



***State Rehabilitation Council***  
to the  
**Bureau of Rehabilitation Services**



**March 17, 2010**  
**Goodwill Industries**  
**165 Ocean Terrace**  
**Bridgeport, CT 06605**

**Attendance –**

**Present:** Laraine Bronski, Heidi Forest, Jan Hasenjager, Roberta Hurley, Sandy Inzinga, Mary Pierson Keating, Barbara Konow, Simone Mason, James Quick, John Sims, and Victor Xavier

Excused: Sharon Denson, Michele Fontaine, Sarah Harvey, Laura Micklus, and Rev. Janette Williams

Volunteers: Jennifer Hannah and James Patterson

Guests: Mark Longo from Ride-Away Handicap Equipment Corp.

BRS Staff: Amy Porter and Evelyn Oliver Knight

Sandy called the meeting to order at 1:15 a.m.

Everyone introduced themselves.

### **President's Report - Sandy**

Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA): The committee has been diligently working on the assessment. They have developed three different types of surveys: one for the Consumers focusing on minorities, one for the Counselors and Supervisors, and one for key informants which includes an interview by a member of the CSNA Committee.

BRS approved the CSNA committee to spend funds to hire UCONN to do the consumer survey. The CSNA committee is trying to reach as many people as possible by use of the various surveys. The CSNA committee has sent surveys to the Consumers as well as to the Counselors. The CSNA committee has also begun interviewing key people. Each person in the committee is handling different tasks. It's a big job this year because the committee is completing an assessment in less than 10 months that covers information that would be gathered in three years. The committee is also following a new format published in the fall by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

#### Upcoming Meetings:

CSAVR: There is a meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> scheduled which Sandy plans to attend along with Amy. The meeting will have several speakers including the new RSA Commissioner, Lynnae Ruttledge.

NCSRC: This meeting will discuss how SRC can be more effective and more visible to the Federal Government. The members will go to Congress to meet with our representatives to advocate for VR and to get more money for VR.

### **Secretary's Report -- MPK**

Barbara moved to accept the minutes. Laraine seconded. All approved. Mary thanked Evelyn for all her help in editing the minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report -- Heidi**

The SRC discussed moving more funds to the Personal Care Assistant line item of the SRC budget. John proposed taking \$1,000 out of the budget to give to Advocacy Unlimited (AU). AU teaches individuals with mental health disabilities to advocate for themselves. The scholarship will be for those children going to college. The committee agreed to table the discussion after he finds out more information about the use of the funds. The SRC currently gives a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating student from the Youth Leadership Forum

The Committee is planning to use some of the funds for Sandy's travels out of state. The Governor has never responded to our letter concerning spending

funds on food and travel; however the committee now has approval for out of state travel.

Sandy discussed that after the SRC develops its strategic plan it can decide how and where it will spend funds for the marketing effort.

### **BRS Update- Amy Porter**

Amy stated that she wanted to answer any questions that the members may have. BRS is still in the process of implementing System 7 and hopes that by April, BRS will know if the System is working to BRS's expectations.

Barbara asked about the new staff members and if they will be put into specialized areas. The roles are going to be different. BRS has hired the new staff members as generalist consultants. In the past it has had specialized consultants and when they left there was a big hole. BRS has found that when consultants can deal with a variety of topics it helps make BRS more responsive and nimble as an agency.

Sandy asked about the specialized consultants who knew in depth about a particular disability. Amy said that although BRS has lost several consultants with that specialized knowledge, it is using outside sources to gather more information to help the counselor and the individual to work out the strategies to help the consumers.

Mary asked questions about Stamford and if there was a new transition counselor. Amy stated that one has not been appointed yet, but BRS has interviewed several people for the position.

Amy discussed that a lot of employers have come to BRS that are ready to hire people with disabilities and wanted to know if there was a boot camp available. BRS is looking into figuring out what tools would be needed for a "boot camp" and are bringing big companies together to brainstorm this Friday, March 19, 2010.

### **SRC Updates – Evelyn**

Evelyn reviewed the new brochures that she included in our packets. She thanked the CSNA committee members from the SRC for their participation. She reminded the SRC that they have a section in the State Plan to discuss consumer issues, if any, and to make recommendations to BRS in the SRC section of the report. Members will also have an opportunity to review the other sections of the report, as they are available. Comments on these section may be included in the SRC section, as well.

Jan and Sara have received their appointments to the SRC.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Business Partnership Committee Report - Roberta Hurley and Simone Mason**

Robert has a meeting tomorrow with Connect-Ability and the CA website has added a lot of new features.

Simone has looked into presenting or being present at the upcoming business expos. She has been becoming educated around the business expos. She has discovered that there are no less than 20 State Agencies that participate in the Business Expos. The next one is June 10, 2010 in Hartford at the Business Expo Center.

### **Consumer Satisfaction Report – Barbara Konow**

Jim and Jan have joined the committee with Barbara. She asked if BRS needed a facebook page for consumers to leave comments. Amy pointed out that it was hard for governments to access face book because that site was blocked. The committee is exploring different avenues to gather information in addition to the surveys.

There was a question about the revisions to the Consumer Satisfaction Survey and therefore, the survey is on hold. There is a large survey going to consumers as part of the statewide needs assessments. Depending on the feedback, the SRC may change the Consumer Satisfaction Survey.

### **Inter Council/Nominations – John Sims**

Jan and Jim have joined the committee.

**Legislation, Policy & Planning – Heidi is participating in the YLP conference at UCONN. They are going to review the \_\_\_\_.** When the strategic plan is finished, the committee will have other goals and tasks to work on.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Pierson Keating, Esq.  
SRC Secretary