

**CAC MINUTES**  
**Friday, January 13, 2017**  
**10:00 AM OVR DuBois**

Welcome & Introductions: Bob Mecca, LIFT, ran the CAC meeting today. Those in attendance were as follows: Mark Morelli, PA Link; Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Goodwill Industries; Mark Flacinski, IU9 retired, parent advocate; Diana Kreydt, Penn State University; Missy Franklin, OVR; Jess Dineen, OVR; Chris Paler, OVR; Bob Mecca, LIFT.

Review of Minutes: Minutes from October 14, 2016 meeting were accepted and approved.

**Member Updates**

**Mark Morelli, PA Link** updated that they had about 20 people on a recent hoarding teleconference. Meeting minutes went out January 12<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to get a 6 county hoarding committee for January 2016-17. Interest seems to be sporadic. He can share minutes if anyone would like them. They are also in the process of putting on a housing seminar. Dates are Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> at UPB Bradford and Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Homewood Suites in DuBois. Groups include Cen Clear, D & A, Energy Assist, ATA, LIFT. Trying to get groups that are involved with the homeless population involved. He will send an agenda out once finalized. Chris Palmer, OVR, reminded that anyone can represent the CAC at events.

**Ben Fitzgerald-Fye of Goodwill** updated that their staff is back from the holidays but many are sick. They are looking at adding some staff mostly because supported employment has increased – one on one requires more intensive staffing. Ben reported that retail sales are down. They have not seen a normal seasonal slowdown mostly from PETZ. They are currently working to review driver's education program. Information will be going to schools and other agencies. Goodwill has been in some meetings related to ex-offender programs. Some Goodwills are joining, but it doesn't appear at this point that DuBois will be participating but they continue to be open to it. New staff trainings are going on to keep up on regulations. Ben informed that he now has an assistant helping him – Brenda Gorham, Senior Support Specialist. She is fielding a lot of the day to day issues and is the main contact at this point for OVR. Finally, he wanted to say that PETS has been an amazing addition – it is great for the kids.

**Mark Flacinski, Parent** told the group that as a parent, his daughter is now going to be 21. His daughter is now in Ridgway at Ridgmont for a work assessment. She loves it – this idea of getting a job and the next steps. She is excited. They are hoping, if things work out, for 3 hours a day in the cafeteria. OVR is involved. It had been a concern for him what was going to happen after school. “Way to go guys.”

**Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois** informed that at this time, there is no Chancellor at Penn State. No job offered yet. She is doing Personal Care Administrator training and will be sharing LIFT and OVR information. Chris Palmer offered any type of training from OVR such as Sensitivity Training. Bob Mecca stated that LIFT would also be available.

Mark Morelli asked if Penn State University would be purchasing any of the DuBois Business College buildings such as their housing. Diana said that they were not.

**Missy Franklin Early Reach Coordinator at OVR** updated that she is gearing up for summer looking at summer programs. McKean County JPO and McKean County Independent Living have asked for work readiness programs again. She is getting into schools and outreaching to parents.

**Jess Dineen of OVR** stated that she had nothing to add.

**Chris Palmer, OVR**, informed of some staffing updates. Another Business Services Rep has recently been hired – now two on board – Rhonda Dressler and John Benjamin. John will be working in the north – Elk County and McKean. He has a lot of connections to that area and was recently with the Boys and Girls Club. Rhonda started on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hoping for more success stories down the road. A name has been submitted for a second Early Reach Coordinator and we are awaiting approval to hire. We still have many VRC vacancies. The DuBois transition counselor Dan Osborne will be moving in the very near future so that position will be vacant as well. OVR has a CT 3 position vacancy upon retirement of Jean Cilladi. There was a large number of furloughs within the state system which we have been indirectly affected by with things moving slower in HR.

Mark Morelli asked about the budget affecting OVR this summer. Chris explained that OVR funding is 80/20 federal/state. We have not gotten any

word that we won't be able to fill our positions. It is just moving slower and needs solid justification. She stated that OVR does expect it to be a difficult state budget year, but that right now OVR is fine to cover spring training and all other bigger expenses.

