

Minutes – October 3, 2013

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)		
Thursday, October 3, 2013	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation 108 Cherry Street, Room 3B Burlington, VT 05401
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Chair at 12:30 pm.	
Members Present	April Tuck, Adam Leonard, Kerry White, Karen Hussey, Sarah Launderville, Patti Shane, Anthony Williams (via phone), Whitney Nichols (via phone), Allen Evans, Sam Liss, John Spinney, and Ellen Vaut	
Members Absent	Diane Dalmasse and Michele Hubert	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	Margret and Lynette	
Speakers/Presenters	Brendan Hogan (Senior Consultant, Bailit Heath Purchasing), Rita Martin (Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation – CSAVR)- via phone, and Hugh Bradshaw (VR Employment Services Manager)	
Guests	Burlington VR Staff - Mark Ciociola, Brittany Hartung, Kate Stattel, Bill Hudson, Kate Russell, Eric Johnson. Kathy Johnson (VABIR) and Courtney Blasius (AT Advisory Council)	
1. Today's Agenda		
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Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Accepted.	
2. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2013 SRC Meeting		
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Discussion	Karen Hussey made motion to approve. Adam Leonard 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Minutes approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Put approved minutes on www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		Deadline
		10/11/2013
3. Consent Agenda		
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Discussion	Sarah Launderville made motion to approve. April Tuck 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Consent agenda approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None.		n/a
		Deadline
		n/a
4. Burlington Office – Vocational Rehabilitation Staff		
20 minutes	Burlington VR Staff	
Discussion	Mark Ciociola, Regional Manager, provided a summary of the “happenings” in the Burlington VR office. Burlington staff has been working very hard. The office has closed in excess of 300 post-90 day rehabilitation cases. This is a wonderful accomplishment for staff and consumers. The Burlington office is focusing on 4 strategic goal areas: Prepared job seekers, referral process, collaborative partnerships and organizational effectiveness. In the area of prepared job seekers, the VR staff is conducting resume writing workshops, hosting training focused on empowering employees (consumers) and VR staff training specific to the needs of the consumer base in Burlington. Every VR staff training meeting begins with a review of the office’s successes and gratitudes. Burlington is addressing the areas of collaborative partnerships and the referral process together. By providing outreach to VABIR and Corrections, the Burlington office hopes to ensure a seamless referral and transition process. In roads with	

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<p>Fletcher Allen Hospital and the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) have been made on the topic of discharge planning for consumers. The Burlington office has put a process committee in place to focus on the goal of “organizational effectiveness”. The Burlington staff introduced themselves and some provided a brief overview of the work they do with VR. Brittany Hartung is the CR Corrections liaison. Kate Stattel is a RUFA counselor. Kate shared that better child care subsidies and transportation alternatives are needed to assist this population. Bill Hudson is the Senior Counsel for the RCD program which services the deaf and and hard of hearing population in Vermont. Bill explained that the unemployment rate is high in this group. VR has been finding that the use of progressive employment and AT devices to assist with getting employment and communication in general has been successful. Kate Russell is a VR CRT (Community Rehabilitation and Treatment) liaison. SRC members posed the question “Do you have anything to say about the decline in successful employment rates within the CRT population?” Kate responded, “I have been in this position less than two years. I have seen the report, but have not been around to see the trend. VR is working on being really goal specific to make sure the services I am providing are for the long term. Progressive employment has been really helpful with this population. Hopefully the numbers will start to go up.” Mark Ciociola added that the CRT referrals need to come from somewhere and not all supported employment agencies are created equal in their ability to provide strong referrals. The CRT team is working on trying to make the referral process more streamlined. Eric Johnson is a VR transition counselor. He provided a brief summary of the transition services he provides currently. He typically gets involved with students during their junior year in high school. Kathy Johnson is an Employment Consultant with Vermont Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (VABIR). VABIR offers specialized staff that concentrates on specific populations, such as RUFA and transition. As well as, the general VR population.</p>		
Conclusions	<p>Burlington is a great group of people. A lot of positive work coming out of the Burlington office. Thank you to the Burlington office staff for joining us today.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
5. Presentation and Discussion on Health Care Reforms		
1 hour 10 minutes	Brendan Hogan, Senior Consultant, Bailit Health Purchasing	
Discussion	<p>Vermont is one of 25 states interested in having a Dual Eligibles program. The VT Dual Eligibles program is set to begin 1/1/2015. AHS (Agency of Human Services) submitted the proposal for the program on 5/10/2012. Vermont wants to be a publically run Medicare/Medicaid managed care program for all qualifying dual eligible participants. Vermont received a federal grant to establish a Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO). Vermont’s ACO models are provider based: hospital based, federally qualified health based, and physician based. There are hundreds of different ACO models across the country. Money Follows the Person project is operated by DAIL (Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living). A federal grant was received and is providing stipends to help establish individuals back into the community from nursing homes. It is a 5 year federal grant. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has submitted a State Plan Amendment to operate a health home. The funding for this must be built into the Medicaid budget to keep it going. Health Homes is a network of service providers with the sole intent of coordination of services for an individual. The project hopes to expand to include individuals with severe mental illnesses not eligible for the CRT (Community Rehabilitation Program). This expansion is planned for the 2nd year of the project. Vermont is one of 17 states that are running a health insurance exchange. In Vermont it is known as “VT Health Connect”. 33 states have chosen to have the federal government run their exchange. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of VT and MVP are the two insurance companies operating in the exchange. These companies will be offering various levels of insurance coverage. Individuals and small businesses (less than 50 employees) will be</p>	

