

Members Present: Donald Deignan – Chairperson GAC; Elizabeth Graves – GAC Member / SRC member; John Pimental – Vice President of NFB of RI / GAC Member; Regina Connor –GAC Member,

Members Not Present: Barbara Walsh – GAC Member; Ralph Iannitelli – GAC Member; Carmen Boucher – DOH / SILC representative (via telephone); Donna Elliott – GAC Member / NFB of RI

Staff Present: Laurie DiOrio –Administrator SBVI; Jane Cannata – Sr. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; Patricia Robert – Clerk Secretary, ORS

Staff Not Present: Melanie Sbardella – Assistant Administrator SBVI / BEP Program Administrator;

Sandy Pritko SS / IL Supervisor; Rebecca Cloutier – Case Aide SBVI

Guest: Al Williams – Previous GAC Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting started at 4:10 PM with introductions.
- March 13th minutes were not approved – quorum not present
- Proceeded as an informational meeting – no official meeting of the counsel was held

SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE – Sandy Pritko

- Para pathologist is retiring the end of June
- There is an individual in place as a vendor to provide services until the position is filled

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION UPDATE – Laurie DiOrio

- Interviews for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor I position will be taking place
- Preparations underway for the new requirements under WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act) – new host of data elements that require tracking

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM – Laurie DiOrio (for Melanie Sbardella)

- Currently working of 3 sites under renovations – one is new construction (Burkes Bldg, Pastore Complex, Cranston) and 2 under renovations (DLT and Naval Undersea Warfare Center)
- Two individuals presently working as staff are interest in the program
- Began working with Goodwill Industries for job coaching and situational assessments within the BEP facilities
- Three vendors have retired. BEP is working closely with the VR program to obtain more referrals to the program
- Any questions regarding the program please refer them the Melanie Sbardella

RISILC REPORT – Carmen Boucher

- Not present

SRC UPDATE – Liz Graves

- RIPIN gave a presentation about their services
- Christina Batista, SRC member has joined the SILC -- SRC to follow up to make sure there is representation on both sides

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Recognized Grace Pires, who resigned, her for her years of service; Al Williams for his years of service; Regina Connor, official member of the GAC**
- **Don will follow up with League of Cities and Towns regarding dissemination of information on recent legislation -- clarification needed with dissemination of information regarding the recent tax exempt legislation via the League of Cities and Towns**
- **Email from National regarding two pieces of legislation is being reviewed**
- **Public forums – will circulate schedule when available – NFB sponsoring one at the Bristol Public Library**
- **Regina Connor spoke about three pieces of legislation introduced in Congress – three initiatives now have bill numbers – there is bipartisan co-sponsorship support but not from our delegation**
 - **Bill HR1772 – Accessible Instructional Material and Higher Education Legislation to establish voluntary standards for digital productions of instructional materials in higher education**
 - **Bill HR1734 -- Access Technology Affordability Act establishes a tax credit refundable per person for purchase of technology**
 - **Bill HR 1337 -- Transitioning to Integrated Meaningful Employment seeks to eliminate 14C Labor Standards Act – advocacy against this piece of legislation by other disability groups. Individuals who are blind with the appropriate services, can work in a competitive environment – eliminate the sub-minimum wage.**
- **Review the language of these three bills – add as an agenda item for September meeting to further discuss whether the GAC should take a**

position(s) on any of these bills – Regina to forward the language to the counsel for review

- **Next Meetings: 9/11/2017; 12/11/2017**
- **Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM**