

SRC Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee. Thursday, January 3, 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 12:15 pm.
Members Present: Max Barrows, Sherrie Brunelle, Diane Dalmasse, ex-officio, non-voting, Martha Frank, Marlana Hughes, Cari Kelley (via conference call), Sam Liss, Bill Meirs, Calla Papademas, Michelle Paya, Olivia Smith-Hammond.
Members Absent: Sarah Launderville.
SRC Liaison: James Smith, DVR Budget and Policy Manager.
SRC Coordinator: Debra Kobus.
Interpreters: n/a.
Speakers/Presenters: n/a.
Guests: Lee Reilly (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.
2) Approval of Agenda (Sam Liss).
Discussion: Sam asked if there were any requests for changes or additions to the

agenda. There were none. Martha moved, and it was seconded to approve the agenda. There was no further discussion. Vote unanimous 10-0-0.
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 for November 1, 2018 (Sam Liss).
Discussion: Sam asked the group to review the November 1, 2018 minutes and asked if there were any amendments. Sam asked that additional language be added and there was no further discussion. Sam asked if there was a motion to approve the amended draft minutes. Sherrie so moved, and it was seconded. Vote unanimous 10-0-0.
Conclusions: November 1, 2018 minutes approved with addition.
Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:
Upload approved minutes to SRC website. Debra Kobus, 1/8/2019.
5) Election – Chair.
Discussion: Debra reported that there was one email with a self-nomination for chair of the AOE Committee submitted by Sam Liss. There were no other nominations or self-nominations submitted prior to this meeting. Sam asked Sherrie to assume this agenda item. Sherrie asked twice if there were any nominations or self-nominations from the floor. Hearing none and an Australian ballot not being necessary, voting was made by consensus.

Sherry asked all those in favor of electing Sam Liss as Chair of the AOE Committee to say Aye. All those not in favor to say No. Hearing none, Sam Liss was elected as Chair. Debra reported that there was one self-nomination for chair of the AOE Committee submitted by Sam Liss.

Conclusion:
Sam Liss was elected chair.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Update SRC docs and website as needed. Debra Kobus, 1/8/19.

6) Legislative Updates (Group).

Discussion:

Money Follows the Person Project (Medicaid)

The **Money Follows the Person Project (Medicaid)** was in both most recent United States Continuing Budget Resolutions, but the president did not sign either. As soon as the president signs a short-term funding bill, the funds should be in there. NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) proposed two work incentives for people at or above retirement age and are expecting bipartisan support to append these incentives in the Money Follows the Person Program.

Max had the following questions understanding that the Money Follows the Person Project aim is to get people out of institutions and into community settings:

- Max is worried about how children who have been sent out of state to institutions get returned to Vermont.

Sherrie said this bill will not do that. However, the Olmsted decision is a Supreme Court decision making sure people are integrated into their communities. **The Olmstead Supreme Court Decision** is known as the most important civil rights decision for people with disabilities in our country's history. This 1999 United States Supreme Court decision was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Supreme Court held that people with disabilities have a qualified right to receive state funded supports and services in the community rather than institutions when the following three-part test is met:

1. the person's treatment professionals determine that community supports are appropriate;
2. the person does not object to living in the community; and
3. the provision of services in the community would be a reasonable accommodation when balanced with other similarly situated

individuals with disabilities.

- Max asked if there are people with intellectual disabilities in nursing homes. Sherrie said they should not be placed in a nursing home.
Sam will try to get some statistics on this.
- Max asked how peers are being heard?
Sam said it is already consumer directed.

Attendant 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 at this time. 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.

Max asked that because of the history of neglect:

- Will a mandatory background check be required?

Sherrie said that possible caregivers do need to undergo a background check and assumes that it would be required but does not know for sure. **Sam will try to get some statistics on this.**

Max also asked:

- If the person receiving the services would be able to interview the person that would be providing the services in order to make sure they had the skills necessary to provide the services?

Diane said it is totally individually directed.

Diane said that VocRehab provides modified vans because the logic was that no one should have to pay more for transportation than anyone else. The ASP should be treated the same.

Marlena was advised to reach out the Assistive Technology Program located at the entrance to building in order to be provided more

information on this subject. Marlena should reach out to James for a warm hand off.

A member's child will be turning 21 soon and they are dealing with this issue now. Individuals with disabilities have so many more things they have to pay for to get things than those without disabilities must pay, such as a driver's license. Transportation is a huge issue. Martha said a school could pay for this training if she was still in school.

VocRehab is performing an assessment on what equipment is needed. Three driver trainings have been scheduled in May at a cost of \$400-\$500 per lesson. We began this process in high school and are trying to group these trainings. It will take at least 10-15 lessons. In order to get her driver's license, she must get her own vehicle. There are a lot of layers in order to get this done.

Conclusions:

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

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Max asked if there are people with intellectual disabilities in nursing homes. Sherrie said they should not be placed in a nursing home. Sam will try to get some statistics on this. Sam Liss, 3/7/19.

Max asked that because of the history of neglect will a mandatory background check be required? Sherrie said that possible caregivers do need to undergo a background check and assumes that it would be required but does not know for sure. Sam will try to get some statistics on this. Sam Liss, 3/7/19.

