



State Rehabilitation Council
to the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services



Minutes
September 19, 2012
Office of Protection and Advocacy
Hartford, CT

Attendance

Present

SRC Members: Michele Fontaine, Jan Hasenjager, Roberta Hurley, Jerry Moran, Janette Williams & Victor Xavier

Ex-officio: Amy Porter

BRS Staff: Kathy Blewett & Evelyn Oliver Knight

Volunteers: Gladys Brooks, Ellen Econs & Linda Mizzi

Excused

SRC Members: Sharon Denson, Mary Pierson Keating, Larry Robinson, & John F. Sims

Volunteers: Jennifer Held,

Absent

SRC Members: Tanisha Minnis & George Narvaez &

**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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Victor chaired the meeting in Mary's absence. He called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 PM.

SRC Chairperson Update: Victor read the memo that Mary wrote addressing the SRC. See packet for the memo.

Treasurer Report: Coming to the end of the fiscal year. Transportation services budget line is still outstanding as we are waiting for mileage reports from today's meeting. The line item for out-of-state travel is over budget. Michelle recommended that money be taken from the printing and mailing line item to make the difference. The motion carried. Once again as we wrap up our fiscal year we have only spent about 50% of our budget. The committees should be looking at this so we are using the money in our budget.

Amy Porter Report: Discussed DORS and stated things are moving along in a positive direction. Fiscal, Business and HR positions are being filled.

BRS will move out of Order of Selection (OOS) as of October 1, 2012 to open services to more consumers who are eligible. [BRS had been in an OOS since 1991 serving only eligible individuals determined to have a most significant disability (Priority I) and a significant disability (Priority II).] This increase in serving all other eligible individuals (Priority III) is based on increased staff and fiscal resources. BRS will review yearly to determine if and when the Order of Selection has to be reduced to serving less than three categories of eligible consumers.

Jan H. asked how people will know that there is not an order of selection. Amy said BRS will implement a soft launch by first reaching out to people that were eligible but could not receive services as they did not have significant disabilities. Kathy mentioned that one hundred letters are going out to people that had applied before and were found eligible but could not be served. BRS applied for a grant from National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to reach out to employers and Amy will let the employment committee know if they get it.

SRC Program Update: Evelyn Oliver Knight

CSNA – Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment: The UCONN staff sent a survey to 900 BRS Consumers who were eligible for services, but whose cases were closed without a successful outcome. Consumers could call if they needed to speak to someone. Evelyn only heard from three consumers. BRS counseling staff will be surveyed during staff meetings for their feedback regarding hindrances to providing services and ways to

improve the VR program. Counselors are happy to have a designated time to respond to survey this year. UCONN will compile all results anonymously in the CSNA.

The BRS Annual meeting is October 16, 2012 at Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. This is the opportunity for the BRS staff to come together and celebrate their. Amy provides an overview of the State of BRS. The motivational speaker is Lois McElravy, a brain injury survivor from Missoula, Montana where she serves on the Governor's Advisory Council. It would be great if everyone could make it. RSVP to Evelyn by October 9, 2012 if you want to come.

December will be election of officers. Let Evelyn know if you are interested in applying for any of the offices. With new officers we will need to have a new strategic plan.

SRC Meeting Dates for 2013:

- January 9
- March 13
- May 8
- July 10
- September 11
- November 20

Committees need to hand in their reports for the SRC Annual Report by October 30, 2012

Employment Committee: Roberta Hurley

Discussed new goal of reaching out to educate employers on BRS and programs they offer and also reaching out to new employees.

Consumer Satisfaction Committee: Jan Hasenjager

When Jim shared the report at the last committee meeting, he stated it was not final so Jan will get in touch with Jim to see if the report is ready to go to Amy.

Intercouncil/Nominations Committee: Victor

Victor is the only person on the Intercouncil/Nominations and will need new members.

Legislation, Policy and Planning:

The committee was working on the posters for the offices but Evelyn forgot to bring them to the meeting so she will bring them to the next meeting. Amy asked if it was the

bill of rights and Evelyn said yes and the other one was the recruitment posters for the SRC.

SRC Members John F. Sims and Pastor Janette Williams were recognized for serving on the SRC for the past six years. John has served as Chair of the Intercouncil/Nominations Committee for four years and the SRC Chair for two years. John was ill and unable to attend.

Next Meeting

December 5th, Office of Protection and Advocacy , 60 B Weston Street, Hartford, CT
With cake and orange soda for Amy's Happy Birthday☺