

APPROVED AGENDA
ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
Waterbury Vocational Rehabilitation
Room Cherry C
HC 2 South 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671

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|----------------------------|---|
| 12:15 pm – 12:17 pm | Introductions (Sam Liss, Chair) |
| 12:17 pm – 12:20 pm | Approval of Agenda (Sam Liss) |
| 12:20 pm – 12:25 pm | Open for Public Comment |
| 12:25 pm – 12:27 pm | Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2018
(Sam Liss) |
| 12:27 pm – 12:32 pm | Election - Chair |
| 12:32 pm – 12:47 pm | Legislative Updates (Sam/Group) |
| 12:47 pm - 1:00 pm | Discussion - Calendar of Upcoming Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2/27/19 Disability Awareness Day• 3/14/19 Card Room Event• Transportation Summit (tbd)• Youth Core Transition Event 2019 (tbd) |
| 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm | Card Room Event on March 14, 2019 with a
“Continuation of Career Pathways” Theme
(Sam/Group) |
| 1:30 pm – 1:40 pm | Disabilities Summit on Transportation
Update (Sam/Group) |
| 1:40 pm – 1:45 pm | Other Business (Sam Liss) |
| 1:45 pm – 1:45 pm | Adjournment (Sam Liss) |

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee		
Thursday, November 1, 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 12:25 pm.	
Members Present	Max Barrows, Sherrie Brunelle, Diane Dalmasse, ex-officio, non-voting, Martha Frank, Marlena Hughes, Sam Liss, Calla Papademas (arrived at 12:30), Michelle Paya, Olivia Smith-Hammond (arrived at 12:30)	
Members Absent	Cari Kelley, Sarah Launderville	
SRC Liaison		
SRC Coordinator	Debra Kobus	
Interpreters	n/a	
Speakers/Presenters	n/a	
Guests	Karen Noone (Max's Assistant)	
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 requests for 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 8-0-0.	
Conclusions	Motion passes - today's agenda accepted.	

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

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 – September 6, 2018 (Sam Liss)			
Discussion	Sam asked the group to review the September 6, 2018 minutes and asked if there were any amendments. There were none. Michelle moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote unanimous 8-0-0.		
Conclusions	September 6, 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	11/6/2018
5) Legislative Updates (Group)			
Discussion	<p>Senator Sanders assisted NCIL in developing the following bill and Congressman Welch introduced it (HR 7101) in the House. The bill amends Titles II and XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the age limit on the Medicaid buy in program, to remove work restrictions on disabled adult children who have reached retirement age, and for other purposes. It has bipartisan support. Senator Bob Casey will be introducing it in the Senate.</p> <p>HR 6559 (Social Security Modernization Act) – merges several bills that NCIL has either shown support for or</p>		

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

opposed. It merges administrative changes to Social Security with policy changes that 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. This bill is not expected to go anywhere. NCIL opposes HR6559 as written and specifically Section 201. We do support Section 105 (bill HR3310) and Section 106 (bill HR3309) as standalone bills.

See the Legislative Updates Section of today's meeting packet for specific details on the above bills!

Also discussed was the:

AbilityOne Program -

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act, 41 U.S.C. 46-48c, established a procurement program to increase employment opportunities for individuals who are blind or have severe disabilities. The Act makes it mandatory for all federal agencies to purchase certain supplies and services from designated nonprofit agencies. AbilityOne is lobbying to open the Rehab Act to allow again for sheltered work.

