

# Minutes – January 3, 2013

## SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee			
Thursday, January 3, 2013	1:30 am – 3:30	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403	
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Committee Chair at 1:35 pm		
Members Present	Whitney Nichols via phone and Ellie Marshall via phone		
Members Absent	John Alexander, Diane Dalmasse, Christine Kilpatrick, Jennifer Whitmore and Sarah Launderville		
SRC Liaison	n/a		
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens		
Interpreters	n/a		
Speakers/Presenters	n/a		
Facilitator	n/a		
1. Today's Agenda			
2 minutes	-----		
<b>Discussion</b>	No discussion.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Today's agenda approved.		
2. Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2012 Committee Meeting			
3 minutes	-----		
<b>Discussion</b>	Ellie Marshall moved to approve. Whitney 2nded.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Approved unanimously.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Approved minutes to be uploaded to SRC website		Rebekah Stephens	1/22/2013
3. Discussion on AOE Role in Advocating for Transition Counselor Funding			
30 minutes	-----		
<b>Discussion</b>	Christine Kilpatrick was unable to attend today's AOE meeting. This agenda item to be moved to March 2013 AOE agenda. In March, the discussion should address the following areas: 1. Why are transition counselors not getting involved until the child is 18 years of age? 2. Need to look at the leadership role at the administrative level for VR and DOE. And 3. Cost effectiveness and proactive nature of transition counselors.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Put this discussion on the March 2013 AOE meeting agenda. Confirm Christine Kilpatrick's attendance at March meeting.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Put "Discussion on AOE Role in Advocating for Transition Counselor Funding" on March 2013 agenda		Rebekah Stephens	2/20/2013
Confirm Christine Kilpatrick's attendance at March 2013 AOE meeting		Rebekah Stephens	2/19/2013
4. Health Care Issues: MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities, Dual Eligibles Project, & State Health Care Reform Status)			
10 minutes	Sam Liss, Committee Chair		
<b>Discussion</b>	MWPD: Brendan Hogan has written the report and it has been sent to VR, DAIL and Doug Racine for final release. The advocates will now have a chance to respond to the report before it is sent to the legislature. The advocates will meet on January 10, 2013 from 3:30pm – 4:30pm in Williston. The report will go to committee on January 15, 2013. Dual Eligibles: The State of VT is waiting for approval to implement the preliminary design. Full implementation is set to begin on January 1, 2014. The Health Exchange also begins on January 1, 2014, with an enrollment date of October 2013. State Health Care Reform Status: If universal health care is instituted in VT, taxes will go up.		

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<b>Conclusions</b>	Change is coming.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>5. Pertinent 2013 State Legislative Issues</b>		
15 minutes	-----	
<b>Discussion</b>	Physician assisted suicide is coming up once again. Should people with disabilities support this? Will it be an easy jump to someone is ill to “people with disabilities are suffering – put them out of their misery”? It may be a slippery slope. Legislation on expansion of the available audio/video technology in the State of VT is being supported by VCIL. The intent of the legislation is to expand the availability of audio/video technology to individuals with disabilities, which would enable them to participate in community activities from the comfort of home. For example: a concert or play. A bill is being introduced to prohibit the use of credit checks when an individual applies for low income housing. Allowing credit checks could result in individuals with disabilities becoming homeless. Pathways to Housing is a strong state-wide initiative charged with finding housing for low income individuals with credit issues, past tenant/landlord issues, and treatment resistance issues. Currently there is a \$50 million dollar budget deficit for 2014. The 2013 budget will be adjusted due to unanticipated increase in case loads. By law any eligible individual cannot be refused services. To compensate for the increase in eligible individuals, available services may be adjusted. AHS (Agency of Human Services) has already been asked to cut their budget. Medicaid savings may assist with some of the deficit. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) ruled that the State Hospital was not destroyed. Therefore, less federal funding is on its way to Vermont.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	The budget will be a huge driving factor in the years to come.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>6. Discussion on Possible Special Outreach Project for 2013</b>		
15 minutes	-----	
<b>Discussion</b>	2 potential topics: 1. Expanding on the MWPD legislation – more general forum on eliminating work disincentives. Or 2. How can we improve the way that designated agencies handle employment opportunities for individuals with mental health disabilities? Ann Pugh offered for the SRC to speak to the House Human Services during the 2013 legislative session. The Committee decided that The topic of “How to Improve the Success Employment Outcomes for individuals with Mental Health Disabilities” will be the topic of the AOE 2013 outreach project. The Committee would like to hand out a small trinket of some kind to legislators. Something with the SRC name and the outreach project title. Personal stories, as well as, some statistics will be the focus of the presentation to the House Human Services. Committee members suggested reserving the Card Room at the Statehouse if it is available. Whitney Nichols and Ellie Marshall are willing to tell their personal stories to the Legislature.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	The topic for the 2013 Outreach Project is “Improving Successful Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities.” Sam Liss will contact Ann Pugh to schedule presentation date in front of House Human Services. Rebekah Stephens will secure handout trinket.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Reserve Card Room at State House	Rebekah Stephens	1/4/2013
Secure handout trinket	Rebekah Stephens	2/28/2013
Contact Ann Pugh to schedule AOE presentation in front of House Human Services	Sam Liss	1/15/2013

