

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE BLIND STATE OF DELAWARE

June 2, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair, Lloyd Schmitz called the meeting to order at the Smyrna Rest Stop, Conference Room, 5500 Dupont Parkway, Smyrna, DE at 10:00 am.

Roll Call

Council Members: Council Chair Lloyd Schmitz, Ken Rolph, Patti Addison, Deidre Morris, Jillian Queen.
Absent: Jim Law.

DVI Staff: Elisha Jenkins, Director; Dava Newnam, Deputy Director; Michele Hamilton, Administrative Specialist; Shirley Bryson, Andy Kloepfer, Deb Bradl, Genelle Fletcher, Loretta Harper-Brown.

DMS: Lisa Bond

BEP: Wayne Marsh; Anthony Paolini.

Guests: Rob Keller, Bill McCafferty, Lillian Cheeseman, Patricia Burrell, Mary Marsh.

Welcome: Lloyd Schmitz welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Minutes: May 5, 2017 minutes were emailed. Ken Rolph made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Deidre Morris. Motion carried.

VR Report Shirley Bryson.

Employed Adults. 23 employed consumers (7 > 90 days, 16 < 90 days.) Fully employed by county: NC 10; Kent 5 and Sussex 1. October 1, 2016-present. Lloyd asked about the time frame. Shirley said under the new WIOA, it will be changed to July 1-June 30. If successful, all have 90 days in? yes.

Transition Students. 108 (age 21-24) statewide. NC 25, Kent 69, and Sussex 14. Total clients? ~250. Five high school graduates. Five College Graduates. Shirley shared the graduates future plans. Established 26 new business partnerships. Some graduates will attend paid summer internships. Focus only on seniors for internships? no. One of the participants is hearing impaired as well. Partnering with the School for the Deaf? yes.

Spring Break. April 17-21 VR, O&M, ILS and Education staff provided Transition Students activities, including expanded core curriculum, daily living skills, peer interaction. They toured local colleges and visited a music studio. Shirley thanked DABA helping finance the Bowling trip which the student enjoyed very much.

Staff Present. Elisha introduced DVI staff. Summer Programs? Weekly event for vocational rehab is in planning. Students will be participating at the Wesley College week long college experience and at NFB Grand Slam in Baltimore.

Lloyd commended Shirley for her good work in the VR Department. It's come a long way. Keep it up because it is exactly what we need for our community.

Director's Report Elisha Jenkins

DIB. Federal contractual orders for US Geological Survey and DLA Military 9 Orders Neckerchiefs produced. 18 orders were processed with total sales being \$2,860.84. Five employees. Financial: Balance \$67,054 AR \$26998. Additional shipments from the scarves totaling \$55,000 = \$149,052 credits and balance. Outstanding debits: AP \$35,141.78. Credit card debt = \$29,930.34. 30420. Debt Sub-Total = \$95,498.12. Doesn't sound that bad, however, Management Services extended to DIB \$260,273.96. DIB debt = \$355,772.08. Lloyd asked about the USGS contract, need additional staff? no. Fiscal person being paid by DIB funds? no.

BEP

Carvel Building Cafeteria. Grand Opening of "Frankie's on French" 05/09/2017. Soft opening date? Early April. RFP? yes.

Food Truck Opportunity. Establishing a pilot program with Delaware Food Truck vendors on Herman Holloway Campus. Was a waiver signed? not needed. BEP is not giving up the right to food service? no. BEP has been involved in the temporary agreement. See if it is viable operation. Lloyd expressed his concern that a precedence not be set or interfere, competition, with Blind Vendors about food available in multiple locations.

Healthy Vending. Blind Vendors Committee (BVC), Delaware Public Health and DVI in discussion to start pilot program, called Choice Plus, on Holloway Campus. The team decided 40% healthy with increase healthy content gradually. Outcome the last healthy program? Unsuccessful snacks the first time, but drinks was unchanged, which was successful. The difference is healthy snacks taste better than they did ten years ago. Terry Smith coming in to do strategic planning for BEP. Making sure there is no negative impact for Blind Entrepreneurs.

