

Altoona Minutes of CAC Meeting 12/13/2016

Attendees

Beth Becher	Joe Fagnani	Tracy Sepich
Krista Biesinger	Tressella Green	Lorie Silvestre
Mary Anne Cowfer	Mark Harshberger	Anne Strollo
Robert Cowfer	Renee Imgrund	Colleen Woodring
Josie Dively	Laura Lane	
Celia Fagnani	Endy Reindl	

Mary Anne opened the meeting with introductions.

The September 13, 2016, meeting minutes were review and approved.

Mary Anne asked for updates from members.

Home Instead update:

Endy Reindl stated that Home Instead provided presents to 250 seniors with the "Be a Santa to a Senior" Program.

OVR update:

Collen Woodring provided an update on two companies OVR is working with. One is a call center in State College and the other is the Wingate in downtown Altoona. The Wingate is currently accepting applications for employment.

This year the OVR public meeting will be in April or May. Colleen invited the CAC to participate in the meeting.

Presentation by Heather Eckels – Penn Highlands Community College:

Heather presented on ADA accommodations the Community College provides with an emphasis on the difference between what a high school vs. a college has to provide for students with disabilities.

There was a discussion on tutoring, as well as, whether a college will accept an IEP from the student's high school.

Heather stated that there is a need for Diversity training for students and staff. Anne Strollo and Colleen Woodring stated that OVR would provide an in-service for students and staff. Joe Fagnani stated that he had spoken with Julie Patowski about this and volunteered to provide diversity training.

OVR update continued:

Anne Strollo provided information on a new position within OVR. It is the Employment Facilitator Position with an emphasis on Assistive Technology. Civil Service currently has the test open for interested individuals to get on the Civil Service list for this position. A handout was provided about the position and the test. The requirements include a bachelor's degree and 24 credit hours in behavioral science.

Copies of the OVR calendar/annual report were handed out to anyone who wanted one.

Krista Biesinger provided information on the Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC). There has been an increase of 13% in admissions and remodeling/renovations are taking place.

A review of the summer programs was given including: CREATE, Work Readiness Academy and the Assistive Technology Academy. An update on new programs was also provided, including: Pharm Tech Program, Welding, Auto Detailing and stackable credentials.

Tressella provided an update on Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS). Services are progressing successfully. OVR is adding providers and services.

An overview of Section 511, limitations on sub-minimum wage employment was provided.

Three interns are starting in January with BVRS.

Amanda Turner has taken a position as a VR Supervisor with BBVS.

The FabLab will be coming to the Altoona High School to provide students with an opportunity to learn about STEM careers.

CareerLink update:

Renee Imgrund explained how the CareerLink provided services under Title One of WIOA. Individuals between the ages of 16-24 who are out of school, can get paid work experience through Title I funds. Title I has On-the Job training services where employers can be reimbursed up to 50% of wages during the training time. The starting wage for Adult and Dislocated Workers is \$13.80/hr and Youth is \$10.00/hr.

Dr. Sepich expressed her appreciation for the CAC, and that she enjoys attending meetings. She provided information on the specialty eye exams she provides and announced she is now on the board of the PA Optometric Association.

Mary Anne stated the next meeting is on March 14th. It is also time to nominate new officers.

CAC meetings for 2017: March 14, June 13, September 12 and December 12