

State Rehabilitation Council, Division For The Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI) Minutes

Date & Time: October 23rd 2019, 10am – 1pm

Location: Maine State Library, Studio Room

Attendance Key: P = Present, E = Absent (Excused), A = Absent (Unexcused), TEL = Telephone

	Members:	P	Sue Fairfield	E	Darcy Gentle
P	Cheryl Peabody, <i>Chair</i>	TEL	Walter Voitasek	E	Steve Lambert
P	Sherry Belka, <i>Treasurer</i>	TEL	Patty Sarchi	E	Allen Kropp
P	Brenda Drummond ¹	TEL	Roger Fuller		
TEL	James Howard ²	TEL	Joel McQuade		
P	Mary Beth Walsh	TEL	Amber Mooney		
P	Nancy Moulton	E	Ann Belanger		
P	Josh Howe	E	Kathy Bagley		

Members Of Public/Guests: Peter Diplock & Chris Boynton

Recorder: Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** December 18th 2019 **Minutes Approved:** YES

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Introductions	SRC-DBVI meeting was called to order at 10:08 am. Members and guests were welcomed, and introductions were given.	NA	NA
Acceptance Of Minutes	<p>SRC-DBVI discussed June minutes, which were corrected but never sent out for review by members.</p> <p><i>June minutes tabled for next meeting.</i></p> <p>SRC-DBVI discussed August minutes and identified corrections that needed to be made.</p> <p><i>August minutes were accepted as corrected.</i></p>	<p>Contact Veronica Swain about corrected June minutes, and email to Members before next meeting.</p> <p>Implement identified corrections to August minutes.</p>	<p><u>Cheryl Peabody</u></p> <p><u>Cheryl Peabody</u></p>

¹ Ex Officio, Non-voting member

² Ex Officio, Non-voting member

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Treasurer's Report	<p>Members received Treasurer's Report, and time for discussion was given.</p> <p>Motion: A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded.</p> <p>Result: The motion carried.</p>		
Director's Report	<p><u>RSA Monitoring Report:</u> There is still no feedback from RSA regarding Monitoring Report from 2017.</p> <p><u>Vacancies:</u> Independent living case manager (RC1) position filled in Presque Isle on October 17th.</p> <p>Independent living case manager (RC1) position filled in Portland.</p> <p>O&M position still vacant in Portland, and struggling to fill that position.</p> <p>Independent living case manager (RC1) position is vacant in Augusta. However, interviews have been completed and more information to come soon.</p> <p>Blindness Rehab Specialist position still vacant.</p>		

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<p>Director's Report Continued...</p>	<p><u>RFP Update</u>: RFP for Community Rehabilitation Providers have been awarded for regions 1, 2, & 3. Now in a contract negotiation period that will hopefully be done in December.</p> <p>Goodwill awarded for regions 2 & 3, and has received a 2 month transitional contract that expires on December 1st. This allows them to mobilize their staff. Maine Medical awarded for region 1 has decided to wait on the contract negotiation deadline before moving forward.</p> <p>Regions 4 & 5 remain unawarded.</p> <p><u>Peer Mentoring Program</u>: WINTAC training for peer mentors happened in October with 4 participating agencies. Hoping to have program operational by January 2020.</p> <p><u>Youth Advisory Council</u>: Program kickoff over the summer which went well. Received good participant feedback.</p> <p>4 meetings are planned with tentative dates, next one being November 22nd.</p> <p>Working on remote access for the meetings so students can more easily attend.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
<p>Director’s Report Continued...</p>	<p><u>CAP Update</u>: The contract with CARES ended in September. The plan is to “redesignate” the contract, i.e., the governor will now decide who gets the CAP contract, eliminating any perceived conflict of interest.</p> <p>A RFI has been issued to see who is potentially interested so a package can be submitted for governor review with a deadline of October 31st. So far there has not been much of a response.</p> <p>Pam Waite is working with CAP clients until the contract is awarded to a new administrator.</p> <p><u>Apprenticeship Program</u>: Pilot program in Lewiston is being developed, focused on food service and hospitality. The program has had multiple referrals which have been unsuccessful so far. However, the program has 4 referrals currently. The program is new, and the process and structure is still being developed.</p> <p>Pilot planning group has been meeting monthly, and are currently working on developing a procedural directive which is almost ready to rollout statewide.</p> <p>Announcements will be sent the week of November 11th and trainings will be happening in December regarding the apprenticeship process.</p>	<p>Look for organizations who might be interested in receiving the CAP contract, and let them know about the RFI October 31st deadline.</p>	<p><u>All Members</u></p>