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Discuss engaging Full SRC in 2013 Outreach Project	AOE Committee	2/7/2013
Draft presentation for upcoming House Human Services presentation	AOE Committee	ongoing
<b>7. Veterans' Initiatives</b>		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
<b>Discussion</b>	Diane did not attend today's meeting due to illness. No discussion.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	None.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>8. National Updates: WIPA, WIA (Rehab Act), &amp; NCD SSA Update</b>		
10 minutes	Sam Liss	
<b>Discussion</b>	WIPA: Keep your eyes open for bipartisan legislation on continuing approval for WIPA. WIA (Rehab Act): Nothing new yet. Hopefully it will be reintroduced by the new Congress. Last year it never got out of the Senate Committee. NCD SSA Update: Sam Liss is on the Vermont segment of the National Consortium, along with Sarah Launderville and James Smith. The intent of the Consortium is to offer ideas for enhancing work incentives in SSA/SSI and MWPD (buy-ins), while saving money and preserving the social security trust fund. This may mean a restructured definition of disability. However, the Consortium is not sure the definition needs to be restructured or if a clarification of definition would suffice. The question is whether it should be a functional definition or a diagnostic definition? National Social security experts are to be consulted. Sam, James and Sarah are sifting through research that has already been done and culling out the information that will be used to make recommendations.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Sam will continue to update the Committee throughout the process.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>9. Transportation Issues/SILC Taskforce</b>		
10 minutes	Whitney Nichols & Sam Liss	
<b>Discussion</b>	The SILC has convened a taskforce consisting of outside transportation providers and SILC members. The goal of the taskforce is to discuss how to make transportation more accessible and affordable for people with disabilities in VT. The first meeting is scheduled for January 18 <sup>th</sup> via teleconference. The long term goal of the taskforce is to discuss how to expand and make more uniform available transportation services in VT.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Whitney and Sam will continue to update the Committee as things progress.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>10. Other Business</b>		
10 minutes	-----	
<b>Discussion</b>	Sam Liss announced that the SILC's networking breakfast will be held at the end of March. This year's theme is the Olmstead Act and how it relates to the State Plan for Independent Living. One is enmeshed in the other. A networking breakfast will be held in the morning and the Olmstead meeting will be held in the afternoon. Whitney has been appointed to the SILC as a member. <u>Homeless for The Holidays</u> show is on VPR website.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Sam will get everyone the date for the SILC networking breakfast and Olmstead meeting as soon as it is scheduled. Congratulations to Whitney on his appointment to the SILC.	

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<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None.	n/a	n/a
<b>11. Adjournment</b>		
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<b>Discussion</b>	Whitney Nichols moved to adjourn. Ellie Marshall 2nded.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Draft minutes submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	2/1/2013
Draft minutes uploaded to website <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>	Rebekah Stephens	2/4/2013
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	3/7/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>	Rebekah Stephens	3/15/2013