Chris Palmer discussed projects going on. Current round table discussions with ODP partners, Community Connections, sheltered workshops, resource providers. They are going very well. They have been started in the north as well – on meeting 3 with Cameron and Elk next week and McKean is getting started next week. Making sure we are headed in the same direction. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye asked when meetings will be. Chris directed him to contact Christy Patterson for information.

As far as PETS services, Chris informed that a few additional providers have been added. Venango Training has been approved. Also Kinetic.

Last summer a handful of northern area students were bused to Hiram G. Andrew's Center for Fab Lab. In May we are going to bring the Fab Lab up north to McKean County. We are hoping to bring it to all of our areas in the future; but it is mostly harder for students in the north to get there. Other projects include Summer Skills for Success in coordination with Goodwill and the NYPUM Mini Bike Program with Cen Clear.

Chris noted that Amy Kessler, transportation, is working on some possible grant areas. Chris suggested that the CAC may be good to disseminate information if she gets one of these grants for transportation needs and opportunities. At this time, the only one Chris knows has been submitted is rural mobile resources. If it comes to fruition where she can obtain the grant, Chris will get in touch with her to speak to the CAC in the future.

Chris was pleased to share that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the DuBois DO got the top award for SECA (raising funds for charities) under the leadership of Missy Franklin. This was the second year in a row that Missy coordinated the DO efforts.

Focus on assistive technology – we had an AT event in DuBois. LIFT also had an event.

**Bob Mecca, LIFT** shared that they had an open house on November 22, 2016. Sixty-seven people came through that event which was really amazing. In the past, when they had a Disability and Aging Expo they had

123 people – that even was really hammered from advertising. They didn't do half of the advertising for the open house and still a lot came. Jamie Prioli was there from the Re Use Program. She was really impressed. She said that a lot of the ATRCs that have their open house to welcome PIAT program into it are very small and won't be very interactive; however, theirs was larger and very interactive.

Some new LIFT staff just finished their 90 days – two new staff – both are doing very well and they are really pleased with both. One more position LIFT is filling with nursing home transition. Regs will be changing soon so they are waiting a bit to hire.

LIFT is looking to increase services through service coordination and were approved as a coordinating agency. Bob and staff will be taking a trip to Williamsport and seeing from start to finish how they do it. They are hoping to get things rolling soon.

They are always looking for referrals and want to get the PETS going a little bit more. They have done two things with OVR but want to get it going more. Missy Franklin of OVR said that she would be happy to come up if they are looking for something more specifically. She would be happy to come up and do a brainstorming with them. She indicated that her Fridays in February are pretty open and she will try to work something out with them.

Bob recently attended the Executive Director's Meeting at HGAC. CILs Executive Directors were invited with 5 or 6 showing up. They asked of examples of how OVR works together with the CILs. Chris Palmer spoke as to how well LIFT and OVR DuBois work together. It was a good meeting that allowed for a lot of open dialog. It was a good beginning for improved relations. Bob felt that they should continue doing it at least twice a year with CIL directors attending. While at HGAC, they had a tour. Bob went to school there in the 1980's. He enjoyed seeing the changes and was asked by Rebecca Marshall to tell his story about HGA and how OVR helped him as a success story. She will be writing something up to send out to OVR and on their facebook.

Chris Palmer and Rob Hodapp, Western Regional Specialist, and the two new BSRs are going to take the ADA CAT kit down to check out the sidewalk and do some measuring after the meeting. There are some lamp posts in the sidewalk area and they are checking for accessibility. In years past, the CAC

was very instrumental improving accessibility in DuBois. They just want to make sure the sidewalk is OK and if something needs brought to the attention. Amy from Transportation at North Central was the one who noted it to OVR/CAC. **Note: Amy was notified the sidewalks were fine.**

Next CAC meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> with Carma from Bradford hosting. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye noted that date is Good Friday. Multiple CAC members noted being closed that day. Chris will check new dates with Carma. **Note: After discussion the Carma at UPB, Chris Palmer has confirmed next meeting for Friday, March 31, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the UPB. Specific location details to follow.**