

Minutes – March 15, 2012 (rescheduled from March 1, 2012 due to weather)

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee			
Thursday, March 15, 2012	9:30 am – 11:30 am	DVR offices, 94 Harvest Lane Williston, VT	
Meeting called by	Sam Liss (Chair) at 9:36 am.		
Members Present	Ellie Marshall, Christine Kilpatrick, Diane Dalmasse, and Sarah Launderville (via phone)		
Members Absent	John Alexander, Jennifer Whitmore, Don Parrish, and Whitney Nichols		
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager (came in to give brief update on WIPA issue)		
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens		
Interpreters	n/a		
Speakers/Presenters	n/a		
Facilitator	n/a		
1. Today's Agenda			
2 minutes	-----		
Discussion	Ellie Marshall moved to approve. Sarah Launderville 2nded.		
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.		
2. Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2012 Committee Meeting			
3 minutes	-----		
Discussion	A quorum is needed to approve minutes. A quorum not reached today.		
Conclusions	Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2012 Committee meeting carried forward to May 5, 2012 Committee meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Put on May 5, 2012 agenda		Rebekah M. Stephens	4/23/2012
3. Report on January 26, 2012 Meeting with Administration Officials - Suggestions for Topics for Future meetings			
20 minutes	Sam Liss and Sarah Launderville		
Discussion	Sam gave a brief highlight of the January 26, 2012 meeting. The PRIDE (Promoting Respect and Inclusion through Disability Studies Education) curriculum was the main focus of the meeting. Other states such as California, Florida, and Connecticut have taken in interest in the curriculum. The State budget was also discussed. Currently the budget is level funded with no major deficit. However, COLA is still on hold. The inclusion of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the eligibility calculation for the RUFA (Reach Up Family Assistance) grant was abandoned by the Administration. Consumers will not have to include their SSI when applying for RUFA. The Administration is discussing the need to add additional case managers in DCF (Department of Children and Families). However funding remains an obstacle. Work incentives were also discussed. Commissioner Wehry and Secretary Racine support the principle of work incentives. However funding remains the issue. Sarah recommended a topic for future meetings may involve federal level issues and the impact on the state level.		
Conclusions	Sam will develop a question for upcoming meeting that addresses federal level issues and the impact on the state level.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Develop question "federal level issues and impact on state level."		Sam Liss	TBD
4. MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities)			
15 minutes	Sam Liss		
Discussion	MWPD has passed Senate Health & Welfare Committee unanimously. It is temporarily stalled in Appropriations due to some confusion regarding wording and a now non-existent DD waiver. Appropriations wants clarification on some points and the inclusion of a personal story. Once completed MWPD should be able to move out of Appropriations.		
Conclusions	Sam is in process of securing a personal story for the Appropriations committee.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
n/a		n/a	n/a

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5. Health Care Reform Update – General Advisory Committee appointments/Preparations for State Insurance Exchange/ “Dual Eligibles” project concerns			
15 minutes	Sam Liss		
Discussion	Sam has been appointed to the Advisory Board to the Green Mountain Care Board. The Advisory Board consists of 43 individuals. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide direct involvement with the public while representing the Green Mountain Care Board which consists of 5 individuals. Currently the goal is to create a guideline by which the Advisory Board can effectively represent the Green Mountain Care Board. These 2 boards represent one portion of the overall health care reform efforts. The report on preparations for State Insurance Exchange has been released. A long term waiver may be sought by Vermont; however, a state insurance exchange must be in place by 2014. Diane Dalmasse suggested inviting Brendan Hogan to come speak at a SRC meeting on the topic of “State Insurance Exchange “. The MIG grant is being used to fund Brendan Hogan and his work on the State Insurance Exchange, Medical Housing and “Dual Eligibles. “ “Dual Eligibles” is a forerunner of expanded universal health care. So it needs to mesh with whatever is coming. The focus right now is on making “Dual Eligibles” a person centered and person directed program while offering a slew of services to consumers. The intent is to save money by utilizing this approach. However, there is no concrete evidence that money will be saved. There are currently two concerns on the table: saving costs and framing the provider model. There is a deadline of April 2012 for submitting the final structure of the provider model. Sarah Launderville informed the committee that SASH (Services and Supports at Home – formerly Seniors Aging Safely at Home) has offered their services for oversight of the provider model. There are currently 6000 people participating in the SASH program. SASH is managed by Cathedral Square (Nancy Eldridge, director). It is important to mention that advocates are opposed to SASH and Cathedral Square coordinating the “duals” program.		
Conclusions	Congratulations Sam on your appointment. We look forward to future updates.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Present idea of inviting Brendan Hogan to a SRC meeting to Steering Committee - topic would be “State Insurance Exchange.”		Sam Liss	TBD
6. Education of Employers and General Public about Needs of People with Disabilities - Progress on Proposed Document			
10 minutes	Christine Kilpatrick		
Discussion	Christine is preparing a power point presentation for the April 18, 2012 g legislative gathering event. Hugh Bradshaw will be contacted to provide input.		
Conclusions	Once the power point presentation is completed, Christine will forward out to the committee for review and input.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Forward power point to Hugh Bradshaw for input		Christine Kilpatrick	3/30/2012
Forward power point to committee members for review and input		Christine Kilpatrick	4/1/2012
7. Veterans’ Updates			
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse – Director, VR		
Discussion	The Memorandum of Understanding between Veterans Administration and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VT) has been completed and signed. Glen McClintock’s position as Director of the Neuro-resource facilitation system grant which has been funded under a Leahy Earmark has been filled by Joe Nussbaum. The grant is set to end December 2012. VR hopes to be able to financially support Mr. Nussbaum’s position after the grant closes. The CARE (Comprehensive Approach to Reintegration & Employment) program proposal is still in the works. However funding is an issue. The CARE program focuses on providing confidential one-stop assessment and support services to veterans. Currently there are many veterans’ services available; however, accessing them is difficult as there is no central directory available.		
Conclusions	Diane will continue to keep the committee updated.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
n/a			

