), Sarah Launderville (on phone), and Jennifer Whitmore.

**Not Present:** John Alexander and Christine McCarthy

**Staff:** Rebekah M. Stephens, SRC Coordinator.

The meeting was convened at 1:35 p.m.

Introductions were made. Diane Fowler, a newly appointed SRC member, gave a little background on herself. Everyone welcomed her to the Committee.

1. **Agenda:**

**Changes made to agenda:**

- a. Items 3 and 4 will not be covered today. Deferred until January 2012 AOE Committee meeting. Christine Kilpatrick will have report completed at that time.
  
- b. Discussion on Meetings with Patrick Flood – Sam Liss updated the Committee on the current status of meetings with Patrick Flood. The next meeting with Patrick Flood is this upcoming Monday afternoon (November 7<sup>th</sup>). Discussion will center around 4 items: 1. Budgetary issues - the current state of 2010 budget deficit. Administration is proposing a 4% across the board reduction in spending; 2. Ensuring consumer input and consumer directed undercurrent in DAIL in particular, into any program redesign in order to save time and money in the long run; 3. SILC related specifically – The SILC has set the K-12 curriculum called PRIDE, which focuses on teaching children about inclusion of individuals with disabilities. SILC is prompting the curriculum from the top down; 4. Situation involving the closure of the State Hospital and the new emphasis on community treatment.

Diane wanted to know if there was going to be a modernization update at the meeting with Patrick Flood. Sam does not know. Sam will ask at the meeting.

2. **Minutes of September 8, 2011 Committee Meeting:**

Deferred to January 2012 Committee meeting, as website access has been problematic, and as a result no one reviewed them.

3. **Continued Discussion of Education of Employers and the General Public about the Needs of People with Severe Disabilities (referred from the Policy & Procedures Committee) (carried over from September 8, 2011 meeting) Note: Christine Kilpatrick was charged with gathering information for this agenda item.):**

Deferred to January 2012 Committee meeting, Christine Kilpatrick will have the information available at that time.

4. **Continued Discussion of Legislative Gatherings (carried over from September 8, 2011 meeting) Note: Christine Kilpatrick was charged with gathering information for this agenda item.):**

Deferred to January 2012 Committee meeting, Christine Kilpatrick will have the information available at that time.

*Agenda Items 5, 6 and 7 are combined for ease of discussion.*

5. **Legislative Preview for 2012:**

Sam Liss – budget is going to be a major topic, as well as, patient rights and end of life choice. The SILC is not pro or con on this issue. The SILC has issued a “white paper” on this topic. Sam Liss will provide Rebekah Stephens with the “white paper” for uploading to SRC website.

6. **MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities):**

Unsure if there will be any legislation on this issue. Bailit Health Systems has contracted with VR to address this issue. H244 and S89 are the legislation on this issue. Diane is able to let advocates know what portions of the legislation that VR will support. AOE needs to know what the progress on support is so that it can decide whether or not to push forward on the legislation by January 1, 2012. VR is going to do its best to have the information to AOE.

Sarah Launderville suggested that this topic could be used for the education of the legislation this year. The administration supports the principal but won't support anything with a cost. Christine Kilpatrick will take lead on this topic and work with Sarah Launderville and Sam Liss to determine how to proceed.

**7. Health Care Reform Update:**

Sam Liss reported that a study found that people that are employed are healthier. The health care board has been appointed. An important issue for the board to look at is affordable health care and its availability to people with disabilities especially during unemployment periods.

**8. "Dual Eligibles" Waiver Project Update (specifically, as it applies to employment issues):**

Dual Eligibles is going to be designed to mesh with the ongoing health care reform. Sam Liss was hoping to insert work incentives in the dual eligibles project, however, the current focus is to make sure not to create disincentives.

**9. Veterans Issues:**

- a. VA has appropriated funds for contract companies to provide services for overflow consumers because VR & E is overwhelmed. VR is in process of working with contract company out of FL to assist in providing services for this overflow.
- b. National Governors' Association put out a request to Susan Bartlett (Shumlin administration) asking, "what should be top priorities in veterans' issues?" The proposal has gone to the Shumlin administration answering this question.
- c. Customs and Immigration Services has several high paying positions available. 40 disabled vets were chosen and trained to qualify for these highly paid federal ICE jobs.

**10. Transportation Challenges:**

Whitney Nichols gave an update on this item. Whitney Nichols suggested hiring someone to help out with IT issues and sharing information between members.

He feels we need to work with the governor to increase transportation access for people with disabilities. There is a need to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services between agencies. He feels that legislative mandates and executive orders need to be used to get consensus between agencies.

Diane Dalmasse mentioned that money is always an issue. She referenced Jay Peak Resort and how the resort is going to subsidize transportation to their resort so that they may attract more employees.

11. **BOND (1:2 National Demo) Rollout Progress and Pertinent National Updates – WIA (Rehab Act reauthorization, Creation of Independent Living Administration (ILA)):**

Sam Liss shared that the goal is to address this issue next year. It is his feeling that if it does not get passed as part of rehab act it will probably not get passed. The first round of letters have gone out. VR is now fully staffed. Letters are coming out of MA. VR is a subcontractor of University of MA.

12. **Other Business:**

Diane Dalmasse reiterated that budget issues in Washington need to be watched very carefully because they will greatly affect programs on the state level. This is a wait and see period.

13. **Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Don Parrish. It was 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by Ellie Marshall. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3: 18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rebekah M. Stephens, SRC Coordinator  
Approved by the Committee on January 5, 2012.