

Minutes – October 4, 2012

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)		
Thursday, October 4, 2012	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Agency of Natural Resources, 100 Mineral Street, Suite 304, Springfield, VT 05156
Meeting called by	P. Neal Meier (Chair) at 12:31pm	
Members Present	John Alexander, William Pendlebury, Sam Liss, Jennifer Whitmore, Adam Leonard, Diane Dalmasse, Allen Evans, Whitney Nichols, and Ellie Marshall	
Members Absent	Sarah Launderville, John Spinney, Christine Kilpatrick, and Karen Hussey	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	Elizabeth Bjerke and Cory Brunner	
Speakers/Presenters	Brendan Hogan, Senior Consultant-Bailit Health Purchasing; Janette Shell, Technical Assistance Unit-Rehabilitation Services Administration	
Facilitator	-----	
Guests	Amber Fulcher-Director, Vermont Assistive Technology Program	
1. Today's Agenda		
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Discussion	James Smith requested Order Of Selection be added to today's agenda. Neal Meier thanked Council for the request to extend his term by 6 months. He is honored.	
Conclusions	Order of Selection to be added under Agenda Item #13, "Other Business".	
2. Moment of Silence and Remembrance for Don Parrish		
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Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	Don is missed.	
3. Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2012 Council Meeting and June 7, 2012 Cancelled Council		
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Discussion	Motion made by Sam Liss to approve April 5, 2012 and June 7, 2012 minutes. Ellie Marshall 2nded.	
Conclusions	Unanimously approved.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Approved April 5, 2012 minutes to be uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
Approved June 7, 2012 minutes to be uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
Deadline		Deadline
		10/31/2012
		10/31/2012
4. Consent Agenda		
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Discussion	Consent agenda includes: Approved Minutes for Steering Committee – March 1, 2012 & May 3, 2012; Approved Minutes for Policy & Procedures Committee – January 5, 2012, March 1, 2012 & May 3, 2012; and Approved Minutes for Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee – March 15, 2012 & May 3, 2012. Coordinator's Report.	
Conclusions	Council voted unanimously to accept Consent Agenda.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None.		n/a
Deadline		Deadline
		n/a
5. Introductions		
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Discussion	Introductions were made around the table. Allen Evans joins the Council today, for his first SRC meeting as a newly appointed member.	

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Conclusions	Welcome, Allen!		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None.		n/a	n/a
6. Presentation on Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities, Dual Eligibles, Medicaid Health Homes, Money Follows the Person, and Health Care Exchange Programs			
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Brendan Hogan – Senior Consultant, Bailit Health Purchasing		
Discussion	Brendan explained the roles of CMS (Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services) and ACO (Accountable Care Organization). Brendan’s presentation included an overview of the Money Follows the Person program. Individuals in nursing homes that wish to live in the community with “low case mix status” are the best fit for this program. Low case mix status is defined as an individual’s “potential ability to live within the community with the appropriate supports. The Money Follows the Person program assists these individuals by providing the funding for wrap-around services.		
Conclusions	Excellent presentation Brendan. Very informative.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Presentation uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens	10/31/2012
7. RSA Review of DVR and Council Input on DVR’s Strengths and Performance			
1:50 pm – 2:20 pm	Janette Shell – Technical Assistance Unit, Rehabilitation Services Administration		
Discussion	Janette Shell, Dave Wachter (Liaison to VT), and Tanielle Chandler (Fiscal) were on the phone. Janette explained that they are part of a 9 member team charged with RSA Review of DVR. The first question posed to the SRC was regarding the SRC’s relationship with DVR. The Council members responded that the relationship is very positive. Members of the SRC interact on a biweekly basis with DVR in one way or another. DVR consistently provides all requested information quickly and in a form that is easily understand. The SRC conducted a “Not So Secret Shopper” last year to determine how the DVR process works. During the process, Council members witnessed a high level of employee dedication and loyalty. DVR employees display a deep sense of purpose towards their work and their consumers. The Council members shared with the RSA team that the VT SRC is not a rubber stamp Council. The Council asks the hard questions and DVR answers them. The relationship between the SRC and DVR is based on the mutual desire to provide excellent services to VT VR consumers, which in turn fosters an open relationship and a collaborative effort. The second question posed to the SRC was regarding the State Plan attachment and the Annual Report and the recommendations to strengthen Creative Work Solutions. This question focuses on delivery of services to consumers in general. How is DVR delivering services? The Council members explained to the RSA team that the person best suited to answer the question around the State Plan has recently left the Council (Don Parrish-deceased). The Council was able to inform the RSA team that data reviewed just this morning shows that VR consumers with mental health disabilities are being served appropriately and timely when compared with the general VR population. The Council went on to explain that more research is needed on TBI consumers. Ellie Marshall explained that 2009-2011 VR closure data for individuals with mental health disability categorization was used to review this topic. Sam Liss added that looking at today’s data on Unsuccessful Closures for Consumers with Mental Health Disabilities shows that timeliness is similar for those with a Mental Health diagnosis versus other Disabilities, with the exception of TBI. John Alexander shared that a TBI diagnosis presents its own unique challenges, however, Vermont is way ahead of others on providing services. But there is still a lot of work to be done. Ellie Marshall explained that the SRC is looking for places where impact can be made to improve the process for consumers with a Mental Health diagnosis and to assist on bettering employment opportunities for this population. The Performance Review Committee is taking a deeper look at closures for this population. Diane Dalmasse and James Smith will be addressing this data with regional managers		

