

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

Thursday, November 2, 2023

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting called by:

Courtney Blasius called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Members Present:

- Courtney Blasius, Chair
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Helena Kehne
- Cari Kelley
- Abby Levinsohn
- Brandy Reynolds (non-voting)
- Ana Russo
- Joseph Soares

Members Absent:

- Jacquie Kelley, start next meeting
- Nancy Richards, excused
- Laura Siegel, excused

SRC Liaison:

- Diane Dalmasse

SRC Coordinator:

- Janice Leonard

Speakers or Presenters:

- n/a

Guests:

- n/a

Interpreters:

- Nicole Comtois
- Jennifer Raney

1) Introductions (Courtney Blasius, AOE Chair)

Discussion:

We all introduced ourselves and are very pleased to have new members Brandy Reynolds and Joseph Soares. We'd also like to welcome Helena to this committee.

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None

2) Approval of Agenda (Courtney Blasius)

Discussion:

Courtney asked for any proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Sherrie moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded by Helena. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 7-0-0

Conclusions:

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard,**
11/30/23

3) Open for Public Comment (Courtney Blasius)

Discussion:

No members of the public were present.

Conclusions:

n/a

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None

4) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (Courtney Blasius)

Discussion:

Courtney asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the Minutes from September 7, 2023. Cari moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Helena. No discussion.

Conclusions:

September 7, 2023 minutes were approved.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Upload approved minutes to SRC website and link emailed to members, **Janice Leonard 11/30/23.**

5) Change meeting to start at 1:00 (Group)

Discussion:

Anyone who attends the P&P Committee meeting would appreciate a 1:00 meeting start. Approved by the group – start meetings at 1:00 starting the next meeting 9-0-0

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

6) Retreat Priorities (Group)

Discussion:

1. Promote access for students and adults to educations and training that leads to credentials and higher wage jobs (dual enrollment in schools and CTOs for adults).
 - a. **Dual enrollment with this program and an IEP and 504 plan**
 - i. **Information Gathering for this group. Have someone come and present to this group, also ask Martha Frank to come and speak to us.** – Ana will f/u
 - ii. Day of testimony during the Card room event? Education Committees, video to run.
 1. There is already a testimony video, show at the next AOE and the card event.
2. Market DIF DBVI grant to improve transition services for youth.
 - a. DBVI just received a grant for transportation and transition. They have many partners. **Fred Jones, the Director of DBVI could be invited to come to the meeting to discuss this 5-year grant.**
 - b. Bellows Falls was selected to be a site for this grant
3. Educate Vermonters policy makers, etc. on Our Time is Now Time report re: people with chronic health conditions.
 - a. Sarah Launderville is a lead on this, the report is not yet completed/ released. Table this for now.
 - b. Summary: We are reaching our and marketing HA services with people with Chronic Health Conditions. Currently this group doesn't consider themselves to have a disability, but they are potentially eligible.
 - c. **Denee McKenzie and Hib Doe can do a presentation** about this.

4. Advocacy for rural transportation solutions.
5. Educate on the value of remote work and asynchronous training for people with disabilities to allow maximum flexibility for work and training.
6. Educate Vermonters on Long Covid.

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

7) Calendar Event (Group)

Discussion:

- Disability Awareness Day is in February/March. Are there any particular issues we want to bring to the attention of legislators.
- VCIL does a lot for this
- We can put content of these on the web site.
- October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, has events. The Spirit of ADA Awards is an important function for HA. SRC could be part of this by at least attending
- Collaborate with organization
- If there's one of interest to reach out and see how they can be involved
- Legislative issues we could advocate for
 - **OPIOID pilot has midpoint progress report. Diane can present it.** Financial resources will be needed to continue and expand it. Keep in front of Legislature. Employment has been shown to improve this – keep on agenda. **Next SRC Meeting focus on pilots.**
- Focus on events:
 - October / Fall National Disability Employment Awareness month.
 - Recognizing HA Staff. Late winter early spring
 - March / Card Day – HA and testimony

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

8) Card Room Event

Discussion:

- Testimony (Brandy would like to bring a young lady)
- Reach out to Sefakor Komabu Pomyie through VCIL for youth advocacy council? Martha Frank as well.

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

9) Other Business (Group)

a. Agenda Setting: January 4, 2024

Discussion:

- Calendar events
- Card Room
- Finish retreat Priorities
- Fred Jones director of DBVI Grant to present (1/4/24, 1:00)

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

10) Adjournment (Courtney Blasius)

Sherrie moved that the meeting adjourn by Cari, it was seconded by Ana. Courtney called the meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Meeting Action Items, Person Responsible and Deadlines:

- Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 11/30/23**
- Draft minutes for this meeting, send to Committee Chair for comment then upload to SRC website, **Janice Leonard, 11/30/23**
- Finalize approved minutes for last meeting and upload to SRC website **Janice Leonard, 11/30/23**