ABLE Age Adjustment Act

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to qualified ABLE programs, to increase the age threshold for eligibility for such programs from 26 to 46. (Tax-favored ABLE [Achieving a Better Life Experience])

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

	<p>accounts are designed to enable individuals with disabilities to save for and pay for disability-related expenses.) The momentum has slowed and Sam is not optimistic about it this session.</p> <p>Congress has agreed upon an approx. \$3M increase in Independent Living funds for FFY '19. The final figure, from Conference Committee, is a compromise between Senate and House funding proposals.</p> <p>Re State 2019 legislative session, Sam reiterated that VCDR/VCIL will prioritize unfreezing the Attendant Services program (ASP) (AKA PDAC – personally-directed attendant care) to allow more qualified people to apply and receive services. Current budget surplus is the rationale for legislative push at this time. Currently there is no resource/income limit for program; may need to compromise to pass bill. Program allows more PWD to gain and maintain employment.</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) Interagency Core Teams Event - October 16, 2018 – Lessons Learned (Group)			
Discussion	<p>Lessons Learned – Interagency Core Teams Event held on October 16, 2018 -</p> <p>Martha reported that 244 people attended (largest ever) and they have received great responses from attendees. Diane said that 40% of attendees were from schools!</p> <p>Martha said we also had a Youth Panel consisting of five people that came from the recently created Youth Advisory Board. This group really jelled, gained strength, and increased their advocacy skills during this event especially</p>		

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

when they proceeded from panel 1 to panel 2.

A few notes on the achievements remarked by youth included:

- Helped students determine achievable goals
- Students felt empowered and valued
- Encouragement to try different type of jobs
- Importance of Vermont Adult Learning and Flexible Pathways, VocRehab, DAs, dual enrollment opportunities, etc.

Sherrie said since reservations were not being accepted for specific workshops, the popular workshops got filled up right away and she couldn't even get up to the door to listen in on a workshop that would have been very helpful to her. It would be helpful next time if an attendee could register a preference for a specific workshop.

Martha said that the most important part and the main reason for the event was to provide professional development for the Core Team. Every single workshop was geared towards what Core Team people were interested in.

Diane thought it was great that school principals were in attendance. The principals mentioned transportation as an issue. Olivia said that she finds that interesting that transportation was noted as an issue as that can be written into a student's IEP.

Sam said that the AOE Committee had discussed with Tara of having a training for advisory groups at this event but it fell through. Diane said that it was determined that it was not the appropriate venue at this time.

For the first time, the AOE had a table at this event. We had not planned for having handouts and flyers available

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

	<p>and requested them late. Next year, we should prepare earlier and also bring the SRC display.</p> <p>Diane attended the Brattleboro Core Team in the afternoon and thought it would be wonderful for each core team to have their own website as it provides them an identity. Martha was going to follow up.</p> <p>Sam was disappointed that more legislators did not attend. Diane said that two registered but did not come. We must talk it up more locally. Sherrie said that invitations to local community councils might be a good way to educate locals about the issues.</p>		
Conclusions	See above for planning purposes for next year!		
Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline	
None	n/a	n/a	
7) 2019 AOE Priorities from Retreat (Group)			
Discussion	<p>1) Arranging for the card room in 2019, we settled on a theme – Continuation of Career Pathways - We decided to have consumers who achieve success, particularly career pathways’ success, to be at the Card Room Event to buttress our theme. It also would be nice if the Card Room Event was held in conjunction with a radio program. The 2019 Card Room event is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019. We must remember to bring cookies again as they went over very well. Don’t confuse this date with Disability Awareness Day which is on February 27th. Logistics will be done at the January 3, 2019 meeting.</p> <p>2) Continued collaboration with Youth Core Transition Teams with Tara Howe as the point person - We can assist the Youth Core Transition Teams in many ways such as by attending their meetings, inviting legislators to their local and annual meetings, asking the Chair of the Youth Core Advisory Committee attend an</p>		