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to come up with some best practices and strategies to address some of the regional differences in closures identified by the data. Clayton Clark is going to breakout results between Mental Health consumers in the CRT program and consumers outside the CRT program to see if there are any issues specific to CRT consumers. Janette explained that the RSA team has spent a lot of time looking at the agreement with the Howard Center and the Jobs program. This monitoring review is happening simply because it is DVR's turn to be monitored. Emphasis is on program improvement. The third question posed to the SRC was "What does the SRC see as DVR strengths?" Janette referenced the SWOT memo from June 2011. Neal Meier shared that 70% of the placements made by DVR are still in place 2 years later. This tells me VR is making placements that are successful for the long term. The SRC is pleased with the number of consumers being served. 100 or more additional consumers are being served each year. DVR is serving more consumers even though they had to lay off 30 individuals. Sam Liss added that DVR emphasis on its benefit to work program is a strength. The data shows that the program has helped many people with disabilities get back to work, maintain their benefits, and maintain employment. Neal shared that of the 700 consumers surveyed 91% of consumers are satisfied with the services received from VR. Janette then requested the SRC members share any areas for improvement: Ellie Marshall mentioned the Employee Satisfaction Survey and the area of staff having enough knowledge to do their jobs is down. One of the thoughts is that the new computer changes may have had an impact on this standard. Sam Liss mentioned that there has been some concern in the past regarding the Order of Selections Process and making this process more equitable. Allen Evans added that the WIB program has been very successful. Because of this program DVR is now considered a strong employment interceder. The RSA team requested any additional information the Council may have on how to strengthen CWS.		
Conclusions	Neal Meier informed the RSA team that they will have a very positive experience when they come to VT. The SRC looks forward to meeting them when they come. Additional information on how to strengthen CWS could possibly be found in the June 2011 SWOT memo.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Forward copy of June 2011, SWOT memo to RSA team if they do not already have it	Rebekah Stephens	10/16/2012
8. Discussion on Inclusion of AT Advisory Council with SRC (Approved by SRC, June 2012)		
2:20 pm – 3:05 pm	Amber Fulcher, Director, Vermont Assistive Technology Program	
Discussion	AT Advisory Council is a federal mandated program housed within VR. It is not Governor appointed. The goal of the AT Council is to provide the AT program with an active community based advisory board that will assist in forming the general direction of assistive technology in Vermont. The AT Council will form a sub-committee within the SRC. The SRC already contains individuals that meet some of the member requirements of the AT Council. 60% of the AT Council needs to come from the community that directly uses AT or has a family member that uses AT. The AT Council will consist of 11 individuals. Amber has already recruited Fred Jones, Director-DBVI, to sit on AT Council. The AT Council will meet 4 times a year. The SRC members discussed what those meetings will look like. Meetings will be no longer than 2 hours each. The SRC discussed if AT Council members will be considered members of the SRC. The AT Council has an annual update in October with a review of its State Plan once every 3 years. Amber informed the SRC that the October 2012 annual update, as well as, the State Plan Review have been completed. The next annual update is due October 2013 and the State Plan review is due in 2015. The next Question is "Who from the SRC is interested in serving on the AT Council?"	
Conclusions	Individuals recruited solely for the AT Council will not be considered SRC members. The additional 6 AT sub-committee members will join the Full SRC once a year for a meeting, one Performance Review Committee meeting will become an AT Committee meeting, and 2 meetings will be	

