

Draft Minutes – September 6, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, September 6, 2018	12:15pm – 1:45 pm	Waterbury State Complex Room Cherry C HC 2 South 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671
Meeting called by	Sam Liss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm.	
Members Present	Sam Liss (Chair), Sherrie Brunelle, Diane Dalmasse, ex-officio, non-voting (arrived at 12:26pm); Martha Frank, Marlena Hughes, Cari Kelley, Sarah Launderville, Calla Papademas, Olivia Smith-Hammond, Deb Tucker Boyce	
Members Absent	Max Barrows, Michelle Paya	
SRC Liaison		
SRC Coordinator	Debra Kobus	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	n/a	
Guests	Tara Howe (VR Youth Transition Program Coordinator)	
1) Introductions (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	Those in attendance went around the table and introduced themselves.	
Conclusions	Thanks to everyone!	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
2) Approval of Agenda (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	Sam asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none. Sherrie moved, and it was seconded to approve the agenda. There was no further discussion. Vote unanimous 9-0-0.	
Conclusions	Motion passes - today's agenda accepted.	

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Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
3) Open for Public Comment (Sam Liss)			
Discussion	There was no public comment.		
Conclusions	n/a		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
None		n/a	n/a
4) Approval of Minutes – May 3, 2018 (Sam Liss)			
Discussion	Sam asked the group to review the May 3, 2018 minutes and asked if there were any amendments. There were none. Deb moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote unanimous 9-0-0.		
Conclusions	May 3, 2018 minutes approved without amendment.		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
Upload approved minutes to http://vtsrc.org/members/meeting-minutes/procedures-policy-committee/		Debra Kobus	9/11/2018
5) Legislative Updates (Group)			
Discussion	<p>Please see attached “one-pager” for a concise description of the two policy proposals offered by the NCIL subcommittee which Sam co-chairs. The proposals are gaining momentum and are on the verge of being introduced in both the House and Senate in Congress. As you can see, in both cases, they propose to enhance employment incentives for PWD at/above retirement age.</p> <p>The Justice Department recently announced that it reached an agreement with the City of Minneapolis to resolve its lawsuit alleging discrimination on the basis of disability and genetic information. Under the agreement,</p>		

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Minneapolis will pay \$189,338.89 in damages to the complainant, and will implement policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that it does not discriminate in its hiring practices on the basis of disability, and does not request, require, or unlawfully obtain information in violation of the ADA or GINA. Minneapolis will also train applicable Police Department employees.

Bill S.3260 was introduced and will double the tax incentives for businesses that hire individuals with disabilities which should have bipartisan support. It also allows for a tax credit to remove both physical and transportation barriers to employment for people with disabilities and for seniors. The bill currently has five co-sponsors in the Senate. Sherrie mentioned the use of term “handicapped” in the bill. Sam noticed this as well and will see what we can do about it as the term appears to be in the existing law.

HR 6559 (Social Security Modernization Act) – merges several bills that NCIL has either shown support for or opposed. It merges administrative changes to Social Security and will affect people with disabilities (HR 3309 is included in this bill that allows an online tools site, it also includes HR 3310 that allows the Social Security Commission to make information about VR services available relative to employment possibilities for those with disabilities, but HR 3385 is also in there and we don’t support this bill. This bill allows the Social Security Commission to change the eligibility guidelines that conforms with new assistive technology, pharmacology advancements and other cultural changes which we are very concerned about as we do not know what the new guidelines will be and are concerned that it might be used to deny people with disabilities their rightful benefits. The remainder of the bill is mostly administrative. It is something to watch. Diane asked, and Sam agreed to send her a summary from NCIL on these issues.

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	<p>Sarah said that Bernie Sander’s new Bezos’ Bill would tax companies of employers where employees receive benefits. Sarah said that it is a great bill but wants to make sure that individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against inadvertently.</p> <p>Sam said that unfortunately the ABLE Age Adjustment Act is not going anywhere this session.</p> <p>On the State level, we did get some funding for the Attendant Services Program (ASP) General Funds option that serves people with permanent and severe disabilities who need attendant care services to complete at least two activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, meal preparation) but are not eligible for Medicaid. The Governor’s budget mistakenly eliminated the ASP program and its funding altogether. This program has been frozen since 2015 and we are going to make a push to unfreeze it.</p> <p>Please see today’s the Legislative Updates Packet for specific details on many of these bills!</p>		
Conclusions	There is much legislation moving forward and it is important for members of this committee to keep abreast of these.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
None	n/a	n/a	
6) Update on Proposed Addition of an Advisory Board Workshop at the Interagency Core Teams Event on October 16 (Sarah Lauderville & Tara Howe)			
Discussion	Tara reported that we have moved in a different direction and don’t have time to pull an Advisory Board Workshop together this year. Instead for this year, if the AOE is interested in having a table at the event to let Tara know right away.		

