

Altoona Minutes of CAC Meeting 06/13/2017

Attendees

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| Beth Becher | Tressella Green | Margaret McKenna (via phone) |
| Krista Biesinger | Mark Harshberger | Julie Patosky |
| Josie Dively | Anne Strollo | Victoria Bonnan |
| Celia Fagnani | Amanda Turner | Kristy Mulhol |
| Joe Fagnani | | |

Julie Patosky opened the meeting with a request for speakers for following meetings as we did not get a speaker for this meeting.

Minutes from December meeting were reviewed and approved.

CAC member updates:

Joe Fagnani, CIL:

- This fiscal year the CIL was given three additional counties making count at 10 total.
- Smart 911 is in effect. Works anywhere in the US, based off of your cell phone to access your personal information.

Krista Biesinger, BBVS:

- Update on Junior and Summer Academy.
- Summer student intern starting June 19th which will be shared by BVRS and BBVS for work based experience for 8 weeks.
- The OVR public meeting will be August 16th from 1:00 – 3:30 and August 29th from 3:00 – 5:30. There will be teleconferences happening between all 15 BVRS and 6 BBVS offices and HGAC will all be participating at the same time so that more information can be shared amongst all of the agencies.

Tressella Greene, BVRS:

- There are changes coming within the CWDS system, we are having a formal training June 14.
- The new system will make it easier for customers to apply for and receive services in a quick and easy online process.
- There have been some new services added to the Pre-Ets Program.
- Discovery services will now be available; it is an assessment process that takes much more time but allows more customers with limitations access to the work environment.
- OVR has received an influx of money from the juvenile justice system, to work with youth within the system. This will insure that students are receiving the services they need so that they can move directly into the OVR system once they are returned to their communities.
- OVR is currently in process of planning a WBLE summer assessment for a HS student to work at the CIL.
- Section 511 monitoring is going well. All 4 workshops have been visited and all customers 21 and over have been given opportunities to enter the work force in competitive employment.

Julie Patosky, Penn Highlands:

- Developmental classes are offered at \$50 per credit for college prep English, Reading and Math.
- Continuing partnership with AASD to provide college prep math course.
- Strengthening partnership with CTC to make sure we are giving enough college credits to customers.
- Expanding location here in the upstairs of the Logan Valley Mall after July 1. Will then be having a discussion with the ADA's and DA about programming that could be offered.

Margaret McKenna, CAP:

Continue to try to make clear to people that our services are here, not just for individual clients but for field staff as well. Focus is the same, that we are all here for the clients, to get them to a place where they are independent and productive. Logistically speaking, there are three advocates here, Lynette Suarez, Julia Blackwell and myself that cover the whole state. We handle all 67 counties and all OVR's and CIL's. Funding is not in the best shape which affects ability to travel. Doing a lot with civic advocacy and work groups. College policy will be revamped again. Director has been very active with 511 information, working with all agency directors to streamline policies. Website and Facebook page have been updated, getting more information out there to let customers know what services are available. Clients role Rights & Responsibilities and VR's Rights and Responsibilities. Website address is Equalemployment.org or [Facebook.com/vradvocate](https://www.facebook.com/vradvocate). Advocacy program is one of 5 or 6 in the state, housed in a law center which allows some law services to be provided within the office.

New/Old Topics:

Formally opening nominations for positions within the CAC. Mary Anne has already served a two-year term as President. Secretary position has been open since beginning of year. Julie has also already served her two years as Vice President. Please submit nominations to Julie or MaryAnne prior to September meeting. New officers will take over officially at the March 2018 meeting.

Executive Committee, make CAC aware of the Community Resource Fair. October 17th at the Jaffa with deadline of July 31 for registration. Please get CAC information printed for table to let community members know what the CAC is and how to join themselves.

Would anyone like to host the September or December meetings for 2017? Due to Penn Highlands renovations it may be difficult. - OVR will host.

Regarding CAC flyer, sometime in the past a draft flyer had been prepared. There cannot be any logos from the Commonwealth on the CAC flyer. Requesting someone approve a new version of the flyer so that it can be produced. Julie will revise/approve new version of flyer and forward to Anne.

Remaining CAC meetings for 2017: September 12 and December 12