

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE BLIND

Smyrna Rest Stop
Conference Room
5500 DuPont Pkwy.

Smyrna, DE

September 14, 2018, Meeting Minutes

A quorum was determined and the meeting was called to order at 10:18 AM

ROLL CALL:

Council Members: Council Chair Lloyd Schmitz, Patti Addison, Ken Rolph, Pat Carzo, Deidre Morris, Kat Bottner, Jillian Queen

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Staff: Elisha Jenkins, Director; Sandi Miller, Deputy Director; Jill Morrison, Melodye May, Michele Hamilton, Deb Bradl

Public: Mary Marsh, Rob Keller, Wayne Marsh, Julie Fedele, Division of Research, Eduardo Romero-Perez, University of Delaware, Mary yang Liu, University of Delaware

MINUTES: Jillian Queen made the motion to accept the August 3, 2018 minutes; with the correction of the spelling of Roth to Rolph, Ken Rolph seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DIVISION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Elisha Jenkins

Blind Entrepreneurs Program:

DVI and DTCC met on August 30, 2018. Both parties are discussing an exit strategy from that location (DTCC, Terry Campus).

Lloyd Schmitz asked the question, has there been a determination made concerning the significant losses from the DTCC, Terry Campus; the response is that from the review of the profit and loss statements, that there had been a host of issues ranging from personnel, purchases from the offerings of the menu and the loss of catering outside events. The subject of fraud, waste and abuse was reviewed and all deposits had been recorded. The Division had an audit from an outside vendor concerning the BEP Program. The scope was to review the profit and loss statements and the procedural engagements of areas of improvement.

The healthy vending initiative continues to see growth; a survey has been developed for the employees at the Georgetown DMV location. The goal is to prioritize upon the Blind Vendor's approval this pilot site for health vending.

The first taste testing will be at the Department of Labor, Fox Valley location and the New Castle County, Division of Motor Vehicles. A notice was received from the Council members on these taste-testing dates. Additional taste testing are forthcoming. The Division/BEP are grateful for the resources provided by the Division of Public Health.

Discussions regarding the Carvel Cafeteria are ongoing with the Governor's Office and the Office of Management and Budget.

Vocational Rehabilitation Unit:

The VR team is collaboration with the Division of State Service Centers will offer services at the Porter State Service Center.

VR is participating in technical assistance around pre-employment transition services as well as Fiscal forecasting and prior approval. This is shaping a lot of work that is coming out of the VR program.

There are 248 on the VR Caseload. There are 35 successful closures this year.

Independent Living Services Technology Fair will be on October 18, at Delaware Technical Community College, Terry Campus. Nine vendors have registered to participate. A host of events are planned.

Education Unit:

The education team participated in the Statewide Professional Development Day on September 6. In addition, DVI staff co-facilitated other low incident program on the Statewide Professional Development Day. The Out of the Box conference in collaboration with Autism Delaware and Statewide Programs for Deaf, Deaf blind and hard of hearing is on October 5, 2018.

The parent survey launched a few weeks ago to give parents the opportunity to provide feedback on teachers of the visually impaired and their education experience. The tool can be completed electronically or quarterly by telephone.

Human Resources is actively working with DVI to repost the vacant positions. DVI covers the cost for the additional 17 credits for the teacher with the visually impaired endorsement, for those with the special education endorsement. In addition, this month the Governor signed legislation for the loan forgiveness program which includes teachers for the visually impaired.

The Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) currently employs 12 TVIs' (no change in status since last report) five certified as teachers for the visually impaired and seven are completing the 17 credits.

Independent Living Services – Melodye May

Statistics: Currently Serving

- Age 18-54 = 98
- Age 55 + = 308

ILS participated in

- The 55+ EXPO in Dover
- Two presentation of the ILS overview program, one at the Long Neck Cheer Center in Millsboro; the other at the Newark Senior Center
- The Cape Henlopen Health Fair,
- Emergency Preparedness at Blindsight Delaware,
- Community and Health Care at Modern Maturity Center
- The Food Bank of Delaware Community Fair in Milford.

Scheduled Upcoming Workshops and Events

- September 21 - What's New in Technology – Biggs Building
- October 13- Diabetes Expo- Dover Downs
- October 18- Technology Fair will have a White Cane Component – Del Tech Terry Campus 400 Building
- October 24 - Emergency Preparedness, DEMA, Smart 911, Office of Vulnerable Preparedness- Long Neck Cheer Center

- October 26 – Diabetes Self-Management – Dover Library
- November – 16 Accessible and mainstream electronics (Biggs & teleconference available)
- December 14 - Holiday Crafts- Biggs Building and Milford

Anyone who has any suggestions/feedback for ILS workshops should contact Melodye May by email or her direct number 302-255-9812

Life Conference is January 31, 2019 at Dover Downs.

Projects ILS involved in:

Summer Skills Academy

- Four-Day Technology Assistance training (Mississippi State University Team) returning October 12 & 13 for two day low vision training
- Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

Goals DVI IL:

- Increasing services provided to individuals ages 18- 54 by 5% each year during SPIL period that includes activities of daily living, low vision services, and other areas through the IL training and provision of devices as determined by IL plans.
- Increasing access to wellness opportunities for individuals who are blind and visually impaired statewide.
- Fostering professional growth and development of vision rehab professionals through distance learning, continuing education options and attending conferences.
- Outreach by making the public more knowledgeable about visual impairments, vision rehab services and meeting the needs of the visually impaired.
- Eighty percent of persons with disabilities who receive services report that the services they receive address their needs as measured by the consumer satisfaction survey and the number of awareness and outreach activities to public and nonprofit organizations will increase by two each year of SPIL period.

So wrapping up the 2016, 2017, and 2018 SPIL period. This is a SPIL writing year; the next plan will be implement with the upcoming Fiscal year.

The SPIL website is desilc.org

OLD BUSINESS:

Business Enterprise Program (BEP) financial loses by location

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

DVI job postings utilizing the selective placement program recruitment.

Human Resources completes all administrative tasks. All positions are open competitive, merit only, or in-house. Hiring manages receive a referral list of qualified applicants including those designated as Selective Placement. Interested individuals should contact their VR Counselor.

New meeting time:

Presented to the Council to change meeting ending time to 12:00 PM. Council meeting time would be 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Ken Rolph made the motion to accept the new meeting time; Patti Addison seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

Patti Addison and Ken Rolph gave updates on Blindsight Delaware and announced that the Disability Ball will be held on November 2, 2018, at the Chase Center from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM. Tickets \$65.00 each.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ken Rolph made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deidre Morris. Motion carried. Lloyd Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Next meeting: Friday, October 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted by

Michele Hamilton
Administrative Specialist III
Division for the Visually Impaired