

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

Thursday, November 7, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting called by:

Courtney Blasius called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Members Present:

- Courtney Blasius, Chair
- Angela Allard
- Sherrie Brunelle
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Helena Kehne
- Jacquie Kelley
- Abby Levinsohn
- Bill Meirs
- Brandy Reynolds (non-voting) Late
- Nancy Richards
- Ana Russo
- Laura Siegel

Members Absent:

- Cari Kelley
- Andrea Bacchi

SRC Liaison:

- Diane Dalmasse

SRC Coordinator:

- Janice Leonard

Speakers or Presenters:

- Sarah Launderville
- Kirsten Murphy
- Susan Aranoff

Guests:

- n/a

Interpreters:

- Bethany Hawkins
- Mareike Larsen

1) Introductions (Courtney Blasius, AOE Chair)

Discussion:

There weren't any new members or visitors, introductions not needed.

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 9-0-0.

Conclusions:

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 11/30/24**

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 September 5, 2024. Sherrie moved to approve the minutes as amended, and it was seconded by Helena. No discussion. Vote unanimous 9-0-0

Conclusions:

Minutes approved.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Upload approved minutes to SRC website and link emailed to members, **Janice Leonard 11/30/24.**

5) Presentation: VCDR Legislative Agenda

(Sarah Launderville)

Discussion:

No legislative agenda yet. Sarah presented where VCDR is currently at.

The election is just past. How will the policy changes Trump has advocated for effect the disability community?

- Need to advocate the best way.
- Concerns are about cuts in
 - Medicare / Medicaid
 - Advocacy agencies
 - Data Collection
 - VR
- State and local work
 - New legislators connect policy and disabled needs
 - Another Group Zoom
 - See who won in your area and start conversations with them and build relationships with them
 - Meet with Lt. Governor, who is SRC,
 - Definition of disabilities for Housing.
- These are important groups and their links that SRC can work with.
 - [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)
 - [Health Equity Advisory Commission](#)
 - Vermont Community Broadband Board
 - [Vermont Digital Equity Plan March 2024](#)
 - VT Department of Health
 - [State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan](#)
 - [General Assistance Emergency Housing Task Force](#)
 - [National Council on Independent Living: Legislative Agenda](#)
- Federal minimum wage is a good topic for SRC
- SSI Savings penalty elimination act
 - HR5408, Senate 2767
- VT Truth and reconciliation Commission:
<https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>

- Digital Equity
- Health Equity: Health Equity Advisory Commission
- General Assistance Emergency Housing Group
- National Council on Independent Living

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

6) Presentation: Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council:

(Kirsten Murphy, Susan Aranoff)

Discussion:

Kirsten Shared: Development Disabilities Council, created by the DD Act. One in each state. Without state coordination the ADA wouldn't get implemented. They have two charges:

1. Address Policy Issues
 2. Make sure individuals with lived experience are at the table.
 3. Watch dogging & Advocacy work.
- Director reports to Council.
 - Kirsten, director, is also the director of the Board at the National Level.
 - Susan Shared Policy information
 - Every legislative session we try to connect council members with their legislators.
 - Weekly policy newsletter called "Policy Matters". Can send out to SRC members who are interested.
 - "Make a Date". Council members, people with lived disabilities and family members. Every day is disability awareness day. Teach all about legislation, committees, etc and areas of interest. Meet their own legislators and senators at the state house. Make state house a less scary place.
 - Platform, What are the 2-5 top things we'll be laser focused on this session? 2024:
 - Housing Justice
 - We are Being included in all new housing programs
 - Home improvement program.
 - Medicaid and those with disabilities
 - Shift the balance. Money to communities and not institutions
 - Able Claw Back – ended in VT.
 - Next Monday 3 live locations, They will send flyer about this.

- 2 new advisory groups that Medicaid is going to require in each state:
 - The MAC and the BAC (Medicaid and Benefits, Advisory Committees) <https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee>
- We lost advocates in the legislature who were so supportive of us (ie Jane Kitchell) and we need to build new legislative advocates.
- How can we help:
 - Get legislators as Advocates
 - Housing for residential settings
 - Work on being able to Bill Medicaid for transition services for young people in school making for very difficult transitions.
- Any hard of Hearing and those who use Relay Machine, please see Laura to volunteer on a couple of councils that she works with.
- Laura is also looking for volunteers to collect data.
- Vt HR CAPS also has a survey.

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

7) Other Business (Group)

a. Agenda Setting: January 2, 2025

Discussion:

- Elections
- Look at how we can increase Outreach around disability issues. Would it be helpful to AOE to know more about what others are doing – Disability Project/ VT Legal Aid
- Vermont Truth and Reconciliation? <https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>
- State Independent living
- VT Center for Disability Rights
 - Legal rights- Disability Law Project
 - Disability

Conclusions:

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

8) Adjournment (Courtney Blasius)

Helena moved that we adjourn, Nancy seconded. Courtney called the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Meeting Action Items, Person Responsible and Deadlines:

- Finalize agenda and upload to SRC Website, **Janice Leonard, 11/30/24**
- Draft minutes for this meeting, send to Committee Chair for comment then upload to SRC website, **Janice Leonard, 11/30/24**
- Finalize approved minutes for last meeting and upload to SRC website **Janice Leonard, 11/30/24**