

# Minutes – October 6, 2016

## Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)		
Thursday, October 6, 2016	12:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Waterbury VR – HC 2 South 280 State Street Waterbury, VT 05671 Oak Room
Meeting called by	Adam Leonard, Chair at 12:30 p.m.	
Members Present	Samantha Brennan, Julia Burakian, Leslie Walker Mitchell, Martha Frank, Oliva Smith-Hammond, Diane Dalmasse and Sam Liss	
Members Absent	Alaina Clements	
SRC Liaison	On leave	
SRC Coordinator	Rebekah M. Stephens	
Interpreters	-----	
Speakers/Presenters	Lisa Young, VR Quality Assurance Manager	
Guests	Sherrie Brunelle, Michelle Paya, Jessalyn Gustin, Barbara Smith, Max Barrows, Mark Hastings, Karen Topper and Ashley Pulaski	
<b>1. Today's Agenda</b>		
2 minutes	Adam Leonard	
<b>Discussion</b>	No discussion.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Today's agenda accepted.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>2. Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2016 SRC Meeting</b>		
3 minutes	Adam Leonard	
<b>Discussion</b>	Adam noted that date on minutes heading had an error. No other discussion. Samantha Brennan moved to approve. Sam Liss 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Minutes approved. Rebekah Stephens to correct date on minutes heading from "106" to "2016".	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Upload approved minutes to <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>	Rebekah Stephens	10/14/2016
<b>3. Consent Agenda</b>		
5 minutes	Adam Leonard	
<b>Discussion</b>	Consent agenda includes – May 5, 2016 Steering Committee and Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee approved minutes. The Coordinator's Report. Leslie Walker Mitchell moved to accept. Samantha Brennan 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Consent agenda accepted.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>4. Update on Final Regulations – Workforce Innovation &amp; Opportunity Act (WIOA)</b>		
40 minutes	Diane Dalmasse	
<b>Discussion</b>	Diane handed out a summary of the final WIOA regulations and the corresponding tasks that VR will need to do. VR feels really good with how PETS is going. Because it took 2 years for the WIOA regulations to come out, VT VR was doing what they felt was in line with the PETS rules. VR recently discovered that 100% of costs related to PETS counselors cannot be charged in their entirety to the 15% spending requirement amounts. VR is working on how to incorporate this new understanding into how VR is currently doing things. If a student is in "00" case status (pre-application status) this may be the way to define what is considered to be solely PETS. The PETS acronym is being changed to Pre-ETS. WIOA requires VR to have formal memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Agency of Education (AOE), Department	

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of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Services and the State Medicaid Agency. VR is in the process of developing these MOUs. VR Policy and Procedures will need to be updated to reflect the final WIOA regs. There is a lot of work to do around this. Training for VR staff will also need to be done. 50% of the \$300,000 in Supported Employment (SE) funding that VR receives will need to be used for youth ages 16 - 24; and only those that are employed. This will take a lot of work to make sure this happens. The category of homemakers will no longer be eligible as an IPE outcome as of July 1, 2016. Services for consumers already under an IPE prior to July 1, 2016 may continue services until June 30, 2017. If needed, services may be extended. But extensions will need to be documented. This change impacts DBVI (Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired) more than VR. The Statewide Needs Assessment is due in 2017. Pre-ETS will need to be added this year. VR has seen a 76% reduction in re-allotment funds. This will definitely impact VR's budget. Sherrie Brunelle asked how this will affect Order of Selection (OOS). Diane doesn't believe it will. VR wishes to retain all staff, so it is looking to make budgetary decisions in other areas.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Lots of changes. VR is doing a great job!	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>5. AWARE Update</b>		
25 minutes	Lisa Young	
<b>Discussion</b>	AWARE is an off the shelf case management system designed by Alliance, specifically for VR. It will gather all of the required RSA data. VT VR has been working with Alliance to customize the core program to meet VT VR's specific needs. VR is looking to create 2 additional documents that will help with the initial intake process. AWARE currently has a lengthy intake form built into it. VT VR is customizing it to make it more streamlined and in line with what current VR consumers are used to using. VR has a go-live date of September 18 & 19, 2017. The test period is scheduled for February 7 – April 14, 2017. There will be group test sessions, consisting of 10 individuals each. This will allow for group discussions in order to work through any issues or determine if things need to be escalated to Alliance. Alliance will be coming in January 2017 to train a group of trainers that will train the rest of the VR staff. A pilot period is scheduled for June 19 – 30, 2017. Two offices, Brattleboro and Newport, have been chosen to pilot the AWARE program. All staff will be trained from September 8 – 15, 2017. VR's current system is very old. Alliance has assured VR that the transition of data is possible. AWARE is a web-based program. Alliance will host VT VR AWARE and will provide on-going support and data security. Data conversion is 2 weeks ahead of schedule at this time. The ultimate goal is to go paperless. However, VR is not quite there at this time. Another goal is to have supported employment partners be able to go in and invoice VR directly in AWARE. This goal is more of a phase 2 goal. WIOA data needs to start to be collected on July 1, 2017. It will be an interesting quarter to figure out how to collect all of this data before AWARE starts up in September. RSA will not grant a waiver of this requirement. The roll out of AWARE, since the contract has been signed has been going relatively smoothly. Will there be an app for AWARE? Lisa shared that Alliance has been working on making it Apple iPad/Tablet friendly. Connectivity would be the biggest issue, along with security on mobile devices.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thank you, Lisa! Excellent update!	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>6. Order of Selection</b>		
10 minutes	TBD	
<b>Discussion</b>	Per Diane Dalmasse, in James's absence no OOS today.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	As a standing agenda item, OOS will be included on December 1, 2016 SRC agenda.	

