

Minutes – May 3, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, May 3, 2012	1:30 am – 3:30 am	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Chair at 1:45pm	
Members Present	Ellie Marshall, Don Parrish, Jennifer Whitmore, Sarah Launderville (via phone) and Whitney Nichols (via phone)	
Members Absent	Christine Kilpatrick, Diane Dalmasse, and John Alexander	
SRC Liaison	-----	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	-----	
Speakers/Presenters	-----	
Facilitator	-----	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	No changes made to today's agenda.	
2. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2012 Committee Meeting		
3 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Approved minutes to be uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		6/1/2012
3. Initial Debriefing on May 2, 2012 Meeting with Administration		
15 minutes	Sam Liss, Sarah Launderville and Don Parrish	
Discussion	Sam, Sarah and Don thanked the Administration for its support of MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities), the mental health reorganization and the PRIDE (Promoting Respect and Inclusion through Disability-studies Education). The Administration has proposed the Evaluation and Eligibility Committee be stricken This is a concern because it means that surveys and assessments would also be stricken. The hope is that this will not happen as it is essential to keep peer input intact. Sarah is addressing the issue of better wages and benefits for personal care assistants (PCA) with Commissioner Wehry. There are 2 unions in Vermont that are attempting to organize PCAs in order to effect change. Sam has brought to the table a preliminary request for some general funding to update the PRIDE curriculum to include language on the new anti-bullying programs in schools.	
Conclusions	Sam, Sarah and Don will continue to participate in the meetings with the Administration and provide updates to the Committee. Great work!	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
		n/a
4. Debriefing on April 18, 2012 Legislative Gathering at Statehouse		
15 minutes	Sarah Launderville and Sam Liss	
Discussion	50 power point presentation hand outs were given to interested legislators. Chris Masi, Human Resources Representative from BCBS of Vermont spoke for about 30 minutes on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. Harold Nadeau, Direct Services Manager for VCIL (Vermont Center for Independent Living) spoke for about 30 minutes on the benefits of employment for people with disabilities. An invitation to present in front of the House of Human Resources Committee for next year was received. This was a great learning opportunity for Committee members. Presentation was great. Committee discussed options for securing the undivided attention of legislators. Suggestions included: 1. Working with legislators individually in order to develop personal relationships, 2. Next year reserve the Card room at Statehouse for the entire day. This will allow a quieter environment in which to interact with legislators. The lunch room area used on April 18 th was high traffic and noisy, 3. Instead of coffee and breakfast snacks, offer chocolate, and 4. Host a lunch/dinner to honor the legislators that have actively and	

Minutes – May 3, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

consistently supported “employment for people with disabilities.” The lunch/dinner should include SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council), the SRC for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Governor’s Committee. Awards/Plaques could be given out.		
Legislators could make brief speeches.		
Conclusions	Committee will begin to plan for next year’s legislative gathering. A plan for developing more of a presence with legislators will be looked at by Committee.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Secure list of legislators who have been supportive of the disability community	Sam Liss/R. Stephens	Ongoing
Put next year’s legislative gathering on AOE agenda for November	Rebekah M. Stephens	10/19/2012
5. MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities) – Good News!		
15 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	S 89 has passed both chambers of the legislature and is on its way to the Governor.	
Conclusions	Thank you for all of your work, Sam. On May 11, 2012, S.89 was signed into law by Governor Shumlin. The law takes effect upon passage. Congratulations.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
6. Legislative Summary 2012 (applying VR – directly/indirectly) – Health Care; Mental Health Service Delivery Reorganization		
15 minutes	Whitney Nichols	
Discussion	Governor Shumlin has signed the Mental Health Service Delivery Reorganization legislation. It was an emotional ceremony. This heralds the end of the clinical bed mentality and a move towards peer involvement and rights for those with mental health issues. More consumer choice and increased freedom to live independently and stay employed.	
Conclusions	A huge step in the right direction.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
7. Veterans’ Initiatives		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse – not present	
Discussion	Agenda item skipped.	
Conclusions	Agenda item skipped.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
8. Bond Progress		
10 minutes	James Smith – not present	
Discussion	Agenda item skipped.	
Conclusions	Agenda item skipped.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
9. Transportation – Announcement of SILC Presentation		
15 minutes	Whitney Nichols	
Discussion	Whitney reported that he is prepared and excited for his upcoming presentation for the SILC in June. The topic of transportation needs for the disabled has gained national recognition. This is a great accomplishment.	
Conclusions	Great work, Whitney. Good Luck on your presentation.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
10. National Updates (WIPA and WIA (Rehab Act))		
15 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance) has not had any new developments since April 2012.	

Minutes – May 3, 2012

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

WIPA has bipartisan support in the federal Congress. It is not a question of if but of when at this point. RFP (Request for Proposal)		
Process has yet to begin. Because of this there will be at least a 6 month lag in funding. WIA (Workforce Investment Act – within		
which is embedded the Rehab Act of 1973as amended) has been on extension since 1998. It was supposed to be taken up in the		
federal Senate last year but never made it to the floor.		
Conclusions	WIPA is a program that has been shown to work successfully. Will 2012 be the year of WIA?	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
11. Other Business		
10 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
12. Adjournment		
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Discussion	Ellie Marshall moved to adjourn. Don Parrish 2nded. Passed unanimously.	
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted to Committee for review and approval	Rebekah M. Stephens	6/1/2012
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah M. Stephens	6/1/2012
Minutes approved by Committee	AOE Committee	9/6/2012
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah M. Stephens	9/14/2012