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able to purchase insurance from the exchange. Subsidies will be offered to individuals that qualify and choose to purchase the silver level insurance plan. The subsidies are sourced by federal dollars.		
Conclusions	Informative presentation. Thank you, Brendan.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
6. Order of Selection		
10 minutes	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager & SRC Liaison	
Discussion	There is currently one individual waiting for VR services under category 3. There are no category 1 and 2 individuals waiting for VR services. VR is requesting SRC approval to open services for this one individual. Sarah Launderville made motion to open services. April Tuck 2 nd . 7 ayes and 1 nay.	
Conclusions	The ayes have it. Approval to open services for this category 3 individual is given.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
7. Update on S.1356		
35 minutes	Sarah Launderville, Rita Martin (Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation – CSAVR)- via phone, and Hugh Bradshaw (VR Employment Services Manager)	
Discussion	S. 1356 is a bill to amend the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) which is embedded in the Rehabilitation Act. Rita Martin of CSAVR summarized the efforts surrounding this bill via phone conference. Per Rita: S. 1356 is scheduled for a floor vote in the senate at the end of October 2013. Essentially the bill will move the RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) and consequently VR out of the Department of Education (DOE) and into the Department of Labor (DOL). CSAVR is strongly opposed to the move of the RSA from the DOE to the DOL because of the broad implications of the move. The move would mean the eventual full integration of the VR and DOL programs and CSAVR believes that as a result, VR would not be able to deliver the holistic services it currently provides to consumers. CSAVR sees this move as the beginning of the integration of the two programs. S. 1356 is also eroding the educational requirements of the general VR counselor. Rita shared that what has been so frustrating is that this bill has been done behind closed doors. The bill was made public on a Friday at 5:00 pm and responses were due that Monday morning. Usually there have been public hearings. That has not occurred in this instance. Doing the bill behind closed doors and releasing it so quickly was meant to avoid opposition. CSAVR's intent is to educate every senator and representative about the hidden impacts of this bill and what some alternatives to this move may look like. The NRA (National Rehabilitation Association) and CSAVR have been working to stop this move of the RSA and VR to the DOL. There are no real developments to share at this time. However, there are several ideas that have been discussed: Some are suggesting that the RSA simply change their name to ODEP (Office of Disability Employment Policy). The goal is to come up with a proposal that keeps the RSA in the DOE but will also provide some restructuring. CSAVR wants nothing proposed that will compromise the service delivery of the VR agency and the state level director leadership. There are members that are not supporting sheltered workshops, at this time. OSERS (Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services) will need to be on board with whatever proposal is made to ensure there is no crossover. The VR state directors are very aware of the issues and are providing support. CSAVR will be looking for a champion to move this ahead. If the larger WIA bill gets bogged down, the committee believes there is enough merit to uncouple the Rehab Act to stand alone for reauthorization. CSAVR has pulled out every block available to stop this move, but ultimately it may not be enough. Where is the advocacy community around this? – Easter Seals supports the move. Goodwill has strong concerns but has not opposed the move. PACER has opposed the move. NCIL (National Council on Independent Living)	

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is supporting the bill because they got what they wanted. Senator Dole is supporting the work of CSAVR.		
Rita promised to provide updates as they come up and concluded her phone conference with the SRC.		
Discussion was, then, opened up to the SRC and its guests. Several points of concern were discussed.		
The DOL has historically not taken an individual approach to finding individuals employment. The DOL has historically implemented programs and individuals either fit in or not into these programs. If this move is approved on the federal level it does not necessarily have to be done on the state level. The biggest effect may be to funding and how it is spent by VR. Currently, VR spending is very flexible. Bringing VR under the DOL may cause things to become more rigid. The move would also strip away the educational requirements of VR counselors. Anyone with a business degree could be a VR counselor. Individuals with severe disabilities would get lost. The DOL doesn't understand disability like VR. In the end, Vermont would have to agree to align with what is going on federally.		
Conclusions	Everything is up in the air right now. VR in VT is exceptional. The situation is being monitored and everything that can be done is being done.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
8. Discussion on who will replace Ellie Marshall at I-Team Meetings		
10 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	James Smith explained that it is important to have multiple viewpoints on the I-Team. Ellie Marshall's term with the SRC ended on 9/30/2013. VR believes it would be beneficial to have a member of the SRC on the I-Team. Kerry White volunteered to join the I-Team.	
Conclusions	The Council supports Kerry as the choice to replace Ellie.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
9. Acceptance of Additional Nominations for SRC Chair and Vice-Chair		
5 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	Michele Hubert has accepted the nomination for Chair and Allen Evans has accepted the nomination for Vice-Chair. Sam called for additional nominations from the floor. No additional nominations from the floor for Chair or Vice-Chair were made by the SRC.	
Conclusions	As there are no additional nominations, elections will not be necessary.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
10. Election of new SRC Chair and Vice-Chair		
10 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	No discussion. Sam called for a vote.	
Conclusions	Michelle Hubert confirmed unanimously for Chair. Allen Evans confirmed unanimously for Vice-Chair.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a
11. Other Business		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None.	n/a	n/a

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12. Adjournment		
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Discussion	Sarah Launderville moved to adjourn. Karen Hussey 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 3:30 pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	11/1/2013
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	11/1/2013
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	11/1/2013
Minutes approved	Full SRC	12/5/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	12/13/2013