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Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
<b>7. Director's Report</b>			
30 minutes	Diane Dalmasse		
<b>Discussion</b>	Outcomes have decreased. However, this was expected as VR has moved 14 VR counselors off the production line and put them in schools. The hope is that if Pre-ETS work with students is done well, outcomes will go up in the future. Adam Leonard asked, if the Pre-ETS work with students in "00" status, who are now securing employment prior to graduation and are now not needing to become VR consumers, will this affect total outcomes in the future? Diane responded, VR doesn't know yet. Max Barrows asked if other states are experiencing the same issues? Diane responded, Yes! The Work Based Learning Grant has been funded at \$1.8 million per year for 5 years. This is great news! The grant allows for the addition of career consultants, assistive technology coaches and additional transportation funding. The grant money will be available as of October 1, 2016, the Legislature will need to approve the acceptance of the money. That may take some time. Vermont is to be "made a model in Hiring People with Disabilities". Commissioner Spellman is on board with the idea. The goal is to get more individuals with disabilities into State government. Adam asked if there is data that individuals with disabilities are underutilized in State government. Diane responded that the numbers between state and private sectors were about equal. The question was asked, then what was the catalyst for the initiative? President Obama has made this a priority in federal government. Staff are looking forward to AWARE. It has been a long wait. Invest EAP (Employee Assistance Program) is doing some interesting work with first responders. A 2-day training was recently offered and the response was great. The training was around how to provide emotional support to first responders. VR has run an EAP program since 1986. The \$1.3 million program is funded by Vermont businesses. The Jobs for Independence grant is doing great. Participants are getting jobs! Vermont has been moved into Phase Three. Hugh Bradshaw is chairing the Agency of Human Services (AHS) Workforce Development Group. There are efforts in the works to move this initiative forward. The key is to promote employment and coordinate employment efforts across the agency. The framework around this is very general at this point.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thank you, Diane!		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
<b>8. Update - Disability Summit</b>			
20 minutes	Jessalyn Gustin		
<b>Discussion</b>	There has been one meeting of the sub-committee to date. Max Barrows, Sam Liss and Diane Dalmasse attended. The meeting focused on determining the purpose of having the Disability Summit. The Purpose - Unification of advocacy efforts across agencies. Jessalyn is going to reach out to Ed Paquin, president of Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights (VCDR) and executive director of Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT) and Karen Lafayette, legislative advocate for the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council. These two individuals are critical to identifying the key participants for the Summit planning. It is important to have representatives from different agencies come together to plan the Summit. It can't just be VR and the SRC putting together the Summit. The sub-committee is looking at holding the Summit in May or June of 2017. The location depends on the invitation list. However, Lake Morey and Capitol Plaza have been suggested. If the new Governor is invited, Capitol Plaza would probably be the best location. Invitees will be a select number of advocacy representatives. The next meeting will be scheduled once input is received from Ed and Karen. All SRC members are invited to attend the next sub-committee meeting.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Thank you, Jessalyn!		

