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

12:15 pm – 12:17 pm **Introductions** (Sam Liss, Chair)

12:17 pm – 12:18 pm **Approval of Agenda** (Sam Liss)

12:18 pm – 12:20 pm **Open for Public Comment**

12:20 pm – 12:22 pm **Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2019** (Sam Liss)

12:22 pm - 12:45 pm **Legislative Updates** (Group)

12:45 pm - 1:40 pm **Calendar of Upcoming Events** (Group)

- **5/30/19 Annual Youth Summit**. It will be held from 9 am to 2 pm at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. For more information, please contact Nichole Jolly at Nichole.Jolly@vermont.gov.
- **10/15/19 Tentative Date for the VT Youth Core Transition Event 2019.** It will be held in Killington and is currently in the planning stage.
- **12/2/19 Governor's Summit on the Employment of People with Disabilities** (aka Disabilities Transportation Summit). To be held at the DoubleTree Inn.
- **Other**

1:40 pm – 1:45 pm **Other Business**

1) **VCDR:** SRC Representative update. (Marlena Hughes)
2) **David Sagi Award:** A newly established award by GCEPD to employers who make a special effort to make their businesses accessible for PWD as employees. (Sam)
3) **Agenda Setting:** September 5, 2019. (Group)

1:45 pm – 1:45 pm **Adjournment** (Sam Liss)

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee. Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 12:15 pm – 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 12:20 pm.
Members Present: Sherrie Brunelle, Diane Dalmasse ex-officio, non-voting (arrived at 12:35), Martha Frank (via Skype), Marlena Hughes, Cari Kelley (via Skype), Sam Liss, Bill Meirs (via Skype).
Members Absent: Max Barrows, Sarah Launderville, Calla Papademas, Michelle Paya, Olivia Smith-Hammond.
SRC Liaison: James Smith.
SRC Coordinator: Debra Kobus.
Interpreters: n/a.
Speakers/Presenters: n/a.
Guests: Tara Howe.
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.
2) **Approval of Agenda** (Sam Liss).
Discussion: Sam asked if there were any requests for changes or additions to the agenda. Marlena requested a report out about VCDR as SRC

Representative. This agenda item was added under Other Business. Martha moved, and it was seconded to approve the agenda with the addition. There was no further discussion. **Vote unanimous 6-0-0.**

Conclusions:
Motion passes - today's agenda accepted.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None.

3) Open for Public Comment (Sam Liss).

Discussion:
There was no public comment.

Conclusions:
n/a.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None.

4) Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2019 (Sam Liss).

Discussion:
Sam asked the group to review the January 3, 2019 minutes and asked if there were any amendments. Sam and Sherrie asked that additional language be added. Sam asked if there was a motion to approve the amended draft minutes. Sherrie so moved, and it was seconded. **Vote unanimous 6-0-0.**

The AOE Committee expresses its deepest sympathy to Sarah Launderville and her family for the tragic loss of her husband.

Conclusions:
January 3, 2019 minutes approved with modification.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Upload approved minutes to SRC website. Debra Kobus, 3/12/2019.

5) Action Items from 1/3/19 Meeting (Sam Liss).

Discussion:
At the last AOE Committee meeting, there was a request for statistics on 1) individuals with intellectual disabilities in nursing homes and 2) on mandatory background checks for Attendant Service Provider caregivers. Sam reached out to DAIL and Camille George provided the following:

- Link to DS Annual Report. Go to page 15 for information related to the number of people with intellectual disabilities in nursing facilities: https://dail.vermont.gov/sites/dail/files//documents/BackgroundCheckPolicy_v2_0.pdf.
- Link to DAIL's Background Check Policy. https://ddsd.vermont.gov/sites/ddsd/files/documents/DAIL_DDS_Annual_Report.pdf,

This information was also provided in today's meeting packet that was sent to you by email and is also available on the SRC website.

Conclusion:
See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Date:

None.

6) Discussion – Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Discussion:

- **3/14/19 Card Room Event.**
  Theme "Continuation of Career Pathways".
  Projected attendees: Sam Liss; Martha Frank will attend with three young people from the Youth Advocacy Council; Calla Papademas (cannot attend); Olivia Smith-Hammond (maybe); Diane said that she will be asking Amanda Kohle and Nat Piper to attend.
  Confirmed:
  1) Wendy Madigan will be making the cookies;
  2) Youth commitment confirmed; Tara handed out an 8 ½ by 11 double sided Youth Advisory Council handout for distributing during the Card Room event. The logo and "educate, elevate, and empower" were developed by the youth. They also have an appointment to meet with the Governor. Martha and Tara have a meeting on Monday with the youth to discuss the Card Room Event and what to expect;
  3) Consider testifying, if appropriate (more will be known when at the event);
  4) Debra handed off the banner and new SRC brochures to Sam to bring to the event;
  5) VR to bring Trifold Pre-ETS Brochure to the event;
  6) VR to bring a brightly colored handout with data that indicates that people with disabilities enhance the economy to the event;

7) Remember to expand our presence from the Card Room and handout brochures in the cafeteria.

