

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

Thursday, March 7, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Meeting called by:**

Courtney Blasius called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Courtney Blasius, Chair
- Angela Allard
- Sherrie Brunelle
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Jacquie Kelley
- Bill Meirs
- Nancy Richards
- Ana Russo
- Laura Siegel

**Members Absent:**

- Brandy Reynolds (non-voting)
- Helena Kehne
- Cari Kelley
- Abby Levinsohn

**SRC Liaison:**

- Diane Dalmasse

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Janice Leonard

**Speakers or Presenters:**

- Amy Dodge
- Kara Haynes

**Guests:**

- Laurie Cook, leadership academy
- **Kara Haynes, Transition Coordinator**

**Interpreters:**

- Ryan Kraft

- Mareike Larsen

### **1) Introductions** (Courtney Blasius, AOE Chair)

#### **Discussion:**

Laurie Cook from the Leadership Academy and Kara Haynes an HA Transition Coordinator were both introduced.

#### **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 Anna. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 8-0-0

#### **Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

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

Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/24**

### **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 January 4, 2024. Sherrie moved holding off on the voting of today's minutes due to lack of clarity of some content. Laura seconded. Bring this to the Steering Committee. **Approve at next AOE committee.**

Vote unanimous 8-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Approval of January 4, 2024 minutes were postponed until the next meeting.

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

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

**5) Presentation: Vermont Dual Enrollment Program (Amy Dodge)**

**Discussion:**

The Legislative Report is being written and can be available later. See Handbook. Kara Haynes also contributed information to this presentation.

This is for those with a College Bound Tract.

***Purpose of the Dual Enrollment Program***

*(<https://education.vermont.gov/student-learning/flexible-pathways>)*

*The Flexible Pathways Initiative was created:*

*1. To encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral part of secondary education in the evolving 21st Century classroom.*

*2. To promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and*

3. *To increase the rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary continuation in Vermont.*

*The statewide Dual Enrollment Program is a potential component of a student's flexible pathway toward secondary school completion. The Dual Enrollment Program includes college courses offered on a campus of an accredited postsecondary institution and college courses offered by an accredited postsecondary institution on the campus of a secondary school (which can include online courses). Dual enrollment offers eligible students the opportunity to experience college-level classes, take coursework not offered at their schools, and explore possible pathways to their postsecondary futures. Students who successfully complete a Dual Enrollment course also earn both secondary and college credits.*

*Vermont State Dual Enrollment Program offers college level courses that become part of the student's transcript, regardless of where the class is taught. Dual enrollment credits earned will be considered and accepted by most in-state colleges as transfer credit and considered when determining a student's eligibility for financial aid at that college. For students interested in transferring their Dual Enrollment credits to a college/university located out of state, students will need to verify with that college directly that those credits will transfer (as every college has different requirements). For more information on Flexible Pathways to Secondary School Completion (16 V.S.A § 941) and the Dual Enrollment Program (16 V.S.A. § 944), refer to the Vermont Statutes Online.*

Toolkits for information:

1. <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/dual-enrollment-flexible-pathways-considerations-student-sample>
2. <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/flexible-pathways-developing-flexible-pathway-profiles-at-the-local-level-facilitation-guide>
3. <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/flexible-pathways-profile-a-tool-to-evaulate-flexible-pathways-a-local-level>

4. <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/flexible-pathways-facilitation-guide-considerations-for-student-participation-in-a-flexible-pathway>
5. <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/flexible-pathways-vt-flexible-pathways-tool-considerations-for-student-participation-in-a-flexible-pathway>

**Conclusions:**

Amy would like to keep in touch. Thank you Amy and Kara Hynes for sharing Your information and knowledge.

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

**6) Discussion: Year priorities (Group)**

**Discussion:**

We've identified several priorities for this coming year.

The Card Room day at the Legislature is an annual priority. We were on a call list for this year, and we got the room on February 2.

Diane shared that Nat Piper felt that it went well. There were many legislators who visited, Deputy Governor stopped by. Focused on Opioid Project. Legislators are feeling great about our work and priorities.

We have a date already for 2025, May 13, 2025. Mark your calendars, Janice has already sent out an invitation. **See if we can get this earlier in the calendar. February, early March would be best.**

Other topics we've identified include:

1. "Our Time is Now", (Follow up in 6 months) We asked the group involved in this project to come to this meeting but they felt is was too soon to give meaningful updates.
2. We are continuing to work on this with a research firm. David from the firm is putting together a summary of what he proposes. David is taking a good news approach. The focus should be on the value of disabilities in the workforce and the increases we've made. We'll help him with data sources and

people to interview to integrate into this report.

Anyone interested in being involved let Diane or Janice know.

3. DBVI (Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired) Grant Information new grant.

This is a 5-year grant with many partners. What can this committee do to support the grant. Kara and Sherrie are involved with this grant. This year is a planning year. It appears that funding is just about to go to Fiscal. Big meeting coming up in May. Sherrie will keep us updated. More information to come. After funding is approved and staff hired, we will have more clarity on how we can help.

4. Advocacy for rural transportation solutions.

We want to continue to see how we can help with this topic.

Solutions suggested include:

- a. Ask someone working in transportation to be on the council (Ross McDonald?). Ask Cari and/or Jacquie to give an update on this the next meeting? Jacquie let us know that the transportation group that they are on spends time with financials and budgeting and neither of them could give much information. We'd be better off connecting with AOT for information. Ross McDonald or designee would be the best person to give us an update on the Transportation.

5. Bill for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

There is a bill currently up for discussion. Solutions suggested include:

- a. Ask Bill Sponsor to speak to this committee: Senator Hasaam. Should we have the senator speak to full group or the Steering Committee instead?
- b. What are your thoughts? We need to wait and get more information on this from Laura at next meeting

6. Remote Work and Asynchronous Training.

Educate on the value of remote work and asynchronous training for people with disabilities to allow maximum flexibility. Our Time is Now is addressing this – see above #1. Diane will send Janice the original information link.

- a. Any other suggestions?

7. Educate Vermonters on Long COVID.

How can we support this. It may be too soon. Solutions suggested include:

- a. Ask Kate LaRose (previous SRC Coordinator) to come and speak to us?
- b. Ask Sarah Launderville who is hired to work on Long COVID and Kate

8. What are the next two priorities? Not enough people left to decide this.

**Conclusions:**

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

**7) Other Business** (Group)

**a. Agenda Setting:** May 2, 2024

**Discussion:**

Advocacy for rural transportation solutions Update - Cari

\*Bill for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Ask Laura to speak on this.

\*Educate Vermonters on Effects of Long Covid. Ask Sarah Launderville who is hired to work on Long Covid and Kate.

Review of next steps for each priorities

\*Transportation updates, Ross McDonald – and add this to the full SRC agenda

**Conclusions:**

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

Diane will send Janice the original information link and Janice will send out.

**8) Adjournment** (Courtney Blasius)

Sherrie moved that the meeting adjourn, it was seconded by Angela. Courtney called the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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

- Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/24**
- Draft minutes for this meeting, send to Committee Chair for comment then upload to SRC website, **Janice Leonard, 3/30/24.**
- Finalize approved minutes for last meeting and upload to SRC website **Janice Leonard, 3/30/24**