

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY  
IMPAIRED**

**SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

**40 FOUNTAIN STREET**

**THIRD FLOOR**

**PROVIDENCE, RI 02903**

**MINUTES:**

**September 14, 2009**

**Members Present: Donald Deignan – Chairperson GAC; Raymond Detorre – Board Member; Richard Gafney – President NFB of RI; Barbara Walsh – GAC member; Rick Costa – SILC member/representative; Raymond Dettore – Member GAC**

**Members Not Present: Ralph Iannitelli - Vice Chairperson; A. Alfred Williams – Member NFB & GAC; Elizabeth Graves – SILC Liaison**

**Staff Present: Ronald Racine – Deputy Administrator SBVI; Melanie Sbardella – SBVI Supervisor; Rebecca Cloutier – SBVI Administrative Assistant**

**Guests: None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The quarterly meeting of the GAC council began at 4:07 PM on Monday, September 14, 2009. The minutes of the last meeting for June 22, 2009 were motioned to be approved and seconded with the following changes: the date on the Agenda for today's meeting is changed to 2009 instead of 2007, and Ralph Iannitelli be listed as Vice Chairperson vs. a committee member on the following minutes.**

**RON RACINE:**

- o Personnel – freeze on new hires for everyone – Have made recommendations for Case Aid and VRC I**
- o One central agency doing recommendations**
- o Unions have tentative agreement with state for Furlough Days**
- o Unions are to meet with employees next week**
- o Votes coming up soon**
- o SBVI will begin to bill Medicaid for reimbursement through PCA & Home Mods. – Ron is designated Liaison for PARI (DSU) Designated State Unit**
- o Approximately ½ of the money spent will be returned through billing from Medicaid**
- o There has been no talk on consolidation of agencies into one – the bill in the House did not pass – there have been no further talks**
- o Summer Camp went well**
- o Used older students as mentors**
- o BEP has a new vendor in training – currently he is at ORS and**

**experiencing training in other facilities his options to go to a vending facility will be explored when he has completed training**

**MELANIE SBARDELLA:**

- o 7 High School Students participated in Camp – SBVI is using this for Situational Assessments for Plans for Working through SBVI**
- o Students are clients of VR ages 15-20 acting as Jr. counselors**
- o 3 interns: Stacy Lee Cunha – Assumption College, Kerri Sorensen – Salve Regina College, Grace Pires – Salve Regina College – handling some casework**
- o Melanie is liaison to RIVESP and VA Medical Center Committee Meetings**
- o Discussed transition with team trying to increase referrals**

**RICK COSTA – SILC:**

- o Report was sent via email**
- o I. L. Conference - September 18, 2009**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- o Jan Ruggiero from Secretary of State Office to attend next meeting - Don has assurance from her to put on schedule for December meeting – she will bring appropriate people for AutoMark to discuss 2010 election**
- o The board can then bring issues to Jan Ruggiero**

**o December 14 next meeting**

**o Pole workers for elections need to be better trained**

**Motion to adjourn meeting was entertained and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:55.**

**Since the SILC report was not sent to the committee, the report is enclosed.**