Del Tech cafeteria. Profitable? New operator starting. BEP made the statement that a blind vendor will not be placed until a venue is profitable. Lloyd said this rule has to be universally applied and consistent. More information on outcome late July-August, but Wayne is pretty sure there was a profit.

Smyrna Rest Stop. Vending machines. No progress. Disbursement of \$42,000 from Account 3? One vending machine. Lloyd said that he will write a list of questions and send it to Elisha.

Communication, Workshops, & Accomplishments

Gardening Workshop. 21 participants. Positive feedback and will continue the Gardening Club.

Professional Development. 3 graduates completed the 13-week "Bring Your A-Game," learning techniques for career mobility. Participant comments were positive.

Certificate. Michele Hamilton completed 18 classes required to earn the SOSA Administrative Professional Certificate. Elisha thanked Michele for her support to DVI in general. Lloyd said that Michele has been recognized for going above and beyond on several occasions.

VR. New partnership with West Side Grows. Paid internships established: City of Milford, Delaware IT Institute, Peter Spencer Family Life Foundation, NCC Summer Youth Program.

Smart Glasses Demo. held on May 18 with NuEyes. Lloyd commended DVI on the Smartglasses demo. 70 people attended. The snacks were appreciated, too. Elisha thanked Lloyd for initiating the request for the demo. She reported the vendor met with five visually impaired individuals following that demonstration for further information. Lloyd two of the participants may approach DVI to assist with seeking financing. Lloyd asked if DVI is contacting Lions Clubs? yes. Meloyde is working with LOVRnet.

LOVRNET. (Low Vision Rehabilitation Network) is a Multiple District 22 Lions Club program that has volunteer Lions who are trained in providing intake and assessment and is in touch with vision professionals. Elisha reported they have been extremely helpful.

DE State Police Sensitivity Program. in Dover for Cadets held on May 9 was very well received. A little different since these are police cadets. Presenter was Billy Jelks, who works at the Smyrna Rest Stop. He presented the information exceptionally well.

Upcoming Events

UEB program. Training scheduled June 7-8. Staff development? yes, but open to consumers and others.

Eschenbach demo. June 9, vendor's new equipment presentation.

Independent Living Advisory Council. Meeting on June 13 at the Smyrna State Service Center. Lloyd said that anyone traveling to this meeting needs to realize they will need to transfer to another bus from the Smyrna Rest Stop requiring additional time. DVI is already working with participants on transportation.

Advisory and Advocacy workshop meeting June 16.

Bell Program. Collaborated with NFB of Delaware. Scheduled 1st week in August. Ages 4-12. Letters have been sent and robocall has been activated. Target robocall? yes. Lloyd requested to repeat the robocall. Deadline July 1? yes, but it is flexible. Patti Addison collaborated with Melodye May.

Peer Support Groups. Patti Addison

Interest in Peer Support Groups, Patti and DVI working together to expand program statewide. Meeting scheduled in mid-June. Goal to have up and running in August. Grateful to have collaboration with DVI. Also planned to bring psychologists and other specialists. Participants are encouraged to bring family members.

Summer Services. VR is planning once a week to Transition students as well in discussion for younger students. Is that extended the DE School for the Deaf for their VI students? not at this time. Lloyd would like to see more collaboration with DSD. There is some collaboration with DSD.

DE School for the Deaf. Andy Kloepfer

DVI Partnership with DSD to provide services for deaf-blind students, as well as individuals beyond school. Propose a Vistagram (Volunteers in Service to America -gram) through AmeriCorps program. Submitted a grant application. For money? no, for help. Recruits for one person in each county. They will recruit volunteers that come from business and special education background for the program in the counties to serve. The program is expected to start next Spring. Update to this Council? Lloyd asked Jill to put in the minutes to add it on the agenda for January 2018. Lloyd said it is a fascinating a new process. He likes the fact that we are doing new things for the deaf-blind. Result of the small populations? no, direct communication from the community. Andy commended Dava and Elisha for pursuing this partnership. A result of the small populations working group? No. Hearing impaired community members, seeing similar programs established in other states, requested it.