Marlena should reach out to James to obtain a warm hand off to the Assistive Technology Program. Marlena Hughes and James Smith, Open.

7) Discussion – Calendar of Upcoming Events.

- **SILC networking breakfast** will be at the statehouse on **Tuesday, January 15, 2019** in the cafeteria from 7:15 – 9:15 am. Anyone who wants to stop by are invited. We will be advocating for unfreezing the APD and transportation.
- **Planning Meeting – Disability Transportation Summit on January 17, 2019 from 12-1 pm** to be held via Skype. Please contact

Debra if not already included.

- **Disability Awareness Day on 2/27/19** is being sponsored by Vermont Coalition of Disability Rights (VCDR) and the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL). The Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities Committee (GCPD) takes part in the day as well. If interested in testifying, there is a testimony schedule that should be kept track of.

Diane said that there is an awards program that is occurring on this same day – morning theme is how can these award winners be ambassadors for promoting people with disabilities in their local communities and how can we support them in order to do that. We have a new coordinator for the GCPD that will support the committee and make this happen.

- **The Card Room Event on 3/14/19** with our theme being a continuation of Careers (Pathways) Initiative. See below for more information under a separate agenda item.
- **Stories of Hope and Resilience Conference will be held on April 3, 2019.** Martha Frank said the conference will be held at the Doubletree Inn. Hasan Davis, a leader in juvenile justice, will talk about having hope to help people move forward. Anyone can attend.
- **The Annual Youth Summit is on May 30, 2019.**
- **The Disability Transportation Summit** (Summit date is to be determined.) Debra is arranging an AOE Ad Hoc Planning Committee meeting including GCPD folks as well as Tim Bradshaw representing VTrans via Skype on January 17 from 12-1 pm to discuss a Disability Transportation Summit.
- **2019 Youth Core Transition Event** –Killington will most likely be the venue and the date is to be determined as of yet).

Conclusions:

See above for events to attend or participate planning – please reach out to Sam or Debra!

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

See above, Group, Various.

8) Card Room Event on March 14, 2019 (Group).

As stated above, our theme for this year’s Card Room Event on March 14 is a continuation of Careers (Pathways) Initiative.

Martha said there is a **Youth Advisory Council meeting in Montpelier on the 10th** where they are planning to discuss upcoming youth leadership opportunities and is hoping to have three young people attend the Card Room Event with her.

Sam asked who are tentatively planning on attending the Card Room Event on March 14:

- Sam Liss
- Martha Frank with three young people from the Youth Council (Please note that Martha cannot provide transportation this day because of this.)
- Calla Papademas
- Olivia Smith-Hammond (maybe)
- Diane will determine what VocRehab staff may be invited.

Additional items to finalize on March 7, 2019:

- Attendees;
- Cookies;
- Youth commitment;
- Consider testifying if appropriate;
- Have Pre-ETS handouts available;
- Bring banner and new SRC brochures if available by then (check with Jim Gallagher on the 2018 Annual Report);
- Data that indicates that people with disabilities enhance the economy;
- Documents with data should be put in bright colors to stand out;
- Expand our presence from the Card Room and handout brochures in the cafeteria.

Conclusions:

See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

See above, Group, March 7, 2019.

9) Disabilities Summit on Transportation Update (Sam/Group).

VTrans through Tim Bradshaw will host the summit. A venue still needs to be determined. **An Ad Hoc Planning Meeting has been set up for January 17, 2019 from 12-1 pm via Skype to discuss the specifics. Please contact Debra if not already included.**

Diane said that we used to do massive Disability Summit and the format was that we would do a topical discussion in the morning and then a famous keynote speaker for lunch and then a press conference would occur along with legislators. Diane will forward out to everyone a letter from Ted Kennedy, Jr. about disabilities. We could pay for him to come up and have the Agency of Transportation sponsor the topical discussion in the morning and have the governor sponsor the function in the afternoon.

Diane would like youth to obtain drivers licenses prior to graduation which is a critical issue for the rest of their lives. Diane said that we should speak with John Spinney, Post-Secondary Transition Counselor, on this.

Other things to consider during the Skype meeting are:

- Stakeholders – core participants
- Sponsors
- Theme
- Communication with Ted Kennedy, Jr.
- Location
- Time frame to hold
- Timeline of work to be done
- Agenda of Conference

Conclusion:
See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

Send agenda for Skype meeting on January 17, 2019, Debra Kobus, 1/10/19.

10) Other Business (Sam Liss):

- 1) Agenda Setting – March 7, 2019.
 - a) Focus will be on the March 14, 2019 Card Room Event.

Conclusions:

See above.
Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:
Develop agenda and present to chair, Debra Kobus, 2/15/19.
10) Adjournment (Sam Liss).
Discussion: Sam asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Sherrie moved to adjourn, and it was seconded. Vote unanimous 10-0-0.
Conclusions: Adjourned at 1:51 pm.
Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:
Draft Minutes uploaded to website, Debra Kobus, 1/8/2019.
Draft minutes emailed to committee, Debra Kobus, 1/8/2019.
Minutes approved by committee, Members, 3/7/2019.
Approved minutes uploaded to website, Debra Kobus, 3/12/2019.
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.
<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 bring the SRC display. Debra, Reminder for 2019 to Group, Open.