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held via phone or webinar (total 4 meetings a year). Rebekah Stephens will prepare agendas and take minutes for these AT Council meetings. Amber will be responsible for recruiting AT Council members as she is most familiar with the AT Community. However, Rebekah, will provide recruiting assistance when appropriate. The SRC has requested that Amber provide a full overview and AT demonstration at the next available Full SRC meeting. The Steering Committee will review the upcoming SRC schedule and determine which Full SRC meeting will host the AT overview and demonstration (2 hours needed).		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
AT Council structure and description, to include list of members, to be prepared and given to SRC	Amber Fulcher	TBD
Scheduling of AT overview and demonstration to be put on Steering Committee agenda	Rebekah Stephens	11/1/2012
AT Council meeting schedule to be determined	Steering Committee/Performance Review Committee/Amber Fulcher	TBD
9. Director's Report		
-----	Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	All SRC members are invited to the VR Staff Retreat. Diane will email agenda to Rebekah and she will forward to SRC members. Staff Satisfaction Survey is done every 2 years. Diane offered a pizza lunch to any office that can get 100% participation on the survey. So far 146 out of 200 employees have taken the survey. The survey will close in mid October 2012.	
Conclusions	Great work! The electronic version of the Director's Report is available on the SRC website, www.VTSRC.org .	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
VR Staff Retreat agenda to be emailed to all SRC members	Diane Dalmasse /Rebekah Stephens	10/10/2012
Upload Director's Report to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah M. Stephens	10/31/2012
10. SWOT Memo Update:		
-----	James Smith & Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	Doug Racine has been approached with funding requesting for BAMs, GA and CWS for State FY 2014 or perhaps 2015. Doug seems very open to putting these items on his agenda. There is potential for the request to go up to Governor's budget. VR has been very persistent in the area of SNAP. Approximately 75 - 85% of people in correctional system use food stamps. The SNAP program has funding built in to assist individuals in getting employment and getting off food stamps. Offenders are phase one and GA recipients are phase 2. Phase three focuses on youth exiting corrections. CWS team survey is completed. The results for this survey and for the employer survey will be SWOT topic for 12/6/2012 SRC meeting. The survey results will be presented to Secretary Racine to help support funding requests.	
Conclusions	VR will continue to update the SRC on funding requests.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
SWOT topics - CWS Team Survey and Employer Survey results to be put on December 6, 2012 SRC agenda (under SWOT)	Rebekah Stephens	11/22/2012
11. Parking Lot		
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Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

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None.	n/a	n/a
12. Round Table		
-----	SRC members and guests	
Discussion	Whitney really appreciated Brendan's presentation. Whitney has a personal experience that he would like to share with Brendan. Neal Meier was impressed with all presentations. Adam Leonard would love to reexamine the SWOT analysis. Don is really missed. Jennifer Whitmore enjoyed Brendan's presentation and Amber being here. Looking forward to collaboration with AT Council. Sam Liss is passionately interested in Brendan's topic. Grateful for presentation. Sam believes that the SRC Conversation with the RSA was handled conversation well. Don is missed. Don's spirit will live on in the goals and ideals of those who think like him. William Pendlebury shared that Don's absence is definitely noticeable. William appreciated Brendan's presentation. James Smith appreciates the members of the PR Committee and getting VR to look at mental health consumers and others that didn't complete the IPE process. This is the exact reason we have a public board like the SRC to ask these types of questions. Amber Fulcher really appreciated being part of today's meeting and looks forward to collaborating with the SRC. Amber shared that AT and the Money Follows the Person program recently collaborated to assist a newly quadriplegic individual to gain access to his computer and to play his guitar again. Pretty exciting stuff. John Alexander shared Don's advocacy has really impacted many people.	
Conclusions	Thank you to all of the presenters today.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send Adam Leonard June 2011 SWOT memo	Rebekah Stephens	10/26/2012
13. Other Business		
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Discussion	The SRC members discussed submitting a resolution in honor of Don in the house. The SRC and the SILC can write the resolution. Sam Liss will draft up the resolution and email out for feedback. Order of Selection was added to agenda for discussion today. James Smith requested that OOS be made a permanent agenda item. 19 individuals were found to be eligible under category 3. James recommends opening up all 19 cases for services. VR received re-allotment money therefore there are sufficient funds for services. Neal Meier entertained a motion to open up category 3 cases. John Alexander made motion to open all 19 category 3 cases. Sam Liss 2nded. Neal Meier shared that he has been approached to participate in "Formal Stakeholder" survey. Diane Dalmasse will present a summary of this survey at an upcoming SRC meeting.	
Conclusions	Unanimous vote to open category 3 cases under OOS. VR will provide services for all 19 individuals.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Committee to decide when to put "Formal Stakeholder" survey summary discussion on upcoming Full SRC agenda	Steering Committee	1/3/2013
14. Adjournment		
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Discussion	Motion to adjourn made by John Alexander. William Pendlebury 2nded.	
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:39pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes submitted to Council for approval	Rebekah Stephens	11/2/2012
Draft minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	11/2/2012
Minutes approved by Council	SRC Members	2/7/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	3/1/2013