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8. Transportation Updates			
10minutes	Whitney Nichols		
Discussion	Whitney, along with Peter Johnke, VCIL staff member and transportation expert, will present this topic before the State Independent Living Council in June 2012. This agenda item moved to September 2012 agenda.		
Conclusions	Whitney to present agenda item at September 2012 committee meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Put on September 2012 agenda		Rebekah M. Stephens	8/24/2012
9. National Updates - Class Act repeal vote/Rehab Act status/SSDI 1:2 progress			
10minutes	Sam Liss and James Smith and Peter Burt (VR Supervisor)		
Discussion	The federal House voted to repeal the Class Act. This act was to set up a system by which people with profound disabilities while working could contribute into a pool of money that would be available to them if they were unable to continue working either on a temporary or permanent basis due to their disability. However it was found that the premiums to be contributed would not support the potential need. The federal Senate does not want to repeal the act. They would prefer to leave it on the books until the premium structure can be reworked. The Rehab Act is on hold until after elections. This is not new. The Rehab Act has been floating around for over a decade. James Smith gave a quick update on WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance.) Congress did not act to extend WIPA funds. The funds will end on June 30, 2012. This is a critical issue. James is actively pursuing a solution to this situation. Currently the thought is to attempt to attach a request for an extension of funds onto some must-pass legislation. Peter Burt presented a brief update on the SSDI 1:2 Program progress (BOND – Benefit Offset National Demonstration funded by Social Security Administration). Participants in the program are randomly selected and offered the opportunity to participate in the program. There is a 9 month grace period during which participants may work without any effect on their benefits. The anticipation is that once the grace period is concluded benefits will be gradually reduced to reflect the participants' level of earned income. Unfortunately at this time the Social Security Offices responsible for tracking these grace periods are staffed on a rotating basis. This rotation of staff has not allowed for timely monitoring of participants. Therefore there have been significant delays. The overall goal of the program is to get participants into consistent higher levels of employment. The gradual reduction in benefits versus immediate termination of all benefits will serve to support participants in this goal.		
Conclusions	James will keep the committee informed on the future of WIPA. Thank you Peter for your concise and informative presentation.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
n/a			
10. Other Business			
10minutes	-----		
Discussion	SILC (State Independent Living Council) is hosting a get together on March 29, 2012 from 7am – 9am. at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. Topic is “The Many Faces of Pride”. All are invited to attend.		
Conclusions	RSVP to Sam Liss if interested in attending.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
n/a			
11. Adjournment			
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Discussion	Motion to adjourn made by Ellie Marshall. Christine Kilpatrick 2nded.		
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned unanimously.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft Minutes respectfully submitted to Committee for Approval		Rebekah M. Stephens	03/30/2012
Draft Minutes uploaded to web site www.vtsrc.org		Rebekah M. Stephens	03/30/2012
Minutes approved by AOE Committee		Committee Members	05/3/2012
Approved minutes uploaded to web site www.vtsrc.org		Rebekah M. Stephens	06/01/2012