

Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council
Smyrna Rest Stop
5500 DuPont Highway
Smyrna, DE 19977
February 3, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present: Darryl Garner, Chair; Suzanne Howell, Vice Chair; Kevin McAllister, Member; William McCafferty, Member

Teleconference: Jaqueline Poquette, Member; Blake Roberts, Member; Sonya Lawrence, Member; Carol King Ries, Public

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI): Sandi Miller, Acting Director; Jamie Towns, Sr. Social Services Administrator; Patricia Burrell, SR. VR Counselor, member; Lisa Edmondson Administrative Specialist I

Elections: William McCafferty was elected Chair and Suzanne Howell was elected Vice Chair.

DVI Staff: There were changes to DVI staff. Shirley Bryson, District Administrator has left DVI. The position will be posted as soon as possible. Overall responsibilities will not change except for reporting. Some of the reporting to the federal government, etc. will be done by Sr. Social Services Administrator. Sonya Lawrence asked how many people have left DVI between now and the last monitoring from RSA seven years ago. Sandi will investigate this and provide information to the council.

Town Hall Meetings: Chair suggested using the library system as the venue. One library in New Castle, Kent and Sussex and hold the Town Hall Meetings simultaneously at all three libraries. Bill McCafferty suggested putting Town Hall Meetings into the State Plan. There need to be two Town Hall meetings this year and suggested one in spring and one in the fall. Possible spring dates are March 13, March 20, and March 27 possibly from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. William McCafferty volunteered to investigate the libraries and determine whether the council can hold the same meeting at three locations simultaneously. DVI will have personnel

at each library to oversee video conference. Council members will be provided with DART tickets.

State Plan: Town Hall is used to gather feedback from the public and use that data to craft the state plan. The first section of the state plan is reserved for input from state councils. DVI will collaborate with VRAC to develop state plan. Plan needs to be submitted by April but can be revised after submittal.

RSA monitoring is scheduled for May 11, 2020. VRAC council will be on-site during monitoring.

Goals and Priorities for State Plan: Kevin McAllister stated the following. Proposed that the council make the first few sections much clearer and insert the actual date that council received the goals and objectives. Mr. McAllister feels that the document currently reads as if the council were derelict in their duty and he wants to clarify the council received the goals and objectives section 48 hours before the state plan was posted. The goals need to be smart goals. They need to be specific, measurable and attainable as the current goals lack specificity and specific outcomes need to be a part of the councils' recommendations. The council needs to understand what the goal was in the previous year. The section in the state plan that talks about the median income is misstated. It should read "mean" as opposed to "median" as "mean" is the average wage in this context. The goals need to be measurable, specific and have a time frame associated with them. The council requests more data from DVI to help determine these goals and objectives. One possible goal is making services accessible. Another goal is consumer choice regarding technology.

Kevin McAllister requested that the council read their section of the state plan and send him their feedback by February 10, 2020 by phone or by email. He will use the feedback to compile a list of goals and recommendations prior to the deadline.

Sonya Lawrence stated that it is improper to post the state plan before VRAC had opportunity to write their section. William McCafferty requested that DVI take down the state plan until VRAC has had the opportunity to set their goals. The Chair requested that a notice be sent out stating that the VRAC had no input in the state plan.

Action Item: DVI will schedule a meeting to include VRAC, VR counselors, business consultants and DVI leadership.

William McCafferty made motion to adjourn. Suzanne Howell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Edmondson

Administrative Specialist I

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