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	The collaboration factor related to this event from the many different entities is wonderful and is something that Vermont does well.		
Conclusions	See above.		
Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline	
The AOE should reach out to Tara right away if interested in having a table at the Interagency Core Teams Event as there is administrative work that would need to be done and time is short..	Sam Liss, Chair	ASAP	
<p>7) Further Discussion - Youth Core Transition Team Collaboration – Interagency Core Teams Event (Tara Howe, VR Youth Transition Program Coordinator, & Group)</p>			
Discussion	<p>a) Outreach to local legislators - Tara said that they have met with Monica White related to the best way to reach out to legislators. This was a great opportunity to help her understand what this event was all about. She wrote a beautiful invitation that will be sent to the legislators that are on the Human Services, Commerce and Economic Development, and Education Committees.</p> <p>Diane asked Tara if the SRC could be provided a listing of the people that received invitations, so we can assist with outreach. Tara will get this information out to everyone. Diane is very excited about having legislators at this event as they can see what is happening on the ground.</p> <p>A follow up survey to participants was recommended to find out how helpful the event was in acquiring new skills that assisted them in becoming more successful.</p> <p>b) Youth Advisory Board Update: The Youth Advisory Council – 25 people have</p>		

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	<p>expressed interest (between the ages of 15-27 years old) from across the state and across disabilities. On September 24 from 3:30-5, we will be having an orientation through Skype to have an exchange as to what we are interested in obtaining from this function and to also find out what they are interested in obtaining through this endeavor.</p> <p>We believe the more collaboration the better outcome.</p> <p>Martha said that the establishment of a Youth Panel at the interagency event is also in the works.</p>		
Conclusions	See above.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
Diane asked Tara if the SRC could be provided a listing of the people receiving invitations to the Interagency Core Teams Event, so we can assist with outreach. Tara will get this information out to everyone.	Tara Howe and Diane	ASAP	
8) Perky Planet Café (Group)			
Discussion	<p>Liv said that all she has seen are posts on Facebook. There is no current information available related to whether they are only hiring people with disabilities. There is information that the owner wanted to collaborate with the Howard Center but there has not been any reach out as of yet. They are currently trying to crowd fund the business. There are over 3,000 likes to their Facebook page.</p> <p>Sarah asked if there were action items that Sherrie wanted to see on this issue as Sherrie first brought it to the attention of the committee. Sherrie said that there are two sides to this 1) inclusion and 2) having the ability to socialize and/or work with specifically with those individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Further discussions will be continued.</p>		

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Conclusion	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Sarah asked if there were action items that Sherrie wanted to see on this issue of the Perky Planet Café as Sherrie first brought it to the attention of the committee. Sherrie said that there are two sides to this 1) inclusion and 2) having the ability to socialize and/or work with specifically with those individuals with disabilities. Further discussion is needed.	Debra to remind group	tbd
9) Other Business (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	Sam wanted to know how this committee felt about the SRC being one of the sponsors to the event announcing Welch introduction of his bill. There were no objections.	
Conclusions	None	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
10) Adjournment (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	Adjourned by consensus.	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 1:46 pm	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft Minutes uploaded to http://vtsrc.org/members/draft-minutes/	Debra Kobus	9/11/2018
Draft minutes emailed to Committee Members	Debra Kobus	9/11/2018
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	11/1/2018
Approved minutes uploaded to http://vtsrc.org/about/meeting-minutes/	Debra Kobus	11/6/2018
SUMMARY OF Action Items from 9/6/18:		

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<p>The AOE should reach out to Tara right away if interested in having an AOE table at the Interagency Core Teams Event as there is administrative work that would need to be done and time is short.</p>	<p>Sam Liss, Chair</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p>Diane asked Tara if the SRC could be provided a listing of the people receiving invitations to the Interagency Core Teams Event, so we can assist with outreach. Tara will get this information out to everyone.</p>	<p>Tara Howe and Diane</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p>Sarah asked if there were action items that Sherrie wanted to see on this issue of the Perky Planet Café as Sherrie first brought it to the attention of the committee. Sherrie said that there are two sides to this 1) inclusion and 2) having the ability to socialize and/or work with specifically with those individuals with disabilities. Further discussion is needed.</p>	<p>Debra to remind group</p>	<p>tbd</p>
<p>PARKING LOT:</p>		
<p><u>Suggestions for Improving Outreach in 2019:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOE Committee members should try and attend legislative committee meetings prior to budget completion; • Testifying; • AOE Committee members being present in the cafeteria with brochures, etc., in addition to the Card Room event next year. 	<p>Debra – Reminder to Group</p>	<p>Open</p>
<p>Vermont State Rehabilitation Council is scheduled to use the Card Room at the Vermont State House on Thursday, March 14, 2019, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Debra – Reminder to Group</p>	<p>Open</p>