

Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council

Due to Governor Carney's State of Emergency this meeting was held by teleconference.

April 13, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: William McCafferty, Chair; Suzanne Howell, Vice Chair; Blake Roberts, CAP; Kevin McAllister, Member; Jacqueline Poquette, Member; Dale Matusевич, DOE; Sonya Lawrence, Member.

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI) Present: Sandra Miller, Director; Debbie Talley, Acting Deputy Director; Jill Morrison, Constituent Relations; Pat Burrell, District Administrator; Jamie Towns, Sr. Social Services Administrator; Lisa Edmondson, Admin Specialist I.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

Announcements: Chair apologized to the Council for not recording the Town Hall meeting or having minutes prepared.

Approval of January and March meeting minutes:

January minutes tabled. More information regarding the hiring of DVI's Social Services Administrator was requested to be noted in the minutes.

March minutes tabled. More information regarding the state plan was requested to be noted in the minutes.

Kevin McAllister suggested working out issues with minutes prior to meetings so it does not take up meeting time.

Kevin McAllister volunteered to work with DVI grant writer to develop a strategic plan.

Old Business: Town Hall meeting was a success. Chair wants to do a Town Hall in June and one in September. The Council decided June Town Hall will be held June 19, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Robocall will promote the event.

Council discussed topics for June Town Hall meeting and action items from last Town Hall meeting.

The Covid 19 pandemic may make it impossible to hold a retreat.

Action Item: DVI Admin will explore recording calls through Skype.

Council will request a conference call with RSA based on problematic issues with DVI and consumers.

Sonya Lawrence suggested a mediator between DVI and the Council. Former secretary Rita Landgraf was suggested as a possible mediator as a neutral third party. The Council agreed that this is what they want to do.

Sandi Miller (DVI) will engage Rita Landgraf and ask if she is willing to mediate and if there are any costs associated with this.

BEP oversight was discussed. The Sunset Committee gave recommendations for the BEP program. They include changes that may increase opportunities in BEP. Transition students are being given the opportunity to join BEP.

Draft State Plan: In section two from DVI it stated that DVI worked with VRAC on work plan. It did not address goals and priorities. The Council discussed developing a work plan for the next year to determine goals and priorities. Developing the work plan includes creating a calendar showing due dates for items and discussing state plan at all VRAC meetings to meet deadlines.

RSA Engagement: The full council will meet with RSA (by teleconference). The council will decide if the 2 ex-officio (DVI personnel) will be involved in the meeting. DVI personnel will be excluded from the meeting. The council will be polled to make sure they have a consensus for what the RSA review should look like. The council shall provide the Chair with topics they would like to discuss

during the RSA review, so the meeting is structured. The topics will be sent to RSA and the meeting will be scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Edmondson

Administrative Specialist I