

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

Thursday, March 2, 2023

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Meeting called by:**

Cari Kelley called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Courtney Blasius
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Asher Edelson
- Helena Kehne
- Cari Kelley
- Sarah Launderville
- Bill Meirs
- Abby Rhim
- Nancy Richards
- Cara Sachs
- Laura Siegel

**Members Absent:**

- Calla Papademas
- Ana Russo, excused.

**SRC Liaison:**

- Diane Dalmasse

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Janice Leonard

**Speakers or Presenters:**

- n/a

**Guests:**

- Joseph Soares, potential board member

**Interpreters:**

- Nicole Sargent
- Jennifer Raney

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

**Discussion:**

We went around and introduced ourselves and had a special introduction to Baby Siegal

**Conclusions:**

Congratulations Laura, and great to have you back.

**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 Sarah. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

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

Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23**

**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 January 5, 2023. Helena moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Sarah. No discussion. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

January 5, 2023 minutes were approved.

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

- Upload approved minutes to SRC website and link emailed to members, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23.**

**5) Election of Chair** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

- Courtney Blasius self-nominated with Asher seconded the nomination.
- The group voted her as chair unanimously.

**Conclusions:**

- Courtney Blasius is the new chair of the AOE.

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

- Add Courtney to lists, email lists and remove Gina. **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23**

**6) Legislative Update** (Sarah Launderville)

**Discussion:**

Sarah presented the VCDR 2023 Legislative Platform. The document is located in the AOE Meeting minutes for 3.2.23.

- There were many excellent discussions about priorities and needs of the Disability community.
- We will need to keep up on all of these and see how we can be involved.
- Law Suit on hearing aids link:  
<https://vermontbiz.com/news/2023/january/04/ag-sues-over-counter-hearing-aid-company-nano-misleading-consumers>
- Omniballot link: <https://democracylive.com/omniballot-tablet/>

**Conclusions:**

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

- Send out copies of the VCDR Legislative Platform

**7) Card Room Event, 3/31/23** (Group)

## **Discussion:**

- HireAbility will do set up and materials. It would be great for SRC members join this day. Let Cari or Janice know if you are attending. If you are, it's a good idea to let your legislators know that you'll be there and what you do for the SRC.
  - Asher, can't drive- can't attend
- Diane will check into if/ how we can have personal stories as part of the day.
- Theme: New Branding and what we do.
- Have a Legislator say welcome on the floor, explain what SRC is and what we do. Will increase their stopping and talking.
- Remember HireAbility cannot get involved in the advocacy and we can.
- 8 – 3? Peak times are lunch (11-1) and when they leave the floor (3:00).
- Have a meeting with HireAbility staff meet for a short while to tie up loose ends. Diane will ask Wendy to follow up with this.
- Janice send email to find out who's coming. HireAbility can help with expenses to get there.

## **Conclusions:**

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

- Ask full SRC for who is going to attend Card Room Event. Suggest contact your legislators ahead of time and let them know and what you do for SRC.
- Janice to send email to find out who's coming. HireAbility can help with expenses to get there.
- Diane will check into if/ how we can have personal stories as part of the day.

## **8) Other Business (Group)**

### **a. Agenda Setting: May 4, 2023**

#### **Discussion:**

- Have Kristen present to this committee about new CMS rules around home and community-based services.
- Have Staff from Bernie Sanders office staff to present. Beth or Mickaela can discuss Bernie's new role as chair of Health Committee. How does it affect HireAbility. 5/4/23 next meeting. Would this be a full council event? Also ask about the Debt Ceiling and how it will affect our funding.

- Vermont Disability Caucus – anyone interested, contact Asher.

## **Conclusions:**

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

- Someone needs to contact Bernie’s office. Next full SRC is 4.6.23 the next is 6.1.23.
- Someone needs to contact Kristen to present the CMS rules.

## **9) Adjournment** (Cari Kelley)

Asher moved that the meeting adjourn, it was seconded by Courtney. Cari called the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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

- Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23.**
- Draft minutes for this meeting, send to Committee Chair for comment then upload to SRC website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23.**
- Finalize approved minutes for last meeting and upload to SRC website **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23.**
- Someone needs to contact Kristen to present the CMS rules. **WHO**
- Someone needs to contact Bernie’s office. Next full SRC is 4.6.23 then 6.1.23 **WHO**
- Ask full SRC for who is going to attend Card Room Event. Suggest contact your legislators ahead of time and let them know and what you do for SRC. Janice to send email to find out who’s coming. HireAbility can help with expenses to get there. **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23**
- Add Courtney to lists, email lists and remove Gina. **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23**
- Check into if/ how we can have personal stories as part of the Card Room day. **Diane, ?.**
- Send out VCDR Platform document to Committee. **Janice Leonard, 3/30/23.**