

Minutes – April 4, 2013

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

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Thursday, April 4, 2013	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired VABVI 60 Kimball Avenue, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Chair at 12:35PM	
SRC Members Present	Ellie Marshall, Laban Hill, April Tuck, Allen Evans, Devereaux Simon, William Pendlebury, John Alexander and Sarah Lauderville & Whitney Nichols (via phone)	
ATC Members Present	Amber Fulcher, Chris Couseneau and Courtney Blaisus	
Members Absent	John Spinney, Karen Hussey, Jennifer Whitmore, Adam Leonard & Diane Dalmasse	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	Cory Brunner and Barb Walker	
Speakers/Presenters	Amber Fulcher, Program Director, VT Assistive Technology Program	
Guests	Anthony Williams, Ellen Vaut and Michele Hubert	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Accepted.	
2. Introductions and Welcome to AT Council Members		
3 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Everyone introduced themselves.	
3. Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2013 SRC Meeting		
2 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion. Allen Evans moved to approve. Ellie Marshall 2nded.	
Conclusions	Approved unanimously.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
		4/17/2013
4. Consent Agenda		
3 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Consent agenda includes: Approved minutes Steering Committee - January 3, 2013, Policy and Procedures Committee- January 3, 2013, Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee - January 3, 2013 and Coordinator's Report. Sam Liss called for approval by consensus.	
Conclusions	Consensus received. No objections. Consent agenda approved.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
		n/a
5. Assistive Technology Presentation		
2 hours	Amber Fulcher, Program Director, VT Assistive Technology Program	
Discussion	"There shall be established an advisory council to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to State for, planning of, implementation of and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting of the measurable goals." (federal definition) Measurable goals of how meeting AT needs in educational, employment and independent living environments. Amber went through a power point presentation, which can be found at www.VTSRC.org Amber passed around several low tech (does not require software) and high tech assistive technology gadgets – rolling alarm clock, stove knob adapter, time timer, talking calculator, talking dictionary, recording pen for reading, smart pen and Dragon Pad (dictation software). Dragon Pad software can be set up to accommodate	

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<p>several users. It costs approximately \$109 on Amazon. Amber also demonstrated some text to speech software, voice amplifier, jumbo remote control and caption phone. VT AT program is unique because it is housed within VR. In most states, it is housed in a university setting. AT program is essentially 100% federally funded. All AT equipment is able to be loaned out to consumers free of charge for up to 30 days. It allows consumers to try out equipment before they buy it. AT employees engage in training and public awareness programs. AT also provides evaluations for VR consumers. AT offers two wonderful websites - www.vt.at4all.com and www.getATstuff.com. Amber went through the AT Annual Report for FY 2012 with Council members. This report, along with the State Plan for FY 2012-2014 can be found at our website www.VTSRC.org. Amber is hoping that the AT Advisory Council can offer ideas for AT program sustainability and approaches for reaching all populations. The AT Council will meet 4 times a year. 2 of the meetings will be held via teleconference or webinar. Today's combined meeting is considered 1 of the 4 meetings. The next in person meeting for the AT Council is scheduled for October 3, 2013 in Burlington from 10am - 12pm. The 2 teleconferences/webinars have not yet been scheduled.</p>		
Conclusions	Excellent presentation, Amber. Amber will contact all AT Advisory Council members to schedule teleconferences/webinars. Amber would like to go over the State Plan at the next meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Teleconferences/webinars for AT Advisory Council to be scheduled	Amber Fulcher	TBD
Upload power point presentation, AT State Report and AT State Plan to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	4/12/2013
6. Order of Selection		
10 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	There are 7 additional individuals that fall under category 3 since the February's full SRC meeting. VR is comfortable opening up services for these 7 individuals. James made the the recommendation to open services. The opposing point of view for not opening these cases was discussed. The main concern is that resources for category 1 and 2 consumers will not be effected by opening up services for category 3 individuals. James explained that all 7 individuals have provided medical documentation that supports their qualifying disability and it has been determined that barriers to employment are limited. These individuals have been found to be eligible for services. Sam Liss opened up the floor for additional questions. Sarah Launderville asked if there category 1 and 2 consumers waiting for services at this time and what is the budgetary impact. James responded that there are no category 1 and 2 consumers waiting for services at this time and budgetary impact is estimated to be minimal. John Alexander made motion to open up services for these 7 individuals. Allen Evans 2nded. No further discussion. 7 Ayes and 2 Nays. Motion carries.	
Conclusions	Order of Selection is opened up for these 7 individuals.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
7. Director's Report		
10 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	Diane Dalmasse is in Hong Kong. James started with the good news. Good news – VR received notice that Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) funding has been restored. This means that benefit counseling for non-VR consumers can be brought back. More good news – SSA, DOL, RSA and DOE have come together to release a grant for youth on SSI and early intervention. The grant is focused on providing real work based experiences and learning for youth on SSI. As well as, a family intervention piece that will assist families in moving away from dependence on the SSI received by the youth in the household. The target population is youth between the ages of 14 and 16. The grant will	