- 4/3/19 Stories of Hope and Resilience Conference. Doubletree Inn, Hasan Davis Speaker.

  The speaker is a young man who had challenges in school. He was thrown out of alternative school at age 11 and joined gangs. He was helped with support and received a law degree. We are hoping to reach a broader audience of folks who work with disabilities. He will also be doing a workshop. TJ Donovan will be introducing him. We have ten different workshops.

  Award-winning Dan Habib's INTELLIGENT LIVES film. The film, "a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America" https://intelligentlives.org/.

  The host is the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion https://www.uvm.edu/cess/cdci. Visit the Vermont Family Network website for more information https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/.

  Diane will talk this up with the jobs program as this sounds like a group that would be interested to hear your keynote speaker.

- 5/30/19 Annual Youth Summit.

  Tara Howe provided a handout named "SAVE THE DATE 1st Annual Youth Summit Driven for Youth by Youth" that was developed by the youth. The Youth Summit's four areas of focus include:

  1) Bullying/harassment
  2) Employment/careers
  3) Self-advocacy
  4) Transition to adulthood

  Martha is sending out a one pager about the keynote speaker, Matthew Shapiro. Matthew is 28 years old and is very excited

about coming.

It will be held from 9 am to 2 pm at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. For more information, please contact Nichole Jolly at nichole.jolly@vermont.gov.

- **Tentatively 10/15/19 VT Youth Core Transition Event 2019.** It will be held in Killington again. It is currently in the planning stage and they are targeting a date of October 15.

- **12/2/19 Governor's Summit on the Employment of People with Disabilities** (aka Disabilities Transportation Summit). It will be held at the Double Tree Inn. Camille George reached out to the Governor's Office to see if he would support this and we have not yet received a response. Nothing further can be done until we receive a response from the Governor's Office. Diane will continue to follow up.

Conclusions

See above for events to attend or participate in planning.

Action Item, Person Responsible, Deadline:

See above, Group, Various.

7) Legislative Updates (Group)

Discussion:

The **Disability Employment Incentive Act (S25** https://trackbill.com/bill/us-congress-senate-bill-255-disability-employment-incentive-act/1660188/. On January 29, 2019, the bill was reintroduced. The bill's text had not changed from last year. It will expand three existing tax credits to support employers who hire individuals with disabilities and make workplaces more accessible to those employees.

Money Follows the Person Bill (Medicaid)

More good news! Short-Term Money Follows the Person Extension signed into law! Now we need to wait (and advocate for) a long-term extension.

Last week U.S. Representatives Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced a companion bill in the U.S. House of

Representatives which is identical to the Senate bill S. 2227, the EMPOWER Act. This bill would renew the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program as well as improve it.

The Empower Care Act (Money Follows the Person Reauthorization) was introduced (HR5306 S2227) (https://medicaid.publicrep.org/empower-care-act-one-pager/) that would reauthorize, and appropriate money follows the person Medicaid demonstration project that would shift money from institution care to home and community-based care. This is important because more people with disabilities could live at their homes and be able to work. The president signed three months of appropriation.

Two bills were introduced: In the Senate, bill #S269 and in the House, bill #HR860. Both are identical to the **Social Security 2100 Act** (https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1902). This bill speeds up the date that social security benefits would be available to people who don't necessarily earn enough money to begin receiving retirement or disability benefits. It will also provide minimum benefits. Representative Larson in the House and Senator Casey in the Senate. This is important because people with disabilities do not earn enough money to receive enough social security or disability benefits to live on.

Transformation to Competitive Employment Act (https://edlabor.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2019-01-29%20Transformation%20to%20Competitive%20Employment%20Act%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf) provides states, services providers, sub-minimum wage certificate holders, and other agencies with the resources they need to create competitive integrated employment service delivery models and the inclusive wraparound services that some individuals with disabilities will need. The clauses are also in the Raise the Wage Act (Senator Sanders) (https://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/raise-the-wage-act-of-2019?id=48B66B6B-34E4-4149-BC0D-62CF888E4C4A&download=1&inline=file).

