

Minutes – November 1, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, November 1, 2012	1:30 am – 3:30pm	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Chair at 1:36pm	
Members Present	Ellie Marshall, Christine Kilpatrick and Whitney Nichols (via phone)	
Members Absent	Sarah Launderville, John Alexander, Jennifer Whitmore, and Diane Dalmasse	
SRC Liaison	-----	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	-----	
Speakers/Presenters	-----	
Facilitator	-----	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Christine Kilpatrick inquired about process to get items on agenda. Sam Liss explained that items can be added at beginning of a meeting or in advance of meetings by contacting him or Rebekah Stephens. Christine would like to discuss the VocRehab Transition Counselors today.	
Conclusions	Discussion on VocRehab Transition Counselors added under "Other Business".	
2. Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2012 Committee Meeting		
1.5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion. Ellie Marshall made motion to approve. Christine Kilpatrick 2nded.	
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Approved minutes to be uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		Deadline
		11/9/2012
3. Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2012 Committee Meeting		
1.5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Approval of January 5, 2012 minutes was inadvertently missed at last AOE meeting. Christine Kilpatrick made motion to approve. Ellie Marshall 2nded. No discussion.	
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Approved minutes to be uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		Deadline
		11/9/2012
4. Health Care Issues: MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities); Dual Eligibles Project; and State Health Care Reform		
30 minutes	Sam Liss, et al.	
Discussion	Brendan Hogan is working on report for the grant. He is still waiting for technical data from his internal sources. Department of Child and Families, Department of Disability, Aging and independent Living, and Department of Veterans Affairs have been asked to provide input and edits for the report. Brendan will be sending the completed report to interested advocate groups for review and input. Advocates groups will be meeting in two weeks to discuss the report. After advocate input is received the commissioner approved report will go to the AHS Secretary. The AHS Secretary is to issue the report to the Legislature by January 15, 2013.	
The initial structure design for the Dual Eligibles Project has been submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). If permission to implement is granted, the CMS will begin implementation on January 1, 2014. State Health Care Reform is still underway. The administration is suggesting to Legislature to have vote for how to fund the reform which is set to begin in 2017. The vote has currently been delayed until 2015 due to lack of waivers. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBS VT) has been		

Minutes – November 1, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

designated as the benchmark agency for the mandated insurance exchange. This designation was made as most individuals in Vermont are already receiving medical benefits under BCBS VT. The Green Mountain Care Board voted against including adult dental in any mandated package that requires coverage. There will be study groups to determine if adult dental should be included.

Conclusions Sam Liss will continue to keep AOE updated. A lot of work has yet to be done in these areas.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a

5. Pertinent 2013 State Legislative Issues

15 minutes Sam Liss

Discussion The Agency of Human Services's budget is the main issue currently. There is a \$40-\$70 million dollar projected deficit in the AHS budget at this time. The Agency heads have been asked to cut their budgets. Human services and education make up the majority of the budget so this is where the cuts will come from. Peer navigator positions will probably not be brought back. Christine Kilpatrick shared that there are several work groups looking at self-managed care, flexible family funding and respite care. The focus is to bring all sources of funding together into one pool. Right now, the work groups are realizing that integrating all services and money is very difficult. Designated agencies are not all on board and service agencies are not communicating. Families are stuck in the middle. For example: Families used to get 10 hours of funding directly for Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services. Now the money is going through a designated agency which is providing intensive behavioral services instead. The intent is to provide more intensive services instead of just PCA services. However, the behavioral services are more expensive and families are only getting 1 hour of behavioral services versus 10 hours of PCA services.

The State Hospital reorganization is moving ahead. The money for regional beds may not be available due to lack of funds in budget. Whitney Nichols added that Pathways to Housing, a Department of Mental Health Program, is currently available to individuals with mental health issues or addictions. Sam shared that Don Parrish's resolution has been forwarded to Senator Bill Carris of Rutland County.

