



State Rehabilitation Council
to the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services



November 20, 2013

Community Renewal Team, Inc., 555 Windsor Street, Hartford, CT

Attendance

SRC Officers: Jim Quick – Chair

SRC Members: Marisel DeCordova, Michele Fontaine, Roberta Hurley, Gary Prushko, Bruce Stovall, Miriam Thorburn, and Victor Xavier.

Ex-Officio: Amy Porter, Acting Director

BRS Staff: Mark Henry, Evelyn Oliver Knight

^Volunteers: no volunteers noted.

Excused

SRC Member: Tom Boudreau, Sharon Denson, Ellen Econs, Jan Hasenjager, Mary Pierson Keating, Larry Robinson, and Warren Stamp.

Absent

SRC Members: Tanisha Minnis

^Volunteers – Persons interested in the SRC, but not appointed as Members are considered Volunteers. Volunteers may attend meetings and work on committees, but may not vote on any action. When new members are sought for the SRC, Volunteers can be considered for membership.

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Movie:

Members saw as much of “*Lives Worth Living*” prior to the start of the 1:00 PM Meeting. The SRC meeting began shortly after 1:00 PM. Amy asked if she could speak before 2:00 because she needed to get on a national call at 2:00 and Jim stated he would switch places with her.

Budget:

In Jan’s absence, Evelyn reviewed budget and stated we needed to approve the budget for the coming year. Everyone was in favor of the budget.

BRS Update:

- Amy talked about the CSAVR meeting in Denver, Colorado. She said the hot topic was the WIA. CASVR worked with a coalition of other disability agencies to look at the piece of the WIA that they are not comfortable with.
- BRS recruitment not a lot of changes except for Middletown office. Iris is piecing together a plan of coverage.
- Still struggling with interpreter assistance. People with BRS counselors who interpret when they are needed and work as clerical when not needed.
- Holding off on hiring the VR director as they are not sure what the DORS structure will look like and in the process of strategic planning to see what the structure will look like.
- RSA will be getting their Monitoring Report out hopefully within the next week.
- Hartford office is fixed and bugs are out.
- Sigourney Street will be moving between April and June to Farmington Avenue.

SRC Chairperson Update:

- Larry was unable to make it to the Denver NCSRC/CSAVR conferences. Per the NCSRC Teleconference, highlights from these conferences should be on the NCSRC website within a month. Only had 50% attendance this year and assuming it was due to budget cuts. SRC policy and annual reports were discussed. Including info on the return on investment in the annual report would be a great selling feature. Wanted us to link our website with theirs and Evelyn said she would do that. Charles Sadler from RSA spoke about grants and operations and getting corrective action information from RSA. Compliance

would be in the monitoring reports. Some SRC's do not get the information from the VR agency.

Jim contacted Chris Murphy's office about VR/DOL and the office did not follow through with an email but Jim is going to try again.

Jim and Amy had a discussion about the SILC and being involved in the national VR call. Jim went to the SILC annual meeting and they want more information on something specific regarding VR. Evelyn said we are getting the name of a new representative from SILC to be appointed to serve on the SRC.

Jim attended the CTBLN career fair. It was very good and the governor opened up the career fair.

Focus for next year from Jim: Where do VR and SRC come in about saving money? Include real life stories in our annual report. How do we impact VR and building a list of what we really do?

Amy discussed the Institute on Rehabilitation Issues (IRI) that publishes reports on VR topics; they have one on "return on investment."

Guest Speaker – Mark Henry, Employment Division, ISTPP:

Mark Henry spoke about the employment division. Mark discussed how they always wanted to have their own job developers and how three years ago they were able to hire the Employment Consultant (EC). The unit went from five to nine EC's. Mark oversees these EC's for the entire state.

BRS then got money from re-allotment dollars (money other states returned to RSA that was then re-allotted to BRS) and started the Industry Specific Training and Placement Program (ISTPP) model. Specific companies work with BRS to recruit people for a particular industry where more than one job may be available.

Current companies with ISTPPs include:

- Lowes Distributions Center, Plainfield;
- Walgreens Distribution Center, Windsor;
- Homegoods Distribution Center, Bloomfield;
- Walgreens Retail, Statewide;
- CVS Retail, Western & Southern areas of CT;

- Mystic Aquarium, Mystic; and
- Mohegan Sun, Uncasville.

Mark gave the example of the Mohegan Sun ISTPP and explained the specifics and discussed how nice it is now to be able to recruit and train for smaller companies and groups of people.

Mark Talked about Schedule A process for Federal Government and explained what it was, Employment Summit (2014), and partnering with CTBLN.

Change in name from Employment Division to Connect Ability Staffing

SRC Update

- Evelyn discussed needing SRC representation for the next CSAVR and SRC meetings in Maryland in 2014.
- Talked about appeals hearings. Evelyn is still working on a confidential spot on the website to share hearing information.
- Evelyn reviewed the 722 Report, annual report of hearings which is in our packet.
- The SRC annual report will go to RSA and the governor by the end of December. Evelyn discussed the annual report, its contents, and photos.
- RSA has several power point presentations and Evelyn asked us to read the state goals and priorities of the State Plan. Amy will help with the state plan preparation for January webinar.

Committee Updates:

Business

Roberta discussed that we are continuing our community education and trying to get in to chamber meetings. Jim stated he could help us with the Bristol Chamber so will check with Ellen about doing that with Roberta.

Legislative

The poster project for the BRS offices is still pending.

InterCouncil/Nominations

Four new members: Marisel DeCordova, Gary Prushko, Bruce Stovall, Miriam Torres-Thorburn.

NEXT MEETING: WEBINAR ON JANUARY 15, 2014; 1:00 PM

Meeting was closed at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Quick and Roberta Hurley