

MINUTES
DBVI REHABILITATION COUNCIL
Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
Headquarters Building
397 Azalea Avenue, Richmond, VA
June 8, 2018

SRC Attendees

Christine Appert, Charlottesville, Vice-Chair, Former Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Irene Conlin, Virginia Beach, Representative of an Individual who is blind, has multiple disabilities, and has difficulty representing him or herself or is unable due to disabilities to represent him or herself; Wanda Council, Newport News, VA, represents the Virginia Department of Education; Justin Graves, Fredericksburg, represents Business, Industry and Labor; Ray Hopkins, Richmond, Commissioner, DBVI, Ex-Officio Member; Ken Jessup, Virginia Beach, represents Disability Advocacy Group; Larysa Kautz, Alexandria, Representative of Community Rehabilitation Services Program Provider; Jenny McKenzie, Roanoke, Business, Industry, and Labor; Chris Martin, Ashland, Representative of Business, Industry, and Labor; Megan O'Toole Hall, Montpelier, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; Mark Roane, Richmond, Former or Current Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Shelesha Taylor, Richmond, represents the federally mandated Client Assistance Program (CAP); ; Karen Walker, Ashland, Business, Industry, and Labor.

Members Absent

Jeanne Armentrout, Roanoke, represents the Virginia Workforce Board; Nichole Drummond, Falls Church, represents Virginia's Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center; Jill Nerby, Charlottesville, Former Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Members of the Public

None.

DBVI Staff to the SRC

Jessica Collette, Staff Assistant, DBVI; Pam Hinterlong, Director of Workforce Services, DBVI; Rick Mitchell, Deputy Commissioner for Services.

Call to Order

Chairman Justin Graves called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Graves asked members to introduce themselves and welcomed everyone.

Adoption of Agenda *(Action Item)*

Ms. Irene Conlin moved to adopt agenda; Ms. Christine Appert seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of March 2018 Meeting Minutes *(Action Item)*

Ms. Larysa Kautz moved to approve the March 2018 meeting minutes; Ms. Wanda Council seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Commissioner's Report – *Commissioner Ray Hopkins*

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows:

DBVI is currently closing out the state year '18 budget and preparing the state year '19 budget. DBVI is also pulling together requests for state year '20 budget. This fiscal year, 2018, has been challenging and 2019 will likely be the same. Some changes are taking place in hopes state year '19 finances will be more stable. At this time DBVI is not in the position to offer programs and services as in the past. Open positions are being reviewed before being filled.

Secretary Carey visited the Azalea complex to address employees and celebrate years of service. He addressed staff both here in person and through video conferencing. The Commissioner mentioned one employee who celebrated 45 years of service to the Commonwealth. This Administration is pushing agencies to offer the opportunity to celebrate employees. Employees that work downtown near Capitol Square are offered events such as, food trucks, farmer's market, yoga on the square, etc. DBVI is looking at how to carry this over onto our campus.

Deputy Commissioner's Report – *Dr. Rick Mitchell*

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows:

To conserve finances, DBVI is not filling several positions, three counselors, two business specialists and a position at VRCBVI. DBVI is beginning to work with local partners and offer several options. In Richmond, the local Workforce Center is visiting VRCBVI and offering seminars once a month on a number of employment topics.

Our previous Norfolk Regional Manager, Donna Cox, has been hired as the new Director of the Library and Resource Center. DBVI is looking at hiring a new Regional Manager for the Norfolk Regional Office.

VR Program Update – *Pam Hinterlong*

Written report provided. Additional comments are as follows:

Within the Business Relations Unit, Cindy Roberts reported this morning that one client she had been working with has been hired by the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). There are also a number of interviews set for the near future.

DBVI has been operating under an Order of Selection and have closed all categories since October 2017. The goal is on July 1, 2018 to move a number of applicants off the waitlist and begin offering services. Categories will not be opened, however individuals that applied for services before December 31, 2017, were determined eligible and are in the Most Significantly disabled category will be moved off the waitlist. This list includes 60-65 individuals. As of this Monday, June 4th, there are currently 143 in delayed status and on the waitlist. Conversation took place in regards to job retention services and the definition of "most significantly disabled". Ms. Pam Hinterlong will send out the verbatim definition to the SRC members.

Old and/or New Business – *Chairman Justin Graves*

Update on the 2018 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment – *Pam Hinterlong*

DBVI is currently in the middle of the CSNA process. Ms. Pam Hinterlong reminded members of the SRC Focus Group on July 12th from 2pm – 4pm and will be facilitated by Dr. Chaz Compton from San Diego State University.

There were two groups from SDSU that worked on the Azalea campus and in the Staunton Regional Office back in May as they interviewed a number of different groups and individuals. Hopefully the report will be ready before the September meeting, but if not, then an update will be given at the December meeting.

RSA Prior Approval Process – Pam Hinterlong

With a number of changes to regulations, DBVI is reviewing how prior approval affects travel costs to SRC members. DBVI will also be requesting prior approvals above \$5,000 for general equipment for VR clients.

Discussion took place in regards to the new Common Measures and Standards & Indicators under WIOA.

Chairman Justin Graves led a conversation of the annual report. Additional conversation took place about marketing of the agency and the services offered.

Working Lunch: VRCBVI Update and Summer Programs – Melody Roane & Greg Chittum

Ms. Melody Roane, Director of VRCBVI, shared information about L.I.F.E. (Learning Independence, Feeling Empowered) and L.E.A.P. (Learning Excellence in Academics Program) programs.

Ms. Wanda Council gave an update on her role on this Council and how it relates to her work at the Department of Education.

Discussion took place about the upcoming NCSAB/ CSAVR fall meetings. More information, date, time and location will be sent out to council members. If any member has an interest in attending, please let Ms. Pam Hinterlong or Ms. Jessica Collette know.

Date of next meeting – September 14, 2018 beginning at 10am.

Adjournment

Mr. Mark Roane moved to adjourn the meeting.