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

	<p>AOE meeting and then a Full SRC meeting.</p> <p>3) Setting up a Disabilities Transportation Summit - SRC doesn't need to be a lead but a key partner. The Summit would center around transportation – not necessarily just for people with disabilities but for those that are less privileged, seniors, and low-income people. Working with partners, we may be able to convince VTrans to take the lead. VTrans is currently taking public input on its 10-year strategic plan and has asked for input from our sector. The theme of the public input can be used for the Summit.</p> <p>Those of us who can go to one of the Regional VTrans Forums being held throughout the State – dates are posted on the VT SRC website under news: https://vtsrc.org/2018/10/housing-transportation-committee-agendas/</p> <p>Sam will reach out to Ross MacDonald or Tim Bradshaw of the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to see if they would be willing to sponsor a Disabilities Summit on Transportation.</p>	
Conclusions	See above.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Sam will reach out to Ross MacDonald or Tim Bradshaw of the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to see if they would be willing to sponsor a Disabilities Summit on Transportation	Sam Liss	1/3/2019
Members should try to go to one of Regional VTrans Forums that are being held throughout the State – information is located here: https://vtsrc.org/2018/10/housing-transportation-committee-agendas/	All AOE members	Open

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

8) Perky Planet Café (Group)		
Discussion	They opened their doors on the 12 th of October. Michelle met with them and feels that their intentions are good. They are concentrating on universal design and providing an inclusive atmosphere. Their marketing is not very good. We had a great discussion and basically agreed to disagree about their marketing concept. They are hiring anyone who can perform the job. They did meet with the Howard Employment Program about the idea. Martha said that it will be a topic next week at the Supported Employment Lake Morey Retreat. Calla said it boils down to the question of do the ends justify the means if it is not a generally integrated environment? Olivia said that we are really talking about creating community and that needs to be talked about in a different way. Karen said that as a retired special educator, she has found that each school thinks differently about what their job is related to this.	
Conclusion	No further action at this time.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
None	n/a	n/a
9) Other Business (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	1) Agenda Setting – January 3, 2019 a) Focus will be on the March 14, 2019 Card Room Event	
Conclusions	See above.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
	Debra Kobus	
10) Adjournment (Sam Liss)		
Discussion	Sam asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Sherrie moved to adjourn and it was seconded. Vote unanimous 8-0-0.	
Conclusions	Adjourned at 2:00 pm	

Draft Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Draft Minutes uploaded to http://vtsrc.org/members/draft-minutes/	Debra Kobus	11/6/2018
Draft minutes emailed to Committee Members	Debra Kobus	11/6/2018
Minutes approved by Committee	Committee Members	1/3/2019
Approved minutes uploaded to http://vtsrc.org/about/meeting-minutes/	Debra Kobus	11/6/2018
PARKING LOT:		
<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. 	Debra – Reminder to Group	Open
Vermont State Rehabilitation Council is scheduled to use the <u>Card Room at the Vermont State House on Thursday, March 14, 2019, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</u>	Debra – Reminder to Group	Open
<u>2018 Interagency Core Teams Event</u> – For the first time, the AOE had a table at this event. We had not planned for having handouts and flyers available and requested them late. Next year, we should prepare earlier and also bring the SRC display.	Debra – Reminder to Group	Open

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!

Money Follows the Person | Medicaid.gov

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant helps states rebalance their Medicaid long-term care systems. Over 75,151 people with chronic conditions and disabilities have transitioned from institutions back into the community through MFP programs as of December 2016. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 strengthened and expanded the MFP program allowing more states to apply. There are currently forty-three states and the District of Columbia participating in the demonstration.

MFP Program Goals

- Increase the use of home and community-based services (HCBS) and reduce the use of institutionally-based services
- Eliminate barriers in state law, state Medicaid plans, and state budgets that restrict the use of Medicaid funds to let people get long-term care in the settings of their choice
- Strengthen the ability of Medicaid programs to provide HCBS to people who choose to transition out of institutions
- Put procedures in place to provide quality assurance and improvement of HCBS

States participating in MFP are: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV and the District of Columbia.