Education Services Elisha Jenkins

Professional Development. May 10 included Dancing Dots and eBraille vendor demos. Dancing Dots is a low-vision music reading device. The Cosmo eBraille with BERT (Braille Education Remote Tool) which is software, to provide braille virtual instruction.

Staff. There are 6 credentialed Teachers of the Visually Impaired and 1 contractual TVI. Any of these seven TVIs pending on DEEDS? There are 8 Special Educators working on the TVI certification. All teachers have applied for emergency TVI certification.

DOE. Working with DOE since DVI is not part of a school district presents unique set of circumstances. Out of State on the Deeds system, two were pending and one is not? yes, one has completed the process. The second one is still working through. Resolved this month? no, we are going as quickly as possible. Lloyd expressed concerns about unqualified people serving students in the schools. The non-certified teachers are not doing assessments, IEPs, or braille teaching. The principal for the education team, Erin Weaver, will be starting and she has the requirements as an administrator.

Beach House. 21 students from the children's beach house was a hit. Karaoke and rappers, skin diving, etc. great beginning to summer activities. They look forward to it every year. They had an expanded core curriculum carnival.

Camp Abilities. TVIs & O&M & ILA will participate in camp abilities last week in July. Christina School District has their own program. June 26-27 and runs for 5-6 weeks in the summer.

Videos. To assist school Education services, videos are being produced that focus on the differences between schools and DVI processes and services for staff and parents.

MOU Document. Lloyd said that DVI has come a long way in terms of service. With all the things DVI is doing now, it is time to revisit the MOU. It is something that will be on the agenda in the future.

ECC. Lloyd asked DVI participants in the Exceptional Citizens Council? no, not on a regular basis, in discussion Lloyd would like to know if there is a representative from DVI to serve on that Council? Elisha will explore.

Sensitivity Training. Deidre asked how often sensitivity training is offered? on request by the agency or a parent. Is there a open training? yes. Lloyd and Patti have worked on scheduling an Open House. Elisha ILS is putting together their calendar and will discuss that.

Newsline. Lloyd has an update to the resource guide which consists of more than VI. Expectation is to share with anyone who would need it. Putting together a mailing list to give to doctors offices. There is an application for services in the brochure. Elisha will ask someone to call Lloyd.

Public Comments. Patti Addison said, as a former client, recipient of VR services, she is so grateful for these changes. Things take time, but the rewards are that the people are served. She said Shirley's staff is always there to answer questions and all the staff is wonderful. She can now give clients the framework of what is available. ILS, O&M have great people and great programs. Lloyd gave kudos for the work that has been accomplished. Patti said the changes have been seen in VR. As a person telling people to contact DVI, she said she knows they will get the help they need.

Lloyd said DVI is moving in the right direction. He urged everyone to keep moving in this positive direction. Lloyd expressed concern about positive outcomes. Elisha said that outcome data isn't reflective because there are clients that do not have outcomes. WIOA mandated? It's number crunching that does not consider people in transition from referral. Current numbers are excellent. Lloyd would like a meeting to review these numbers. Elisha is open to that.

May 18 Independent Resources (IRI) hosted the Dolphin Tank. Competition to provide braille menus to restaurant to a panel legislatures.

Work from home opportunities for blind individuals and discussion of future opportunities. They provide support for those events? not sure. Ken Rolph said they are going to incorporate the program in Wilmington. DVI contracts for businesses opportunities, might IRI be your next service provided? Yes, IRI provides complementary services in their plan. Shirley and Loretta leading those discussions. DVI can also provide opportunities to direct blind people to these services? Yes, money for robo calls, etc. to help, is available.

DABA sponsored three students to attend this year at ~\$700 each student. Patty said she will attend one day. All events will be posted after their Board meeting.

Rob Keller said Dover Days parade was great. DSU had a special presentation with the Dover Band. He had a great time despite the rain.

Motion to Adjourn: Patti Addison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken Rolph. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Lloyd Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Jillian Queen

Jillian Queen
Council Member