Conclusions The budget continues to be the main issue on the table.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a

6. Veterans' Initiatives

15 minutes Diane Dalmasse

Discussion There are currently three top veterans' initiatives: 1- Training for VR consumers to take advantage of application process for Immigration and Naturalization Service's jobs. The first of several trainings will take place in Newport, VT. 2- Increased sharing of services between VR and VA in Vermont. Increased cooperation between federal and state levels. Federal VA is overwhelmed with amount of veterans returning from war and aging veterans. 3. VR on the state level is going to assist VA by providing medical searches for veterans who may not be eligible for VA benefits but are eligible for VR benefits.

Conclusions Continued cooperation between VR and VA will benefit veterans in many ways.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a

7. National Updates: WIPA; WIA (Rehab Act); and NCD SSA Update

30 minutes Sam Liss and Diane Dalmasse

Discussion Not discussed at this time.

Minutes – November 1, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

Conclusions	Put this topic on AOE January agenda for discussion if appropriate.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put on January AOE agenda for discussion if approved by Sam Liss	Rebekah Stephens	12/19/2012
8. Transportation/SILC Taskforce		
15 minutes	Whitney Nichols and Sam Liss	
Discussion	At the last SILC (State Independent Living Council) meeting a transportation task force was formed. The task force will include both SILC members and individuals outside of the SILC. Transportation service providers will be included on the task force. Some grant money may be available for this specific topic. Short term goals versus long term goals will be addressed in a bifurcated approach. The short term goals will be the more concrete goals; for example: how to get from here to there and transportation for employment, medical and social purposes. Molly Burke is the current chair of the Transportation Committee. The SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living) goals and objectives are intended to parallel the Olmstead Act. Identification of underserved populations is crucial. The more nebulous long term goal of the task force is to make accessible transportation services for people with disabilities uniform and equitable throughout Vermont. Transportation needs to be uniformly accessible so that people with disabilities can function independently.	
Conclusions	This task force is a monumental step in the right direction. VCIL/SILC is hosting a forum for the SPIL on November 14, 2012 from 2pm – 4pm. Videoconference centers around VT will be used. Everyone is invited. Contact VCIL for more information.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
9. Other Business		
10 minutes	Committee Members	
Discussion	Christine Kilpatrick provided an update on the utilization of the transition counselors within VR. These counselors assist high school students in their transition from high school to work or post-secondary education. Currently there are insufficient counselors to go around. As a result, most students are not getting involved with a counselor until their senior year. This does not allow for adequate time to assist in skills training for employment or post-secondary education applications. Families are already saying “Why Bother”. Christine is concerned that a potentially helpful program will be lost if funding for more counselors is not made available. Sam Liss suggested issue be brought to Diane Dalmasses’s attention. Can AOE advocate for more funding? Ellie Marshall believes it would be beneficial to check VR’s State Plan to determine if measures to address this issue are already in place. Sam suggests Performance Review Committee take a look current transition services and the level of adequacy of the current existing services. The SILC networking breakfast will be in March 2013. The 3 rd Annual Olmstead meeting will be combined with this breakfast. A firm date is not yet available.	
Conclusions	The AOE Committee will put transition counselor funding on next AOE agenda. The PR Committee will put the transition counselor current services discussion on next PR agenda. Sam will provide AOE members with a firm date for the SILC breakfast when available.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Put discussion of transition counselor funding on January 2013 AOE agenda	Rebekah Stephens	12/19/2012
Put discussion of transition counselor current available services on February 2013 PR agenda	Rebekah Stephens	1/23/2013

Minutes – November 1, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

10. Adjournment		
-----	-----	
Discussion	Whitney Nichols with the assistance of his trusty canine companion, Gabriel made motion to adjourn.	
Conclusions	Unanimous agreement. Meeting adjourned at 2:34pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	11/30/2012
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	11/30/2012
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	1/3/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	3/1/2013