

Minutes – February 5, 2015

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

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Thursday, February 5, 2015	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center 870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403
Meeting called by	Kerry White, Chair at 12:35 pm	
Members Present	Chris Loso, Sam Liss, Leslie Mitchell, Samantha Brennan, Adam Leonard, Ellen Vaut, Sarah Launderville, Alaina Clements, Patti Shane, April Tuck, Diane Dalmasse, Whitney Nichols (via phone) and Anthony Williams (via phone)	
Members Absent	Neal Meier and Michele Hubert	
SRC Liaison	James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	Peter Kriff, Chair of Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and Greg Voorheis, VR Mature Worker Coordinator	
Facilitator	n/a	
1. Today's Agenda		
2 minutes	Kerry White	
Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	Agenda accepted.	
2. Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2014 SRC Meeting		
1 minute	Kerry White	
Discussion	No discussion. Chris Loso moved to approve. Sam Liss 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Minutes approved.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org		Rebekah Stephens
Deadline		2/13/2015
3. Consent Agenda		
2 minutes	Kerry White	
Discussion	Consent agenda includes: Approved minutes from Steering – August 13, 2014 and November 6, 2014, approved minutes from Advocacy, Outreach & Education – November 6, 2014 and the Coordinator's report. No discussion. Ellen Vaut moved to accept. Leslie Mitchell 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Consent agenda accepted.	
Action Items		Person Responsible
None		n/a
Deadline		n/a
4. Discussion – Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS): Changes per Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act & Plan on how VR is addressing		
1 hour	Diane Dalmasse and James Smith	
Discussion	15% of federal award is required to be spent on in-school youth on an IEP and 504 plan. Administrative expenses are not included in this 15%. Currently there are no rules on how to administer this new mandate. Current resources will need to be redirected away from adults to youth in transition. VR has developed an 8 point plan with an implementation date of July 1, 2015. This plan has significant impact on VR's partners. The 8 point plan - 1. Complete caseload reassignment. 25% of VR counselors will be assigned to youth in transition. This leaves approximately 29 VR counselors for adult services. It is expected that successful outcomes will go down in the beginning. The hope is that if services to youth are successful then future successful outcomes will go up, 2. VR will be ending its General Assistance (GA) Program. This will free up \$1 million dollars in funds. This population will still be served by the general VR counselors but it will not be dedicated services, 3. CRT programs funding will be redirected to expand the JOBS programs to serve in-school youth and increase the age range to 26. Progressive	

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Employment, Creative Workforce Solutions (CWS) and Business Account Managers (BAMs) will still be available to this population, 4. An administrative infrastructure will be designed to handle these changes, 5. VR will be creating a statewide summer youth employment program, 6. VR will be creating a system around benefits counselors providing services to in-school youth and their families. This program will work with students and their families about how employment will effect SSI/SSDI for the family, 7. Developmental Services Programs will be required to spend 15% of their VR grant funds to provide services to in-school youth. Currently VR expends approximately 1.3 million dollars on Developmental Programs, and 8. VR will be working with VCIL (Vermont Center for Independent Living) and VFN (Vermont Family Network) to provide “self-advocacy training and peer mentoring for in-school youth”. Diane shared that everyone is kind of reeling from the changes and the lack of regulations around the new law. VT VR is moving forward and is positive about the new requirements. Samantha Brennan shared that there is an attitude of “let’s roll up our sleeves and tackle this”, as well as, a concern about serving the neediest of consumers. Samantha is excited about the opportunity to work with the youth. Diane explained that if VR does not meet its 15% requirement the money will never come into Vermont. VR can’t draw down on it until the expenditures are there. VT VR is #1 in the country for people served in the 110 category. Ellen Vaut asked if the Order of Selection will be affected by this redirection of funds from adult to in-school youth. James and Diane shared that it is unclear at this time.		
Conclusions	VT VR is being extremely proactive and is eager to meet the new requirements.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
5. SILC (Statewide Independent Living Council) & GCEPD (Governor’s Council on Employment for People with Disabilities)		
1 hour	Peter Kriff - Chair of SILC and Chris Loso - Chair of GCEPD	
Discussion	Peter Kriff provided a brief explanation of the SILC and what it does for VT by helping individuals realize their independent living goals. The SILC does planning and grant funding. The SILC works very closely with VCIL (Vermont Center for Independent Living). The SILC makes sure that its objectives are closely aligned with VCIL and the Olmstead Act. The SILC has three lead advocacy objectives on which they take lead: education, housing, and transportation. Currently the SILC does not have an employment objective, but would like to work with the SRC around this objective. The SRC would be expected to take the lead on this objective. The SILC is a planning organization. The SILC website is www.VTSILC.org . The SPIL (State Plan on Independent Living) details all of the objectives for the SILC. Chris Loso, GCEPD, provided a printed power point presentation to the SRC members. He briefly went through the power point. The mission of the GCEPD is to “promote equal employment for all citizens of Vermont by advising the Governor on current issues affecting employment of people with disabilities, and through partnerships among business, government and people with disabilities.” The GCEPD partners with several organizations and agencies i.e. VR and the Department of Labor (DOL). The GCEPD is involved with many initiatives i.e. “National Groundhog Job Shadow Day.” The GCEPD is intent on dispelling myths about hiring individuals with disabilities i.e. “It costs too much to accommodate people with disabilities.” Most accommodations are less than \$500. The GCEPD website is www.hireus.org . Future collaboration between the GCEPD, SILC and the SRC – Chris suggested providing guidance to the Governor around employment issues as a united front. Peter suggested coordinating joint participation around various disability events in Vermont. James Smith shared that the SRC’s main focus is around providing guidance to the VR program. There may be some opportunities to collaborate around some advocacy issues. It would be beneficial to identify the common areas of involvement between the Councils i.e. MWPD (Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities). Sam Liss shared that the objective of employment is an issue that traverses all three Councils. Peter stated that employment is a major focus of the GCEPD and the SRC, however, it is a much smaller focus for the SILC. Peter would like to see the Councils not duplicate	

