

Approved 2019.01.03

Minutes – November 1, 2018

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee Minutes		
Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018		
Location: 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.	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

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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 opposed. It merges administrative changes to Social</p>	

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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 who are initially denied benefits, 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-

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	<p>avored ABL [Achieving a Better Life Experience] 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	<p>There is much legislation moving forward and it is important for members of this committee to keep abreast of these.</p>						
Action Items	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>Person Responsible</th><th>Deadline</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>None</td><td>n/a</td><td>n/a</td></tr></tbody></table>		Person Responsible	Deadline	None	n/a	n/a
	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</p>						

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Board. This group really jelled, gained strength, and increased their advocacy skills during this event especially 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.

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	<p>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.</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</p>	

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	<p>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 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	All AOE members	Open

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located here: https://vtsrc.org/2018/10/housing-transportation-committee-agendas/			
8) Perky Planet Café (Group)			
Discussion	<p>They opened their doors on the 12th 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?</p> <p>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.</p>		
Conclusion	No further action at this time.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
None	n/a	n/a	
9) Other Business (Sam Liss)			
Discussion	<p>1) Agenda Setting – January 3, 2019 a) Focus will be on the March 14, 2019 Card Room Event</p>		
Conclusions	See above.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	
	Debra Kobus		
10) Adjournment (Sam Liss)			

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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	
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:		
<u>Suggestions for Improving Outreach in 2019:</u> <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	Debra – Reminder to Group	Open

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