

**Governor's Advisory
COUNCIL ON THE BLIND (GACB)**
April 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes Revised

Call to Order Chair, Lloyd Schmitz welcomed everyone and 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, Patti Addison, Jillian Queen, Kat Bottner, Ken Rolph. Absent: Deidre Morris, Pat Carzo.

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Staff: Sandra Miller, Jill Morrison, Wayne Marsh, (BEP); Gary Pizzolo, (BVC).

Guests: Mary Marsh, Rob Keller.

Minutes

February 2019 Minutes Corrections were emailed as well as additional corrections were discussed at the meeting. Due to the extensive revision of the February 2019 minutes, Jillian Queen made a motion to table the minutes until the May 2019 meeting, seconded by Ken Rolph. Motion carried.

Director's Report Sandra Miller reporting.

Vocation Rehabilitation (VR):

March 22, 2019 National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day in recognition for the positive impact VR Staff has on individuals, families, businesses, communities and the economy.

Preparing for Spring Break Week this month as well as Summer Youth Employment Program in New Castle. Collaborating with other facilities to bring the Summer program to southern Kent and Sussex counties. Q: What grade students? How many students meet the requirements? Sandi will get this info. How many participated in the Transition Fair? Although DVI made a presentation at the event, notices were handled by the schools. Is DVI participating in Pathways Conference on Monday. Yes, and students will be participating.

DVI is hosting a student intern who is visually impaired. He is working with VR, the Training Center and Materials Center. For the next several weeks he will test various applications [online pre-employment transition services (ETS) curriculum] and research potential products.

April 1, two new VR Counselors joined DVI. One serving adults, the other serving transition students. There have been 12 Placements made, to date.

Q: Lloyd asked if Center for Disability (CDS) and DVI have a memorandum of understanding (MOU)? unknown. Jillian asked if she may be sent the Assistive Technology list. Sandi reported it was sent, but she will resend it to the Council members. After 2013, was there a Delaware Federal Review? No. Delaware was not selected this year. Might be selected next year. Were there action plans? Yes, there is a corrective action plan, working through each segment. Working with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in Washington? no, Mid-Atlantic office. Has Federal money been cut? No, in fact, the program was not even affected by the shut down.

Independent Living Services (ILS):

March 12 Independent Living Advisory Committee meeting, Melodye provided program updates. March 21 Statewide Independent Living Council met to discuss the State Plan for Independent Living, which will include a technical amendment for FY 2020. A new State Plan will be necessary for FY 21-23.

Workshops: March 22, "All About the Echo" with 11 attendees at the Biggs Building, and also available via teleconference. The Presentation included a described video created by a user who is blind. He shared tasks he uses his Echo to do, which opened participant discussion about a variety of devices and uses, including: time, alarms and timers; entertainment – music, reading, games; obtaining news, weather and local information; medication management, notetaking, reminders. ILS plans to create additional training and info on the Echo.

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Events: March 27, Absalom Jones Senior Center Health Fair (around 25 fair attendees visited DVI's table). April 3, 55+ Expo at Dover Downs and the Stonegates Health Fair.

Orientation and Mobility (O&M):

Preparing for DVI summer scheduled programs. Additionally, the O&M team is scheduling several events to provide more opportunities for students to develop their skills: college shadowing, group outings utilizing public transportation, and assisting with preparation for the summer youth employment program and other programming being offered by DVI. Q: Do they use public transportation? Yes. Lloyd shared that DART has an app which individuals with visual impairment can store fare costs and access schedules. Kat Bottner confirmed the app is accessible. Sandi said O&M works closely with DelDot. They will check into the app. Council suggested statewide training and workshop? It will be discussed.

DVI participated in a DART drivers' safety meeting. It was responded to favorably. Evening meeting? yes. Lloyd was impressed at this initiative to train drivers to work with visually impaired. Actually, the DART drivers approached DelDot to get the training from DVI. Patti Addison said she just put a letter to suggest quarterly trainings, rather than just at the safety meetings. Everyone felt this was very good.

An education student is receiving an adaptive bike from Preston's March to be presented at the Crush Your Run 5K on April 7 in Newark.

No compensatory time for Education or Orientation & Mobility and all accessible materials requests have been fulfilled to date. Staff: A new O&M Specialist joined DVI on March 4. 6 staff, one is casual seasonal. 3-1/2 New Castle, 1 statewide, 1 Sussex.