The Able Age Adjustment Act (S651) (http://www.ablenrc.org/news/introducing-s-651-able-age-adjustment-act) was just introduced with

strong bipartisan support. It requires large offsets so as not to increase taxes.

Representative Welch and Senator Casey are working on an **Enhanced work Incentives for People with Disabilities Bill** https://www.cga.ct.gov/2000/ba/2000HB-05778-R000562-BA.htm at retirement age.

Policy idea in the Senate to implement a family leave provision within social security. It would be totally voluntary. (Rubio and Lee).

Disability integration Act https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/910**:** All democrats signed on. Broader than Empower Care Act. Mandate states towards home and community-based living.

STATE Related:
Working through appropriations to unfreeze the **Attendance Services Program (ASP).** The **Attendant Services Program** has been frozen for four years. The advocates successfully advocated to have it return but with a smaller budget. The budget surplus was the rationale for the legislative push. Currently, and unique to Vermont, there is no resource/income limit for program; but there may need to compromise to pass the bill. The program allows more people with disabilities (PWD) to gain and maintain employment. This program is for middle class individuals who would have to impoverish themselves in order to get services. Commissioner Monika Hutt agrees with the inequity but is concerned that when the legislature hears that people have funds in the bank, we may need to compromise on the resource/ income limit. Bill Botzow suggested that the advocates work on the financial threshold not the legislators in the best interest of individuals with disabilities. This will be VCIL's main legislative platform. **David Sagi, ADA Program Manager for the State of Vermont** passed away on the morning of Disability Awareness Day. He testified last year on this and was instrument in obtaining the program.

The MS Society wants to append to the Tax Deduction Bill home modifications for people with disabilities with income limits.

Conclusions:

There is much legislation moving forward and it is important for members of this committee to keep abreast of these. Please see above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

See above.

8) Other Business (Sam Liss)

Discussion

1) Agenda Setting for May 2, 2019.
   Discussion occurred.

2) Marlena provided an update as rep of SRC to the VCDR. A lot of planning was provided by VCDR for Disability Awareness Day that was held in February. Governor was keynote speaker in the welcoming. There were statements by the congressional legislation.

   Marlena will send other VCDR information related to legislation. Please see additional attachment to minutes.

Conclusions: See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Develop agenda for May 2, 2019 meeting and present to chair. Debra Kobus, 4/15/19.

Marlena will send other VCDR information related to legislation to include in the minutes. Marlena Hughes. 3/12/19.

9) Adjournment (Sam Liss).

Discussion:

Sam asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Sherrie moved to adjourn, and it was seconded. **Vote unanimous 6-0-0.**

Conclusions:

Adjourned at 1:39 pm

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Draft Minutes uploaded to website. Debra Kobus, 3/12/2019.

Draft minutes emailed to committee. Debra Kobus, 3/12/2019.

Minutes approved by committee. Members, 5/2/2019.

Approved minutes uploaded to website. Debra Kobus, 5/7/2019.

PARKING LOT:

Suggestions for Improving Outreach in 2019:

• 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. Reminder to Group. Debra. Date: Open.
2018 Interagency Core Teams Event – 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 bring the SRC display. Reminder for 2019 to Group. Debra. Date: Open.

The Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights Meeting
01/28/2019

M. Hughes, M.A.
State Rehabilitation Committee

Disability Awareness Day (02/27/19) Planning

- How to talk with legislature
- Psychiatric survivors
- Something on Deaf Culture
- Sign-ups for tour of the State Building
- Stories to tell
- Process for budget
- Family support and self-advocacy
- Vision towards adulthood

H. 3 Creation of the Ethnic and Social Equity Advisory Working group to advise the State Board of Education on the adoption of ethnic and social equity studies standards into educational standards.

H-21 Prohibition of display of individuals with disabilities for profit.

Communication Imperative
Proposed National Resource Center on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- Access to communication is foundational for individuals with disabilities
- Federal responses are limited – laws exist w/o practical ways to implement the requirements

Demonstrated Need
Core Values for Augmented Communication Center

- Nothing about us without us
- Choice and control
- Deep partnership
- Everyone communicates
- Human right
- Diagnostic label should not be a barrier
- Meet critical need
- Transform outcomes

Functions of Center

- Raise expectations, improve awareness
- Create leadership and self-advocacy opportunities
- Disseminate information
- Document best practice