

Minutes – June 2, 2016

Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC)

| Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (VT SRC) | | |
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| Thursday, June 2, 2016 | 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Waterbury VR HC 2 South 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671 |
| Meeting called by | Adam Leonard, Chair at 12:33 p.m. | |
| Members Present | Alaina Clements, Sam Liss, Martha Frank, Diane Dalmasse and Samantha Brennan | |
| Members Absent | Julia Burakian, Spencer Lemons, Michele Hubert, Olivia Smith-Hammond and Leslie Mitchell Walker | |
| SRC Liaison | James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager | |
| SRC Coordinator | Rebekah M. Stephens | |
| Interpreters | n/a | |
| Speakers/Presenters | Sarah Launderville, Director Vermont Center for Independent Living | |
| Guests | William Clements, Michelle Paya, Brian Smith, Sherrie Brunelle and Jessalyn Gustin | |
| 1. Today's Agenda | | |
| 2 minutes | Adam Leonard | |
| Discussion | Adam requested that the "Discussion – Annual Retreat Morning Topic - Consumer Satisfaction Survey Results" be added under "Other Business". Council members agree to add topic. | |
| Conclusions | Today's agenda accepted with addition to "Other Business". | |
| 2. Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2016 SRC Meeting | | |
| 3 minutes | Adam Leonard | |
| Discussion | No discussion. Sam Liss moved to approve. Martha Frank 2 nd . | |
| Conclusions | April 7, 2016 SRC meeting minutes approved. | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible |
| Upload approved minutes to www.VTSRC.org | | Rebekah Stephens |
| | | 6/10/2016 |
| 3. Consent Agenda | | |
| 5 minutes | Adam Leonard | |
| Discussion | Consent agenda includes approved minutes – Policy & Procedures Committee March 3, 2016, Steering Committee March 3, 2016 and Advocacy, Outreach & Education Committee March 3, 2016. Coordinator's Report. No discussion. Alaina Clements moved to accept. Samantha Brennan 2 nd . | |
| Conclusions | Consent agenda accepted. | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible |
| None | | n/a |
| | | n/a |
| 4. Presentation and Discussion – Career Access Project | | |
| 1 hour | Sarah Launderville | |
| Discussion | Sarah gave a brief overview of the project. It is targeted at young adults age 18 - 30. NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) and WID (World Institute on Disability) will be working on the project together. The intent is to get to individuals before they reapply for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits. Then speak to them about employment and how to balance employment with their benefits. VT VR is very engaged with the independent living movement and this makes VT an excellent environment for this project. Sam Liss is on the committee to help make this pilot a reality. Right now the committee is working on getting funding to support the pilot. WID and Mathematica are co-grantees for this pilot. Currently there is no funding for the project. NCIL and WID are busy trying to build interest in the project across the country. Individuals who participate in the project will have access to a career coach. The career coach may be an individual with a disability who has gone through the process of getting employment or a staff member from VCIL (Vermont Center for Independent Living) or other support partners who work with youth. A goal will be to teach individuals how to secure employment, stay employed and | |