Education:

Staff: 16 teachers in the program on track to finish. Q: How many teachers that started over two years ago will complete certification this year? 4 completed in Jan. 2019. Jillian asked how many total are certified? 6. Will there be a TVI program in Delaware? University of Delaware and Delaware State University did not move forward with a program. Sunset is addressing that issue as well. Jillian suggested Del Tech. She would like to assist with this project.

Lloyd asked if DVI attended the March VI collaborative meeting? No, DVI did not attend, but the presenter knew if advance they would not be there. Jillian said she is a member of this group, but is no longer receiving the email. Lloyd will send an email to Jerry Petrof to add Jillian to the email list.

BEP:

The RFP for food trucks is being re-posted. Carvel Cafeteria - no update, it is not open. Q: (directed to the Agency) Lloyd asked if the Micro Market is accessible? Sandi said Director Elisha Jenkins would prefer that BEP discussions were held at the open BVC meetings. Lloyd asked if that meant DVI was not going to discuss that location with this Council? Jillian asked when the BVC meetings were held. The 4th Thursday at the Biggs location 10-12. Jillian explained that it was a very long way to travel. She asked Wayne Marsh, since he was in charge of this location, to provide her with information to better understand BEP. Wayne said that Del Tech closed December 18. Has the equipment been sold? It has not. It is being stored? Yes. Will a P/L be prepared soon? Yes. May the Council expect to receive it? Yes, as soon as it is available. Smyrna Giftshop closed Dec 31 and the cabinets are being stored.

Other: DVI and the Division of Public Health are the recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's 2019 Challenge for Healthy Living Award from Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long for the Healthy Vending initiative.

DVI staff coordinated education, independent living and technology demonstrations to DVR staff and were recognized for an excellent job by the staff and Deputy Director of DVR. Was the presentation Statewide? It was a staff meeting, but the information can be presented again upon request.

The Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee hearing was Tuesday, April 2 with many participants attending. DVI is awaiting additional information. Lloyd said meetings are scheduled 8, 15, and 29, 6:00 pm.

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They will discuss all the agencies to be reviewed, then come back each one. Nothing is going to be reported on in April. The public may submit comments to Amanda McAtee.

New Business:

Staff updates: In addition to already previously reported, new staff: three for adults and two for transition.

Q: Joint Finance Committee - Did DVI request additional funds? yes, the request was ~\$365,000 for technology. That was in the Governor's recommendation? There is only so much an agency can request. DVI asked for other funds and were denied. DVI gave their presentation to regroup, reorganize, etc. Thank you for your comments on the JLOSC.

Election of Chairperson:

Nominations: Ken Rolph nominated Patti Addison. Lloyd Schmitz nominated Jillian Queen.

Votes: Lloyd Schmitz voted for Jillian Queen; Jillian Queen voted for Jillian Queen; Ken Rolph voted for Patti Addison; Patti Addison voted for Patti Addison; Kat Bottner abstained.

A tie for chairperson has taken place. A vote will take place in May again to try to break the tie. Lloyd explained that although his term is over, he is still a member of the Council until such a time as he is replaced.

Comments:

Patti Addison shared that Loretta is working on programs for the future in BlindSight.

April 20 10-12, DABA Bowling. May 18 11-1,

Beep baseball and tandem riding in Newark 11-1 and hotdogs will be served.

DABA is having their 40th Anniversary Celebration for DABA. The event date and attire are to be announced. On March 25, a Peer Support meeting was scheduled in Milford, but no one attended. An April meeting has not been scheduled. Patti said it was disheartening. People asked for the training, but didn't attend. It was promoted by newsletter, but Loretta is looking into robo call. She is also doing research surveys statewide for input on workshop topics. There was a discussion about meeting room locations. Patti is aware of the locations members shared. She said some facilities have fees. Ken Rolph said IRI (Independent Resources, Inc.) could host a meeting.

Ken said the new apps are more and more accessible. Ken has been approached many of these facilities to make apps. Lloyd asked Ken if he had recommendations for DVI training or workshops? Ken said he and Mel have already talked about a workshop on technology. Ken said that DVI clients were coming to him for technology training. DVI staff explained to Ken that they were unable to get the proper training. While their instructors were knowledgeable about the apps and technology, none of them were blind. They did not know how to access and use the accessible components of the apps. This is definitely needed training. Agreed.

Adjournment

Patti Addison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken Rolph. Lloyd Schmitz adjourned the meeting at 11:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Jillian Queen, Council Member