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None		n/a	n/a
<b>9. Other Business</b>			
10 minutes	Adam Leonard		
<b>Discussion</b>	Sam Liss provided a brief update on the Career Access Project. The Project would be a foot in the door to remove the requirement for youth to prove they cannot work in order to receive benefits. This would be a great gain for helping get youth to work. This will help to remove penalties for people with disabilities going to work. Max Barrows suggested that the supporters of the Able Act may be a good source in assisting with moving Career Access along. Great idea! Jessalyn Gustin asked if there have been any updates on the Able Act (Achieving A Better Life Experience Act of 2014). Vermont does not have any funding to set up Able Accounts at this time. Only Florida (FL), Tennessee (TN), Ohio (OH) and Nebraska (NE) have been able to move forward with setting up Able Accounts. Vermont (VT) is looking to partner with one of these states to set up accounts for VT residents. These accounts are portable so individuals in states that do not offer Able Accounts can open up an account in a state that does offer them. VT residents do not need to wait for VT to begin its initiative. VT is hoping to roll out its Able Accounts in February 2017. Martha Frank shared that Karen Bogdan is in charge of this topic at Vermont Family Network (VFN). Sam also provided a brief update on Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities (MWPDP). MWPDP is now official state policy as of August 1, 2016. The National Federation of the Blind Newsline has been funded. The link is <a href="https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service">https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service</a> Sherrie Brunelle let everyone know that the new Client Assistance Program brochure is now available. It is available in several languages. They are available at <a href="http://www.VTLAW.org">www.VTLAW.org</a> The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Interagency Collaborative Event will be held on October 18, 2016. Over 200 people are planning on attending this year's event. Martha shared that transition aged youth with chronic health issues are often overlooked. She would like people to just keep that in mind. The link <a href="http://www.gottransition.org/">http://www.gottransition.org/</a> is a good resource for these families. Max asked if WIOA means that VR must offer 18 months of direct support versus the previous 6 months. Diane Dalmasse explained that it is actually 4 years for youth. This should not affect Developmental Disability consumers. However, this is a conversation that should happen.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	The SRC would like to know how the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Interagency Collaborative Event goes.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Include "How did the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Interagency Collaborative Event Go?" on future full SRC meeting agenda		Rebekah Stephens	TBD
<b>10. Parking Lot</b>			
10 minutes	Adam Leonard		
<b>Discussion</b>	None.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	None.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
<b>11. Round Table</b>			
10 minutes	SRC Members		
<b>Discussion</b>	Max Barrows shared that the meeting was interesting and he looks forward to future meetings. Sherrie Brunelle observed that there are a lot of balls in the air regarding initiatives and resources and she finds it encouraging and looks forward to participating in future meetings. Michelle Paya is inspired by VR's determination to overcome the re-allotment concerns. Mark Hastings shared that as a business person he is beyond words about the decision to cut VT VR's re-allotment funds so		

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significantly. Martha Frank shared she is also inspired by VR's determination and really loves coming to SRC meetings. Oliva Smith-Hammond also admires VR's determination. Diane Dalmasse loved the level of interaction today and appreciates the support from everyone. Jessalyn Gustin really enjoyed the conversation around the WIOA impact on adults and moving away from silos. Adam Leonard enjoyed all of the perspectives around the table. It was all very enlightening. It is wonderful to have all this knowledge. Sam Brennan felt the Needs Assessment discussion was very insightful. Julia Burakian thought it was a great sharing approach to the meeting today. Sam Liss shared he hopes Adam does not leave as SRC chair. "You really know how to balance the meetings". I liked the emphasis on youth with disabilities. We are starting to change how people with disabilities are perceived. They enhance the workforce. Starting with youth is a great way to get the message across at an early age that "you are not a drain on society". Barbara Smith shared that today's meeting was a wonderful and unexpected learning experience. It was a great day.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	Great meeting!	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
None	n/a	n/a
<b>12. Adjournment</b>		
0 minutes	Adam Leonard	
<b>Discussion</b>	Samantha Brennan moved to adjourn. Martha Frank 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.	
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval	Rebekah Stephens	11/4/2016
Draft minutes uploaded to <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>	Rebekah Stephens	11/4/2016
Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members	Rebekah Stephens	11/4/2016
Minutes approved	Full SRC	12/1/2016
Approved minutes uploaded to website <a href="http://www.VTSRC.org">www.VTSRC.org</a>	Rebekah Stephens	12/9/2016