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| <p>balance receipt of needed state or federal benefits for themselves and their families. Many of these families rely on these benefits to survive. This project fits perfectly with WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) and the focus on youth. You can access more information on the Career Access Project at www.ourcareeraccess.org. This project has the possibility of changing the definition of disability and the mindset that these individuals can't work. Participation in the project will be voluntary. Sarah is hoping it will be youth driven. If anyone knows of any youth that would be a good fit for this pilot, please let her know. The goal is to have 3 to 5 pilot states. It will not be federally dictated. Each state will have the freedom to custom fit the pilot to its individual state needs. Vermont, Florida, Tennessee, Nebraska and Massachusetts are interested in the pilot. Diane Dalmasse shared that the hope is to get the SSI requirements waived for the duration of the pilot with the ultimate goal of redefining the SSI requirements. Adam Leonard asked if this is redundant work now that PETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) is in place? Sarah responded that it is not redundant but more of an alongside project that will give additional supports to this population. VCIL already provides workshops in the schools around employment. VFN (Vermont Family Network) helps to develop these workshops. James Smith shared that his concern would be that there is a strong resistance to changing the definition of disability. A person could lose benefits if they don't fit into a category. Also, there is some resistance to having a control group and a services group. Will there be a selection bias? Without a random assignment survey it is hard to measure results. Diane shared that the SSA (Social Security Administration) is very hard to move off its policy. There have been many studies over many years. Under SSA Section 301, individuals at age 18 who are on SSI and have an active IPE (Individualized Plan for Employment) with VR can keep their benefits for the duration that they are working with VR. VR is working with their (VR) Benefits Counselors around SSA Section 301. The determination to extend SSI benefits is made when the initial IPE is set up, however, a re-determination can be made at a later time. An example is that a student could be under a 4-year college plan on their VR IPE and retain SSI benefits throughout the 4 years. This would be a great outreach tool to families. Samantha Brennan shared that Career Access would be a great tool to have available when working with youth. Families really rely on the SSI income of their children. The question was asked, "Who gets the money after a child turns 18 if they are determined to be eligible for SSI...the family or the individual?" SSI criteria for children and adults is different. The funds are supposed to be used for clothes, food and housing. If a person is re-determined at age 18 to continue to receive SSI then the money will either go to the individual or their representative payee if the individual is unable to manage their own finances.</p> | | |
| Conclusions | Career Access Project is in the initial ground stage. Funding is being sought. National interest is being pursued. A lot of great information. Thank you Sarah for joining the SRC today for this discussion! | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| None | n/a | n/a |
| 5. Order of Selection (OOS) | | |
| 10 minutes | James Smith | |
| Discussion | This is the last one before the new OOS begins on 7/1/2016. 3 individuals from category 3 have applied for VR services since the last SRC meeting. VR is currently in good financial shape. VR is recommending opening services for these 3 individuals. Vote was conducted. 5 ayes and 0 nays. No further discussion. | |
| Conclusions | Approval granted for VR to open services for these 3 individuals from category 3. | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| None | n/a | n/a |

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| 6. Director's Report | | | |
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| 20 minutes | Diane Dalmasse | | |
| Discussion | VR is currently behind in outcomes from last year. It is being attributed to now having 14.5 Transition Counselors that are solely in schools and receive 0 outcomes. The hope is that by concentrating on youth and early intervention, outcomes in 3 years or so will begin to show an increase. VR continues to be in a good place, budget-wise. Re-allotment and Ticket to Work revenue has been a big help. Ticket to Work has provided more revenue than anticipated. VR is starting 12 pilot projects in January 2017 around assisting consumers in obtaining higher wage employment. Community College of Vermont (CCV) will be doing a two-day training around this. VR is really excited about the new initiative to match each VR Counselor with an Employment Consultant. This will help us better serve our consumers. Training on the topics "How to serve consumers who are transgender" and "Compassion Fatigue" is being developed. Staff has completed performance management training. The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) grant program has rolled out. 200 individuals have been enrolled to date. The goal is to enroll 1500 individuals in the program. Renee Kievit-Kylar has retired. Tara Howe is replacing her. VR is keeping a close eye on the transition process and wants to avoid losing youth during the leaving school process. The Career Index is a tremendous tool for career exploration. VR "literally stumbled onto its existence." "This is a career exploration and job finding tool built into VR agencies." Hugh Bradshaw will be happy to do a demonstration of Career Index for the SRC. Job Coaches are coming back. Case reviews are being done quarterly for staff by senior staff. AWARE is on track and all is going well. We have a go-live date of October 2017. The Governor signed an Executive Order in March 2016 to make VT a model for hiring individuals with disabilities. This is great news! | | |
| Conclusions | Thank you so much, Diane! | | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Include "Presentation/Demonstration – Career Index" on future SRC meeting agenda. Invite Hugh Bradshaw to do presentation/demonstration | | Rebekah Stephens | TBD |
| 7. Discussion – Disability Summit | | | |
| 10 minutes | Adam Leonard | | |
| Discussion | The idea of having the SRC host a Disability Summit was brought up in the Steering Committee. The intention is to bring various partners that support individuals with disabilities together. Employment would not necessarily be the sole topic of the Summit. It has been suggested that a sub-committee of a few SRC members be put together to plan the Summit. The suggestion was also made to hold the Summit in November 2016 and invite the new Governor. This idea is completely in the beginning stages and nothing is set in stone as of yet. The Council members expressed their favor for the idea. Martha Frank shared that VFN (Vermont Family Network) holds an annual collaborative meeting of statewide partners in the Fall. The suggestion was made to set up the planning sub-committee first and then get input from the various partners as to their interest in a Summit. The planning sub-committee will need a chair and a few SRC members. The sub-committee will be responsible for determining the particulars of the Summit; where it should be, when, who is coming, etc. It was suggested to postpone the Summit until Spring of 2017 because of the amount of time it is going to take to plan and there are also a lot of other events held in the Fall. Suggestion was made that smaller is better sometimes, maybe limit the Summit to 40 participants. This Summit should have a different theme than the other meetings being held currently. There is interest in exploring the idea. | | |
| Conclusions | Rebekah Stephens will send an email out to the full SRC regarding interest on serving on the planning sub-committee and who would like to chair the sub-committee. | | |