The Affordable Care Act Extends & Expands MFP

The Affordable Care Act of 2010 strengthens and expands the MFP program to more states:

- Extends the MFP program through September 30, 2016, and appropriates an additional \$2.25 billion (\$450 million for each fiscal year (FY) 2012-2016). Any funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year carry over to the next FY, and can be used to make grant awards to current and new grantees through FY 2016.
- Grant awards are available to states for the fiscal year they receive the award, and four additional fiscal years after. Any unused grant funds awarded in 2016 can be used through FY 2020.
- Expands the definition of who is eligible for the MFP program to include people that live in an institution for more than 90 consecutive days. (Exception: days that a person was living in the institution for the sole purpose of receiving short-term rehabilitation services reimbursed by Medicare don't count toward this 90-day period).
- [MFP Grant Amounts](#) (PDF 163.6 KB)

Report to Congress

The authorizing legislation required that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services provide for a national evaluation of the MFP demonstration and submit a final report to the president and Congress that presents the findings and conclusions of this evaluation.

- [Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Report to Congress](#) (PDF 954.15 KB)

MFP Technical Assistance for States

National contractors with subject matter expertise are available to support the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), MFP grantees and others with technical assistance on program implementation, promote best practices and provide guidance on MFP quality improvement strategies to enhance system performance and individual consumer outcomes.

Find more information on [MFP technical assistance](#).

The CMS Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative

In 2013, CMS awarded funding for the MFP Tribal Initiative (TI) to five state grantees: Minnesota, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin. The MFP TI offers existing MFP state grantees and tribal partners the resources to build sustainable community-based long-term services and supports (CB-LTSS) specifically for Indian country. CB-LTSS are those types of assistance with daily activities that generally helps older adults and people with disabilities to remain in their homes. This initiative will make available these services to people with functional limitations or cognitive impairments that need assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating or other basic activities when they have been in an institutional setting for over 90 days. These services will help them move back into the community. In addition, the TI may be used to advance the development of an infrastructure required to implement CB-LTSS for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) using a single, or a variety of applicable Medicaid authorities. Funding is intended to support the planning and development of:

- An in-state Medicaid program CB-LTSS (as an alternative to institutional care) tailored for AI/ANs who are presently receiving services in an institution
- A service delivery structure that includes a set of administrative functions delegated by the state Medicaid agency to Tribes or Tribal organizations (T/TOs), such as enabling tribe(s) to design an effective program or package of Medicaid community-based LTSS, and operating day to day functions pertaining to the LTSS program(s)

The TI may be used to cover costs necessary to plan and implement activities consistent with the objectives of this funding and within federal grant regulations. The funds are subject to all the terms and conditions of the MFP program.

The TI funding announcement contains more detailed information about the MFP TI initiative. While the solicitation is now closed, it is available for [review](#) (PDF 841 KB).

MFP Evaluation Information and Reports

- [CMS Guidance: Reporting Money Follows the Person \(MFP\) in T-MSIS](#)
- [Health Care Expenditures Two Years Post Transition](#) (PDF 771.53 KB)
- [Does Early Use of Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports Lead to Less Use of Institutional Care?](#) (PDF 401.11 KB)
- [The Overview of State Grantee Progress from January through December 2016](#) (PDF 3.61 MB)
- [The MFP 2015 Annual Report](#) (PDF 3.4 MB)
- [Pathways to Independence: Transitioning Adults Under Age 65 from Nursing Homes to Community Living](#) (PDF 1.02 MB)
- [Overview of State Grantee Progress from January through December 2015](#) (PDF 1.66 MB)
- [Tipping the Balance: The Balancing Incentive Program and State Progress on Rebalancing Their Long-Term Services and Supports](#) (PDF 729.79 KB)
- [Hand in Hand: Enhancing the Synergy between Money Follows the Person and Managed Long-Term Services and Supports](#) (PDF 402.79 KB)
- [The Right Supports at the Right Time: How Money Follows the Person Programs Are Supporting Diverse Populations in the Community](#) (PDF 1.07 MB)
- [The Changing Medical and Long-Term Care Expenditures of People Who Transition from Institutional Care to Home- and Community-Based Services](#) (PDF 405.1 KB)
- [Innovations in Home- and Community-Based Services: Highlights from a Review of Services Available to Money Follows the Person Participants](#) (PDF 266.65 KB)
- [The Real Choice Systems Change Grant: Building Sustainable Partnerships for Housing](#) (PDF 313.08 KB).
- [MFP 2014 Annual Report](#) (PDF 1.53 MB)
- [Proposed Methods for Developing and Testing Risk- and Reliability-Adjustment Models for HCBS Composite Measures](#) (PDF 515.43 KB)
- [Risk Adjustment of HCBS Composite Measures, Volume 1](#) (PDF 1.03 MB)
- [Risk Adjustment of HCBS Composite Measures, Volume 2](#) (ZIP 1.31 MB)
- [Development of an HCBS Pressure Ulcer Measure, Volume 1](#) (PDF 637.09 KB)
- [Development of an HCBS Pressure Ulcer Measure, Volume 2](#) (ZIP 652.81 KB)
- [Development of HCBS Quality Measures Webinar](#) (PDF 587.69 KB)
- [Video: Development of HCBS Quality Measures slides with accompanying audio](#)

