

Minutes – December 3, 2015

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)		
Thursday, December 3, 2015	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Video Conference – Rutland VR and Williston VR
Meeting called by	Sam Liss at 12:36 p.m.	
Members Present	Samantha Brennan, Julia Burakian, Leslie Walker Mitchell, Spencer Lemons, Ben Wimett, Alaina Clements and Diane Dalmasse	
Members Absent	Adam Leonard, Martha Frank, Michele Hubert, Olivia Smith-Hammond and Nancy Breiden	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	Julia Burakian - VR Transition Counselor, Amanda Kohle - VR Transition Counselor, Pamela Gowland - VR Transition Counselor, Rachel Knapp - Youth Employment Specialist and Leslie Walker Mitchell - Youth Employment Specialist	
Guests	n/a	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	No discussion. Spencer Lemons made motion to accept. Ben Wimett 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
2. Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2015 SRC Meeting		
3 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	No discussion. Ben Wimett made motion to approve. Samantha Brennan 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Minutes approved.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	12/11/2015
3. Approval of 8th Annual SRC Retreat Report		
2 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	No discussion. Samantha Brennan moved to approve. Ben Wimett 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Retreat report approved.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved 8 th Annual SRC Retreat Report to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	12/11/2015
4. Consent Agenda		
3 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	Consent agenda includes approved minutes: Steering Committee – September 3, 2015 and Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee – September 3, 2015 and Coordinator's Report. Spencer Lemons moved to accept. Leslie Walker Mitchell 2 nd . No discussion.	
Conclusions	Consent agenda accepted.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
5. Election of New SRC Chair and Vice-Chair		
10 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	In October, nominations were solicited via email. Adam Leonard was nominated for SRC Chair. Adam accepted the nomination. Alaina Clements was nominated for SRC Vice-Chair. Alaina accepted the nomination. Sam called for additional nominations from the floor. None received. Sam	

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called for a consent vote.		
Conclusions	Consent vote was unanimous for Adam Leonard as SRC Chair and Alaina Clements as SRC Vice-Chair. Adam and Alaina will each serve for a one-year term. Congratulations, Adam and Alaina! After the election, Alaina assumed the duty of chairing today's meeting.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
6. Review and Discussion: Goals and Priorities for the FFY 2017 State Plan		
30 minutes	-----	
Discussion	James Smith provided a brief summary of the Goals and Priorities for the FFY 2017 State Plan which is set to start on July 1, 2016. The Performance Review Committee has taken an in-depth look at the plan and provided feedback to VR. The Goals and Priorities for the FFY 2017 State Plan were also looked at during the 8 th Annual SRC Retreat. The Goals and Priorities are: 1. DVR will implement highly effective Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) for students statewide – the target is to have all schools participating in PETS and 90% of high schools will have at least 1 student participating in PETS, 2. DVR align services to support consumers achieve the WIOA Common Performance Outcomes Measures - the targets for this goal/priority will be developed as the measures become defined, 3. In addition to the Common Performance Measures DVR will continue to assist more Vermonters with a disability achieve an employment outcome – VR has always measured this and will continue to measure, 4. DVR will effectively serve employers through Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) – the target is to maintain 2500 active relationships in FFY 2017, 5. Consumer satisfaction with DVR services will be maintained or increase – the target is 86% or “better overall consumer satisfaction”, 6. DVR will implement the Alliance Enterprises AWARE electronic case management system to support staff provide high quality VR services – the targets are “more than 70% of staff will report they are satisfied or very satisfied with the implementation of the AWARE case management system after initial implementation (three months post go live). And “more than 90% of Staff will report they are satisfied or very satisfied with the AWARE system one year after implementation (12 months post go live),” 7. DVR will be satisfied with their jobs and have the training, tools and support they need to be effective – targets are 90% satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs, 85% “will report they have the information they need to do their jobs” and 80% “will report they had adequate training to do their jobs”, 8. DVR will continue to seek funding for services for underserved populations in the state... - this is an area that cannot really be measured but VR will continue to seek funding to provide services to these populations, 9. DVR will improve the outcomes for supported employment programs serving adults with developmental disabilities. This includes students served under Pre-Employment Transition Services – the target is 250 successful outcomes, 1150 individuals employed and establish a baseline for individuals served through PETS, 10. DVR will improve the outcomes for students and youth with emotional/behavioral disabilities served through the JOBS Supported Employment programs – targets are 250 successful employment outcomes and establish a baseline for individuals served. The question was asked, “How does the elimination of the CRT (Community Rehabilitation Treatment) Program affect Goal/Priority 10? James responded that even though VR had to withdraw funding from the CRT programs these individuals may still get employment through the existing programs. VR really doesn't know at this point. More data will need to be reviewed as the programs move forward.	
Conclusions	VR will consult with Alliance around how to survey staff concerning satisfaction with the AWARE system. Thank you, James.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a

