

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, January 19, 2016
10:00 A.M. PITT/BRADFORD, BRADFORD PA

In Attendance: Chris Palmer, OVR; Carma Horner, Pitt/Bradford; Marcia Copeland, Futures; Mark Flacinski, Parent advocate; Brett Lasko, IU9; Mark Morelli, LINK

Phone In: Ben Fye, Goodwill

Review of last meeting minutes: Chris Palmer, OVR, asked if everyone had a chance to review them, all agreed.

Welcome/Introductions: Chris started meeting off by welcoming everyone and asking all to introduce themselves. Chris indicated she had received a phone call from Hope Weichman, **LIFT** that Bob Mecca, **LIFT** and CAC chair, would be unable to attend.

Volunteer Project Update: Chris, OVR, suggested doing a newsletter type handout and showed example of one she had made up. This newsletter would come from the CAC with various information and questions on it and be sent out to all five counties. Chris would like to get information and ideas from the committee. Jean Cilladi, Chris' secretary, will get an email out to all members with specific questions in regards to the newsletter, which in turn CAC members can get responses back and we can start compiling newsletter. Then get it out there for the Volunteer project. Chris opened the floor for comments/suggestions, etc. Brett Lasko though it was a good idea that we go with.

Member Updates: Ben Fye, Goodwill stated there is a new Goodwill store opening in Bradford along with two more stores in the pipeline for Williamsport and Renova. Elkland is also opening a new store. Purchase Line High School has been added. There has been an expansion of services with the implementation of PETS, thus an increase in staff and expanding greatly. A lot going on at Goodwill.

Marsha Copeland of Futures stated nothing new at this time.

Carma Horner from Pitt/Bradford stated that the new semester is underway so things are busy. Carma indicated there is a VETS Program being started on campus. Chris, OVR informed Carma that Kari Heeter from OVR is the VETS representative and would have good information for them. Carma will contact Kari.

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Brett Lasko from the IU9 informed that everything is pretty much the same. Working with students, parents, etc. Also working with OVR in regards to WIOA changes, trying to sort it all out. He is hoping that by spring we will have a better idea of how it is all going to work. Also stated that an Autism Parent Group just started up in Elk County and they meet monthly.

Mark Morelli, LINK passed out a memo to all CAC members in attendance with upcoming training and dates. **Hoarding Seminar** set for March 31, 2016 in Smethport and April 1, 2016 in DuBois. **Making Home Visits Safe**, May 4, 2016 and Thursday May 5, 2016. **Power of Attorney**, still waiting to hear back from speakers for two early April dates.

Mark Flacinski, parent advocate, informed group that they are currently reorganizing Special Olympics in Ridgway. Penny Koup, from state office in Harrisburg, is coming to meet with individuals in Elk County to get this rolling.

Chris Palmer, OVR, gave updates on what was happening at OVR. She started out first by asking the group to think about ideas on how to draw more parents with children with disabilities into the CAC. She then went on to inform that WIOA is still open for comment through February 3, 2016; 266 pages draft. CAC is mentioned on page 110 of the draft which Chris read to the members. Chris then went on to talk about PETS. DuBois office is looking to best equip the transition counselors to work with the students at a younger age. This new law, along with the Early Reach Program already in place, makes it a little easier to implement PETS. We now need to relay this to our vendors to be able to provide services to these younger students. A lot of the services we have always done, just couldn't do them with the younger students, but can now. New things are group services, eligible or **potentially eligible** students qualifying for these services; Work Readiness, Independent Living and Self Advocacy. Chris stated that it is going to take some time grasping concept of working with the younger students. We do have some providers that already have services in place. Chris went on to say that PETS is intended to fill in the gaps of what the transition program was missing, the right/appropriate services available to the right people. It comes with a lot of questions and the final regulations are not yet in place. OVR is trying to be proactive and get everyone on board and in place. So far, Goodwill is the only one in the final stage to get up and running.

**At this time Chris opened the floor for comment.

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Brett Lasko, IU9, asked if there is a stipulation as to when services need to happen. Chris answered that it can be anytime, very flexible; referring to weekends/evenings and summer. Brett also asked what the process was going to be like. Folks already involved with OVR would follow same guidelines as before. Others, Chris was not sure, didn't have that information with her. Chris then gave example of situation to Brett to try and explain what the process will look like. Marsha Copeland from Futures asked what OVR is waiting for from them. Chris explained she is waiting for copy of insurance and clearances (of person who will be working with PETS) and samples of job shadow, etc. Told Marsha she will fill her in on all the details at end of the meeting. Chris then shared a flyer that our Early Reach Coordinator, Missy Franklin, is handing out for her "OVR Is" presentation showing dates and where these will be held.

Mark Flacinski, parent advocate, shared that he had some former students coming to him indicating they have found jobs and how excited they were to be working and making a paycheck. Mark asked how this was all coming about. Chris explained it is a collaboration of OVR, agencies, etc. Mark indicated how wonderful this all is. Brett Lasko, IU9, added that he feels a lot of this is coming from the Business Connect program.

Chris Palmer, OVR, then talked about our Business Services Rep, Shane Dietz, and what this position is all about, handing out flyers. She then gave a brief presentation on the ADA/CAT kit that Shane has been doing. Both Shane and Chris were trained on this. This outreach is also listed in WIOA draft.

Carma Horner, Pitt/Bradford, asked about the Sensitivity training listed in the flyer that Chris handed out. Chris went on to explain that program and how it works. Chris also indicated that LIFT also has the capability to do the walk throughs.

**Chris again opened the floor for comments.

Ben Fye, Goodwill, indicated how good the ADA/CAT presentation is and how it reinforces the topic even to those who work in this field everyday. Chris asked that everyone spread the word about the presentation.

Dates for 2016 meetings were discussed. Chris indicated that we will do a doddle poll for dates and asked if any dates were not good. Carma Horner from Pitt/Bradford indicated that Wednesday mornings were not good for her. Fridays seemed to be a good day for all who attended this meeting. Chris will also check with Bob Mecca, LIFT, regarding dates for 2016 meetings.