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efforts. Chris shared that the GCEPD needs to be very careful about how much advocacy it gets involved with due to its limited resources. Peter suggested that the SRC would be able to provide a sample of consumers that the SILC would be able to tap in to regarding consumer challenges around transportation. Kerry White suggested the Councils consider meeting once a year to discuss current initiatives and see if there is any overlap or potential collaboration opportunities.		
Conclusions	Excellent presentations. Thank you Peter and Chris. Council members agree that each Council will continue to do what it does best with an eye to future potential collaboration. This was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
6. Order of Selection		
5 minutes	James Smith	
Discussion	James gave a brief explanation of Order of Selection. There have been no category 3 applications for services since the last SRC meeting. A couple of months ago the SRC requested some data on “Cases served from OOS (Category 3 status) from FFY 2012 – Present.” James distributed a 2 page handout. Per the data, from 2012 to the present, 50 individuals were served and 41 of them went into plan status. James just received this data so he would like to sit down with Alice Porter and then resend this data with specific explanations of each category added to the handout.	
Conclusions	James will sit down with Alice and go through data and get some specific explanations.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Email expanded data/explanation of OOS data to Rebekah Stephens	James Smith	3/13/2015
Email data and explanations to full SRC	Rebekah Stephens	3/13/2015
7. Director’s Report		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
Discussion	The purchase of the AWARE case software is moving along. Alliance will be in VT on March 30 th for final negotiations and product discussions. Lisa Young has accepted the position of AWARE Project Manager and Quality Assurance/Performance Management Manager.	
Conclusions	VR is “really on our way to a functional, user friendly, integrated case management system.”	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
8. Introduction – Greg Voorhels – VR Mature Worker Coordinator		
15 minutes	Diane Dalmasse and Greg Voorhels	
Discussion	Greg retired about a year and a half ago from the Department of Labor. He is a former teacher. He has come back on a temporary basis to oversee the Mature Worker’s Program. This program focuses on individuals 55 years of age and older. People are living longer and are working longer.	
Conclusions	He is really excited and looking forward to making a contribution. Diane and VR are thrilled that Greg has joined the VR team. It is very important work.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a

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9. Other Business		
10 minutes	-----	
Discussion	Sam Liss mentioned that a bill is being introduced in the Legislature on MWPD.	
Conclusions	The bill is going back to the Legislature this year.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
10. Parking Lot		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	No discussion.	
Conclusions	None.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
11. Round Table		
5 minutes	-----	
Discussion	The Council members agree that it was an excellent and informative meeting. It was great to hear about the SILC and GCEPD. The Sheraton is a wonderful location and the food was great. We have an age of great change in front of us and there is a lot of work to do.	
Conclusions	Thank you to all the presenters. Today's discussions were enlightening.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
12. Adjournment		
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Discussion	Adam Leonard moved to adjourn. Chris Loso 2 nd .	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 3:19 pm	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	3/6/2015
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	3/6/2015
Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	3/6/2015
Minutes approved	Full SRC	4/2/2015
Approved minutes uploaded to website www.VTSRC.org	Rebekah Stephens	4/10/2015