

Minutes – September 5, 2013

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee			
Thursday, September 5, 2013	1:30 am – 3:30	VABVI, 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403	
Meeting called by	Sarah Launderville, Chair at 1:40pm		
Members Present	Sam Liss, Whitney Nichols (via phone), Patti Shane, Diane Dalmasse and Ellie Marshall		
Members Absent	John Alexander and Jennifer Whitmore		
SRC Liaison	n/a		
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens		
Interpreters	n/a		
Speakers/Presenters	n/a		
Facilitator	n/a		
1. Today's Agenda			
-----	-----		
Discussion	Sarah Launderville made some last minute changes to agenda. She distributed an updated agenda to Committee members. Changes to agenda: Item #5 – Discussion on S. 1356 moved to #3 on agenda. Discussion on NCIL Conference/Access Pilot Project added as Item #6 on agenda.		
Conclusions	Committee members approved changes to agenda.		
2. Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2013 Committee Meeting			
-----	-----		
Discussion	Sam Liss made motion to approve. Ellie Marshall 2 nd .		
Conclusions	Committee approved unanimously.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Approved minutes to be uploaded to SRC website		Rebekah Stephens	9/13/2013
3. Discussion on S. 1356			
30 minutes	Diane Dalmasse, VR Director		
Discussion	S. 1356 proposes moving the RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) to the DOL (Department of Labor). The RSA is currently under the DOE (Department of Education). VR is opposed to the move of RSA to DOL. DOE has not taken a position on this proposal at this time. Sarah Launderville suggests that the SRC write a letter detailing how this move will uniquely effect Vermont – the specific VT impact. Diane offered to provide Sarah with her notes on this topic.		
Conclusions	Committee agrees that a letter should be written. Sarah requested that Rebekah Stephens compose a letter using Diane's notes. Letter to be submitted to Sarah and Committee members for approval.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Compose letter regarding move of RSA to DOL and its specific impact on Vermont		Rebekah Stephens	10/15/2013
Submit letter to Sarah Launderville and AOE Committee members for approval		Rebekah Stephens	10/16/2013
4. Supported Employment Research – Discussion of research received from Whitney Nichols during past 2 months			
30 minutes	Whitney Nichols		
Discussion	Whitney has been doing research on Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities (MWPDP) this summer. An individual may not apply for MWPDP once they turn 65 years of age. However, under the Balanced Budget Act if an individual is on MWPDP when they turn 65 years of age, they cannot be taken off the program. Whitney suggested AOE members read the article " Employment Barriers for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities: update of a report for the President's Commission. " (Judith Cook, 2006) An		

Minutes – September 5, 2013

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

abstract of this article may be found at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17035556 or		
http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/article.aspx?articleID=97073 Whitney also suggested AOE members		
take a look at the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) website www.nami.org as it offers some great resources.		
Conclusions	AOE Committee members thanked Whitney for his hard work. Whitney will continue to provide information and resources to Committee members on this topic.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide Rebekah Stephens with electronic copies of research for inclusion on SRC website www.VTSRC.org	Whitney Nichols	ongoing
5. Making Employment a Priority – Discussion of scheduling 2nd meeting to be held in June 2014		
20 minutes	Sarah Launderville	
Discussion	Before a 2 nd meeting is scheduled, Sarah would like to meet with Laura Flint (Department of Mental Health) and Carol McBain (CRT-Community Rehabilitation Treatment program) to determine if any changes have been seen since the last joint meeting on January 10, 2013. The Performance Review Committee submitted a letter of support to the Employment Revitalization Committee (ERC) on June 17, 2013 suggesting that the ERC “conduct a systematic root cause analysis of the sustained decline in successful employment outcomes within the CRT program”. The AOE members would like to determine if there have been any changes in CRT this past year. If not, there will be no reason to conduct a second meeting at this time. Sarah suggested that if there is reason to schedule a 2 nd meeting for June 2014, a panel of agencies that use CRT services be convened and CRT staff be invited to attend to hear what 3 rd party agencies have to say about CRT services. A question to ask may be “what type of training do CRT counselors receive around employment and/or what is the connection between money for employment and CRT services?” AOE Committee members discussed testifying in front of Ann Pugh – House of Human Services in January 2014. Sam Liss explained that the House of Human Services would like to hear from the AOE Committee again in January. It is to be a follow up to May 9, 2013 testimony.	
Conclusions	Laura Flint and Carol McBain will be invited to join the AOE Committee at their November 7, 2013 Committee meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Invite Laura Flint and Carol McBain to November 7, 2013 AOE Committee meeting	Rebekah Stephens	10/4/2013
Contact Ann Pugh’s office (Julie Tucker) to schedule a follow up AOE testimony for January 2014	Rebekah Stephens	10/4/2013
6. NCIL Conference/Access Pilot Project		
20 minutes	Sarah Launderville	
Discussion	Sarah handed out a one-page summary on this topic. “The Center on Economic Growth at the World Institute on Disability (WID) and the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) have shaped the following legislative framework and proposal. Three to four state pilot projects will seek out, build on, and use existing innovative practices with a 12-year goal of transforming the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program over time, carefully, and in ways that markedly increase employment. This legislative framework will authorize career building pilot projects to serve youth who are, or could be, medically eligible for the means-tested Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.” At Sarah’s request, Brian McDonald - Chair of the Employment Subcommittee for NCIL made some suggestions as to how the SRC/AOE Committee can support this program.	
Conclusions	Sarah will send Rebekah Stephens the full list of suggestions from Brian McDonald so that they can be included in AOE minutes.	

Minutes – September 5, 2013

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Email Rebekah Stephens full list of Brian McDonald's suggestions		Sarah Launderville	9/13/2013
1 st Suggestion – “750 word or less personal stories about life on benefits, life with a job and benefits as an employment support, life building a career and its challenges”		AOE Committee members	TBD
2 nd Suggestion – “youth under 30 encouraged to craft short videos, in addition to written personal stories, if and when feasible – You tube audience – 5 minutes or less”		AOE Committee members	TBD
3 rd Suggestion – “Collated comments and suggestions on any of the design features in ACCESS to date as attached and the latest one pager”		AOE Committee members	TBD
4 th Suggestion – “Identify sharp youth candidates to co-chair the NCIL subcommittee”		NCIL/AOE Committee members	TBD
7. Other Business			
10 minutes	Diane Dalmasse, VR Director		
Discussion	Currently there is a battle in the legislature regarding the downsizing of the Reach Up Employment contract in order to invest in counselors to assist consumers with mental health concerns.		
VR (Vocational Rehabilitation) would like to partner with the DOL. VR has planned a CWS outreach and education campaign directed at the legislature. Senators and representatives are being invited to CWS leadership/team meetings. The first host meeting took place yesterday. One senator and 2 representatives attended the meeting. There are 12 meetings planned between now and January 2014. Sarah requested that Diane let the AOE Committee know the names of the legislators that attend the meetings, so that the AOE Committee can contact them to follow up with them for further discussion or questions.			
Conclusions	Diane will provide the names to the AOE Committee as the legislators attend the meetings.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide legislator names to AOE Committee		Diane Dalmasse	Ongoing
Follow up with legislators		AOE Committee members	Ongoing
8. Adjournment			
-----	-----		
Discussion	No discussion.		
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted for approval		Rebekah Stephens	10/4/2013
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens	10/4/2013
Minutes approved by Committee		Committee Members	11/7/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens	11/15/2013