. Closed captioning is available

Vermont Center for Independent Living's Attendant Service Program Information and Option

<http://www.vcil.org/resources/pas-toolkit/attendant-service-program-information-and-option>

What is the Attendant Services Program?

The Attendant Services Program (ASP) supports independent living for adult Vermonters with disabilities who need physical assistance with daily activities.

The participant in the program (or a designee under Personal Services option) hires, trains, supervises and schedules his or her personal care attendant.

The participant or designee is the employer. There is no cost to the participant. The program pays an hourly wage to the attendant.

Any legal worker may be employed as a PA, except a spouse or civil union partner under the Medicaid funded portion of the program.

A person who has a substantiated history of abuse, neglect, or exploitation will not be paid by this program

What activities are covered?

Attendants may only be paid to provide assistance provided to meet the following needs:

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) include dressing, bathing, grooming, toileting, transferring, mobility, range of motion exercises, positioning and eating.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living include meal preparation, medication management, care of adaptive & health equipment, management of finances and mail, and shopping and cleaning.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible an individual must:

- Be a Vermont resident
- Be at least 18 years old, and
- Meet all the eligibility criteria for one of these programs

1) General Fund Personal Services

- Have a disability
- Need physical assistance with at least one activity of daily living or meal preparation, and
- Be eligible to receive Medicaid

2) General Fund PCAC – Participant Directed Attendant Care

- Have a permanent and severe disability

Vermont Center for Independent Living's Attendant Service Program Information and Option

<http://www.vcil.org/resources/pas-toolkit/attendant-service-program-information-and-option>

- Need physical assistance with at least two activities of daily living, and
- Be able to direct own personal care services

Medicaid PCAC – Participant Directed Attendant Care

- Have a permanent and severe disability
- Need physical assistance with at least two activities of daily living
- Be able to direct own personal care services
- Be able and willing to hire an attendant other than a spouse or civil union partner, and
- Be eligible to receive Medicaid

How Does the Program Work?

After an application is received, program staff contact the applicant to screen for eligibility. (Note: Applicants who are not eligible for Medicaid PDAC may be placed on a chronological waiting list until program funds are available).

A program assessor completes an in-depth assessment of the applicant's needs in his or her home.

An Eligibility Committee (consisting of program participants) reviews the assessment and determines if the applicant is eligible for the program and authorizes a specific number of hours of service per day based on the information received in the Independent Living Assessment (ILA). (Note: The Attendant Services Program may not cover all needs and activities).

The participant signs an annual agreement and enrolls one or more attendants. The participant must comply with State and Federal employment laws.

The participant and the attendant complete, sign and submit biweekly time reports to the designated payroll agent.

Payments are processed and checks are mailed to the attendant on an established payroll schedule.

Participant needs are reviewed at least annually.

Participants and applicants may appeal if they do not agree with the decisions concerning eligibility or time authorized for their care.