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| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
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| Send email to full SRC – interest in chairing and/or serving on planning sub-committee for Disability Summit | | Rebekah Stephens | 6/6/2016 |
| 8. Other Business | | | |
| 10 minutes | ----- | | |
| Discussion | Sam Liss provided a brief federal and state legislative update. The Able Act tweaks went through. Newline will be active on July 1, 2016. This is all great news. The Consumer Satisfaction Survey has just been completed and the results will be ready mid-June. The PR Committee met this morning and the suggestion was made that the review of the results would be a great morning topic for the upcoming 9 th Annual SRC Retreat taking place on October 13, 2016. The suggestion was also made that all VR regional managers be invited to participate in the discussion/review of the results, along with a representative from Market Decisions to present the results. The Council members love the idea. | | |
| Conclusions | The “Presentation/Review/Discussion – Consumer Satisfaction Survey Results” will be the morning topic at the 9 th Annual SRC Retreat. All VR regional managers and a representative from Market Decisions to be invited to the Retreat for this topic. | | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Include “Presentation/Review/Discussion – Consumer Satisfaction Survey Results” on 9 th Annual SRC Retreat agenda | | Rebekah Stephens | 9/30/2016 |
| 9. Parking Lot | | | |
| 10 minutes | ----- | | |
| Discussion | None. | | |
| Conclusions | None. | | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| None | | n/a | n/a |
| 10. Round Table | | | |
| 10 minutes | ----- | | |
| Discussion | Alaina Clements really enjoyed the Career Access Project discussion. James Smith also enjoyed the Career Access Project discussion and the related topics that came out of that discussion. Sam Liss also enjoyed the Career Access Project and the planning for the Disability Summit. Michelle Paya is excited about the Disability Summit. It is a great opportunity. Brian Smith found it interesting how things work between the different councils and agencies. This is a great opportunity. Sherrie Brunelle was interested to hear about SSA Section 301. She is looking forward to researching it more. Martha Frank also enjoyed the Career Access Project discussion. Diane Dalmasse dittoed the SSA Section 301 and Career Access Project discussion. Thank you to Samantha Brennan for making it real with her input. Samantha Brennan enjoyed the Career Access presentation and hearing about SSA Section 301. But she really loved the legislative wrap up. Adam Leonard is really happy to see the new energy and the new input in the meeting. | | |
| Conclusions | Another great meeting! | | |
| Action Items | | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| None | | n/a | n/a |
| 11. Tour of New Facilities/Adjournment | | | |
| 30 minutes | ----- | | |
| Discussion | Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Council members were treated to a tour of the new facilities by Diane Dalmasse and James Smith. The new facilities have been redone very nicely. | | |

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| Conclusions | Thank you Diane and James for the tour! | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| Draft minutes respectfully submitted for approval | Rebekah Stephens | 7/1/2016 |
| Draft minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org | Rebekah Stephens | 7/1/2016 |
| Draft minutes emailed to all Committee members | Rebekah Stephens | 7/1/2016 |
| Minutes approved | Full SRC | 10/6/2016 |
| Approved minutes uploaded to www.VTSRC.org | Rebekah Stephens | 10/14/2016 |