

**SRC Approved Minutes**  
**Vermont State Rehabilitation Council**  
**ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 5, 2023

12:15 PM – 1:20 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Meeting called by:**

Cari Kelley called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Emily Marie Ahtunan
- Asher Edelson
- Cari Kelley
- Ana Kolbach (Last name has changed)
- Sarah Launderville
- Bill Meirs
- Nancy Richards
- Cara Sachs
- Helena Kehne

**Members Absent:**

- Laura Siegel, Maternity Leave: Jordan Evan Cahoon, born 1/4/2023 at 6:49 pm. (excused)
- Abby Rhim, excused
- Courtney Blasius, excused
- Calla Papademas
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting), excused

**SRC Liaison:**

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Janice Leonard

**Speakers or Presenters:**

- Mari Cordes, Legislator
- Ross MacDonald, Agency of Transportation
- Tim Bradshaw, Agency of Transportation

**Guests:**

- n/a

**Interpreters:**

- None

**1) Introductions** (Cari Kelley, AOE Chair)

**Discussion:**

Members and guests each introduced themselves.

**Conclusions:**

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**2) Approval of Agenda** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

Cari asked for any proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Helena moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded by Asher. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 9-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 1/25/23**

**3) Open for Public Comment** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

No members of the public were present.

**Conclusions:**

n/a

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

**4) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

Cari asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the Minutes from November 3, 2022. Helena moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Emily. No discussion. Vote unanimous 9-0-0

**Conclusions:**

November 3, 2023 minutes were approved.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Upload approved minutes to SRC website and link emailed to members, **Janice Leonard 1/30/23.**

**5) Discussion: Approaching Legislators (Mari Cordes)****Discussion:**

Mari Cordes was one of our special guests. She is not only a Nurse Practitioner but also a Legislator from Lincoln, Addison County. See her Web Site information: [About Mari Cordes](#). She is a passionate advocate for accessibility issues and promises to stay engaged in the issues facing our clients.

## Tips Shared by Mari:

- Encourage membership to reach out to their lawmakers, representatives. Have your asks
- Go to the house and meet with them.
- Specific members, committees need to hear from this community
- Be aware of "Because it's always been done that way" thinking
- Meet, have:
  - Handouts
  - Stories
  - On legislative Web Page, there are committee assistants that can be contacted for meets or go straight to the chair
  - Follow up after meetings
- Issues are decided on in the beginning of session. If concern is brought up after "Crossover" day, won't make it until the next session.
- The sessions run on a Biennium basis. We are at the beginning on one right now.
- An Accessibility Assessment is currently being done. After that, it would be a good time to approach.
- Sara Coffey is the chair of Transportation
- Social Equity Conference created a document, "Probing Questions". She will share with us to use as a prototype for us to create.
- Priorities right now, it looks like Housing is on the top of the list, childcare, looking back how money we got from ARPA & COVID is being used.
- Reports can be found on the Web Site.
- We asked her to send information to us via Janice and we so appreciated her time and work. Her text number is: 802-989-9267

## **Conclusions:**

## **Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

### **6) VCDR Legislative Priorities for 2023**

#### **Discussion:**

The Priorities are being decided on. Currently they are

- Rights for those with disabilities. (Parents have lost custody of children around this)
- PDAC, general Attendant Service Program funding has been frozen, and the group is working to get it “unfroze”.
- Equity during COVID
- Mental Health: There is a lot of messaging of violence/ MH/ Policing together right now and will work to end this.
- More being reviewed..., She will send the list to us when it is finished.

## **Conclusions:**

## **Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

### **7) Discussion: Public Transit Program** (Ross MacDonald & Tim Bradshaw)

#### **Discussion:**

Ross & Time shared what is being done now. It was a great deal of information and super discussions.

- Public Transit Overview PowerPoint was presented
- They provide “Demand Response Services – Recovery and Job Access Rides”, for elderly and persons with a disability.
- Useful Tools:
  - Go Vermont
  - Regional Public Transit Providers
  - Employers
  - PT Staff

## **Conclusions:**

We’ll keep in touch with them to be sure we are supporting each other

## **Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

### **8) Election of Committee Chair** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

Cari asked Janice to facilitate this agenda item. She let the group know that she is willing to continue as chair but encourage others to consider taking on this roll. Janice called for nominations three times with no additional nominees offered. By unanimous vote Cari was elected to be chair of the AOE committee for the coming year.

**Conclusions:**

Cari was nominated and elected unanimously to continue as the chair of the AOE Committee

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

**9) Card Room Event 3/31/23**

**Discussion:**

Will address via email.

**Conclusions:**

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

**10) Other Business (Group)**

**a. Other Business**

- Public Comments from GMC will be open, and we should include our comments.
- Emily will be part of a focus group with VSAC as a rep for a person with a disability. She asked for any comments or stories that she can share when she is there.

**b. Agenda Setting: March 2, 2023**

**Discussion:**

**Conclusions:**

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

**11) Adjournment (Cari Kelley)**

Asher moved that the meeting adjourn, it was seconded by Bill. Cari called the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

**Meeting Action Items, Person Responsible and Deadlines:**

- Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 1/30/23**
- Draft minutes for this meeting, send to Committee members for comment then upload to SRC website, **Janice Leonard, 1/30/23**
- Finalize approved minutes for last meeting and upload to SRC website **Janice Leonard, 1/30/23**