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include a 5 year follow up for tracking of results. VT is looking to partner with Connecticut, Montana, South Dakota, and Massachusetts on the grant. The study will be administered through random assignment. Some youth will get intervention and some won't. Now for the bad news – VR received the first draft of RSA audit. One finding is very concerning. Per RSA, VT VR is out of compliance with regard to transition counselors (TCs). Per RSA, TCs are not to interact directly with youth without opening a case. TCs are to work solely through school educators. The school educators will make the referrals to TCs. This finding will dramatically impact the relationship building between students, family and TCs. VR is concerned that many families will decide against becoming involved with TCs because of the paperwork & that there will be many open cases without any results. VR is pushing back on this finding. VR is proposing to RSA that they make this an observation instead of a finding. James has written the draft response. It will be reviewed by Diane Dalmasse next week and then submitted to RSA. Last bit of bad news - sequestration looks like it will be permanent. All VR programs are affected by sequestration. A 5.1% across the board cut will occur this year. However, VR is receiving a 3.5% COLA this year. Therefore, the aggregate cut will be 1.6% this year. A large amount of re-allotment funding was received last year, so programs this year will not be too heavily affected. The big unknown is the effect sequestration will have on next year's re-allotment funds. Because of the cuts, many states will be vying for the same funding. At least for the next fiscal year, VR has to be a bit frugal, but not too worried about large cuts at this time. After that, VR will see. Sequestration amounts to approximately \$7 million lost to VT over time.		
Conclusions	VR will keep SRC updated on the RSA response and the effects from sequestration.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. SWOT Memo Update		
15 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	No major updates at this time. New SRC members are encouraged to read the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) memo included in today's meeting packet.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
9. Parking Lot		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	None.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
10. Round Table		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	William Pendlebury is excited to be back from training. John Alexander shared great meeting and presentation. Ellen Vaut wanted everyone to know that VFN has annual meeting next week. Council thanked Amber for wonderful presentation. Amber is excited about having the AT Council's input. Courtney Blaisus and Anthony Williams said thank you. Sam Liss thanked Amber. Michele Hubert is glad to be back with SRC. April Tuck is glad to be part of SRC. Devereaux Simon is happy to be part of SRC.	
Conclusions	Great meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a

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11. Other Business		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	National State Rehabilitation Forum is taking place on June 24-25, 2013. James agrees with Forum recommendation of sending a new member. Council agrees.	
Conclusions	Rebekah Stephens will send an email to members tomorrow to see who wants to go to the Forum.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send email to full SRC requesting a member to go to National Forum	Rebekah Stephens	4/5/2013
12. Adjournment		
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Discussion	John Alexander made motion to adjourn. April Tuck 2nded.	
Conclusions	Council voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	5/3/2013
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	5/3/2013
Minutes approved	Full SRC	6/6/2013
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	6/14/2013