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How VR Helped Someone	<p>Report was given about a high school student with multiple disabilities. While he needed VR services, he felt overwhelmed at the thought of adding another provider to his already huge team. He was concerned that this was going to take up even more of his dwindling free time.</p> <p>VR had a team meeting to brainstorm how they could provide the service without taking more of his free time. The school agreed to allow VR to work with him in his kitchen during his study hall. In short, the VR staff was creative, flexible, and collaborative so this student could meet his goals.</p>	NA	NA
Iris Network Update	<p>Working with Maine Medical on details, e.g., setting up and using secure email system.</p> <p>Developing Vision Rehab Therapist Assistant (VRTA) positions for Portland, Augusta, and Bangor. Trainings for these positions will be available within the coming weeks. These VRTA's will work alongside Vision Rehab Therapists (VRT) to eventually become VRTs themselves.</p>	None	None
Catholic Charities Update	<p>There are two vacant Teacher Of The Visually Impaired (TVI) positions – one in southern and one in eastern Maine. They have generated many referrals for these positions, and there were three submitted applications from unqualified applicants.</p>	<p>Get TVI factsheet and email it to council members to pass on to others, helping with recruitment and awareness efforts.</p>	<u>Nancy Moulton</u>

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Maine State Library Update	The TBRA position has been filled, and NFB newsletter has been activated. A new system for Talking Books program is in place and has been successful with 100,000 books in circulation with between 1,500 – 2,000 users.	None	None
Business Enterprise Program Update	<p>University Of Southern Maine RFP question and answer period is for pouring rights. A modified RFP will be coming out that includes pouring and snack rights. The new RFP is on hold while communications are happening now to work out the details so that BEP is not adversely affected.</p> <p>Limestone and Bangor vacancies need to be filled.</p> <p>Snack bar in State House contact was awarded and is now open.</p>	None	None
Maine Parent Federation Update	<p>There are two trainings in December for Supported Decision Making, with fifty families participating. Stipends are provided for involved families, and now is open enrollment.</p> <p>Two new trainers have been hired.</p>	Send out letter to council members about trainings happening in December 2019.	<u>Sue Fairfield</u>
Department Of Education	A new director was hired.	None	None
New Business	<i>Election Of Officers:</i> Cheryl Peabody & Nancy Moulton nominated as Chair. Cheryl nominated as Vice-Chair. Sherry Belka to continue as treasurer.	None	None

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
<p>New Business Continued...</p>	<p>Motion: A motion was made to <i>table the Election Of Officers</i> to next meeting. The motion was seconded.</p> <p>Result: The <i>motion carried</i>.</p>		
<p>Work Plan</p>	<p><i>Publicity:</i> DBVI meetings are open to public, and their 2020 dates, times, and locations need to be publicized.</p> <p><i>Guest Speakers:</i></p> <p>Department Of Labor Commissioner (as needed).</p> <p>Visual Specialist – in December.</p> <p>CAP Administrator – June 2020 meeting.</p> <p>Alternative Wellness Services – for February or April 2020.</p> <p>DHHS HOPE Program – April 2020.</p> <p><i>SRC Actions:</i> Need a new chair for the policy and legislative committee.</p> <p><i>121 Committee:</i> Ongoing (Darcy)</p> <p><i>Executive Committee:</i> December 18th 2019 Meeting.</p>	<p>Post 2020 meeting information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. DBVI website. B. SILC website. C. Iris Network. D. Bulletin boards. E. Blind Forum. <p>Contact Amber Eliot.</p> <p>Contact Belka’s son.</p> <p>Confirm with Roger Fuller.</p>	<p><u>Branden Densmore</u> <u>Cheryl Peabody</u> <u>Amber Mooney</u> <u>Cheryl Peabody</u> <u>Mary Beth Walsh</u></p> <p><u>James Howard</u></p> <p><u>Sherry Belka</u></p> <p><u>Cheryl Peabody</u></p>

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Work Plan Continued...	<p><i>Membership Committee:</i> December 18th 2019 Meeting. Marybeth is chair.</p> <p><i>Outreach Committee:</i></p> <p><i>State Plan Committee:</i> Draft ready in February after public comments. Need SRC member.</p> <p><i>Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Committee:</i> Develop new timeline.</p>	<p>Confirm with Allen Kropp from SRC.</p> <p>Develop 2020 timeline by February 2020.</p> <p>Reach out to unassigned committee members.</p>	<p><u>Cheryl Peabody</u></p> <p><u>Brenda Drummond</u></p> <p><u>Cheryl Peabody</u></p>
Announcements	<p>Honorariums are being offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance. Contact Sherry Belka to apply.</p> <p>Next meeting December 18th at 10 am at Francis Perkins.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>
Public Comments	<p>Time was given for public comments but none were made.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>
Adjournment	<p>Motion: A motion was made to Adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.</p> <p>Result: The <i>motion carried</i>; meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>