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7. Informal Discussion: Transition Counselors – How are things going with Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS)		
50 minutes	Julia Burakian, Amanda Kohle, Pamela Gowland, Rachel Knapp and Leslie Walker Mitchell	
Discussion	James Smith gave a brief introduction to explain the intent of today’s informal discussion. The SRC would like to get a sense today about PETS and what is working and what the challenges might be right now. What is going well – schools are really excited that work can start with students at a younger age, students are also excited to be getting support earlier in the process, it is appealing to the students to get involved with job shares, job training and planning for future education, providing an introduction of soft employment skills to groups of kids, schools are excited around getting creative and how VR services can overlap the services schools are offering to students, working with the students earlier has allowed VR to provide recommendations for classes that may be required for employment but not necessarily for graduation and has allowed VR to work with the school to assist the non-traditional students in finding the education path and employment track that works best for the student. What are the challenges – some schools are not yet on board with how VR can work with them to improve positive outcomes, the roll out process has been kind of clunky and it is requiring a lot of patience and effort on the parts of the VR Transition teams and the schools, building a caseload has come with some challenges (meeting with seniors and integrating new students into the process), some of the counselors are new to transition (so there has been a learning curve), there has been some pressure due to how many people relying on Transition Counselors (TC)(for referrals while trying to build a caseload (referrals are made to DS(Disability Services) and the YES), there used to be a finite number of referrals but now there is an infinite number of referrals (so TC’s are prioritizing which students to meet with depending on need i.e. seniors, students on a transition plan or students eager to secure employment),there is a need for better notification from schools about meetings and there is a feeling of isolation from the office for transition staff (staff is prioritizing the time with coworkers when they are in the office to alleviate this feeling). If TC’s could wave a magic wand and get one thing what would it be? Transportation – it is a challenge to get students where they need to go off campus.	
Conclusions	PETS is being met with excitement. There are challenges, but overall it is promising. Thank you to all of the speakers today.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. Order of Selection - Request and vote to open services for Category 3 individuals and Review, Discussion and Vote: Proposed new OOS language		
25 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	The SRC needs to vote on the new proposed language for OOS. James gave a quick overview of OOS and the new language. “DVR made the ... changes to the definitions of Category 1 and 2 because the old definition did not provide sufficient clarity for counselors. As a result, 90% of eligible individuals were found to be eligible under Category 1. By using the federal definitions of eligibility for SSI and SSDI, we believe we are ensuring only individuals who have the most severe disabilities are included in Category 1.” And it will ensure that services are provided consistently across the state. Category 1 will now read – “Individuals who has been determined eligible for Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). To meet the Priority 1 category the applicant must intend to achieve an employment outcome that is consistent with their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice.” Category 2 will now read – “Individuals who have been determined by DVR to have significant disabilities are those who have at least one area of functional loss requiring multiple services over a period of 6 months or more, either for the	

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<p>provision of a required service, or for the duration of the use of a provided good. To meet the Priority 2 category the applicant must intend to achieve an employment outcome that is consistent with their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice.” Category 3 will now read – “Individuals who have been determined by DVR to have non-significant disabilities are those who have one or more areas of functional loss not requiring multiple services over a period of 6 months or more. To meet the Priority 3 category the applicant must intend to achieve an employment outcome that is consistent with their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice.” “For FFY 2015, we expect individuals found eligible under Priority Categories 1 and 2 will receive the full range of services available under the vocational rehabilitation program.” The change in language will provide a consistent means of determining who receives services if funding were to be limited in the future. The question was asked, “How will this new language effect students who are not currently eligible for SSI but may become eligible upon graduation from school?” The response, “this is a huge gap under the current WIOA law.” There is a possibility that as congress moves through the process of WIOA a technical amendment may be put into place to address this issue. Spencer Lemons moved to vote on approval of the new language. Sam Liss 2nd. No further discussion. Vote taken. None opposed. There have been no applications for Category 3 services since the last SRC meeting. No vote needed today to open Category 3 services.</p>		
Conclusions	Unanimous vote to approve new OOS language. New OOS language approved.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
9. Director’s Report		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	Very excited, VT VR had 1918 successful outcomes. VT VR is #1 in the nation for successful outcomes. Budget wise VR is in good shape. The AWARE contract is final. Assistive Technology Services are being expanded across the state. VR staff will be getting “specialized training on AT.” Four new pilot programs will be starting up – Employer Driven Training (internships for individuals that receive training from the employer), Mental Health Peer Run Employment Programs (alternative to the CRT (Community Rehabilitation Training) programs for youth), Recovery Centers (an employment staff individual will be on site at the Recovery Centers) and Employment Consultant Early Engagement (getting involved earlier in the process). The OCS (Office of Child Support) and VR partnership will be expanding into the southern part of the state. Had a great training around performance issues for managers and supervisors.	
Conclusions	Thanks, Diane!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
10. WIOA Update		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse and James Smith	
Discussion	There is an emerging draft unified plan. The draft needs to be done by mid-January 2016 to allow for public comment. The unified plan will be a four-year plan. Amendments and modifications to the unified plan will be allowed during the four-year plan. VT VR is in line with the intent of WIOA. PETS has been fully launched and is moving along.	
Conclusions	Thank you, Diane and James!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a

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11. Other Business – Update on SSDI Funding		
10 minutes	Sam Liss	
Discussion	The federal government decided to re-allocate the Social Security payroll tax to temporarily fund the SSDI (Social Security Disability Income) fund until 2022. This will allow for permanent restructuring of the program in hopes to avoid future insolvency. Employment will be a focus of the restructured program.	
Conclusions	Thank you, Sam!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
12. Parking Lot		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
13. Round Table		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Diane Dalmasse enjoyed hearing from the transition staff. They are doing a great job. James Smith agrees...congress did the right thing with PETS. Alaina Clements is excited to be the new Vice-Chair. Spencer Lemons enjoyed the presentation. Ben Wimett feels that the trend is positive. Julia Burakian enjoyed hearing from her colleagues today and the change in OOS language makes sense. Samantha Brennan shared that she enjoys spending time with the transition counselors...they are really great people. Sam Liss really enjoyed the presentation by the transition staff. The OOS is a great step forward.	
Conclusions	Another productive meeting. Thank you to all of the speakers!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
14. Adjournment		
0 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Spencer Lemons moved to adjourn. Sam Liss 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	1/1/2016
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	1/1/2016
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	1/1/2016
Minutes approved	Full SRC	2/4/2016
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	2/12/2016