

CAC MINUTES
Friday, June 1, 2018
10:00 a.m. LIFT St. Marys

Welcome & Introductions: In attendance were Bob Mecca, LIFT; Ryan Gill, IU10; and Chris Palmer, OVR. No call-in participants.

Review of Minutes: No questions or changes noted to minutes from January meeting.

Member Updates

Bob Mecca, LIFT: LIFT is hosting a Disability & Senior Expo on July 25, 2018, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Edgewood in St. Marys. Anyone interested in having an information table should contact Rep. Gabler's office. There will be vendors and spotlight vendors -- cost to be a spotlight vendor is \$100.00. Spotlight vendor's names will be on all materials and will also get a couple minute spot on the radio. They are doing a remote where they interview vendors for about 5 minutes. LIFT expects people from all over the state to attend. This is a great opportunity for a rural area. Some of the participants include adaptive kayaking from Parker Dam, service dogs, and a lot of accessibility services.

LIFT will have a table at the Civil Air Patrol STEM Fair at the St. Marys' airport on June 2, 2018.

Bob updated that their annual youth conference was held on May 3rd at the IU9 building in Smethport. They had 63 students attend. Presentations were given on self-awareness and advocacy as well as finances and budgeting. He noted that Clearfield and Jefferson Counties usually don't send students because of the distance. Chris Palmer indicated that most people in Elk County are familiar with LIFT, but that's not the case in Clearfield and Jefferson counties. She also suggested that next year, maybe Ryan Gill of IU10 and his counterpart should be invited. Ryan was in agreement. Chris discussed how it gives students the opportunity to interact with peers from other schools in a different context. Ryan indicated that the inclusion would be a good thing and questioned if there would be any possibility of doing a second one for IU10. Ryan will try to check it out next May and see if it would be worthwhile to do something in their district.

LIFT participated in Safety Days at the firehall in Ridgway. The event was for 4th graders from throughout Elk County area. Students were walked through disability simulations.

A Safety Awareness Day event was recently held at ECC. Project Life Saver was introduced.

Ryan Gill, IU10: Ryan noted that school districts are finishing up for the year and that during the summer he will be putting in a lot of his core time in TAC (Training & Consultation). He has a para conference in the summer, and he does a lot of crisis intervention training and safety care training. Ryan noted that he would also be attending the Transition Conference in State College. Chris Palmer indicated that OVR's transition staff will be there as well.

As far as things coming up, Ryan is looking at FAB LAB next school year for students. He is meeting with Christy Patterson. He will also be doing some trainings through June.

Ryan attended the Children's Interagency Conference in May and spoke with his director about the possibility of getting a facility together or two that could be offered to schools for classrooms. He will be working on it and pitching it to the board.

The Transition Council meetings for next year will be sent out.

Ryan is looking forward to starting the next school year out with a better understanding of his position.

Chris Palmer, OVR: Staffing Updates: Tawnya Cordwell is the new DuBois DO Transition Counselor for DuBois School District and Jefferson County Schools – (including Punxsutawney, Brookville, Brockway and Jeff Tech).

The SCSC/BSE has combined all postings in one place – both civil service and non-civil service. DuBois District Office currently has 2 CT vacancies and 3 VRC vacancies; one of the VRC vacancies is an RCD position. DuBois OVR will be interviewing for VRC. Ryan asked Chris to elaborate on the criteria of trainee/VRC and Intern. Trainees must have a related master's degree with a specific amount of credits in counseling. VRCs must have a master's degree in rehabilitation. Interns are in their last semester of the degree program. Chris also added that when trainees come on board, they have a year's worth of training on the job prior to becoming a VRC.

Supported Employment Policy goes into effect with very significant changes. Job coaching has been expanded. Chris brought some flow charts to share some examples; Ryan asked for a copy of the flow charts to be forwarded to him. From June 16 to June 30, 2018, there will be a supported employment blackout period. Anyone currently in the midst of job coaching, depending on what phase they are in will determine how it spells out. Supported employment is no longer being done by LOUs, but now by a Provider Agreement. The 4 providers in DuBois DO territory -- Goodwill, Elcam, Dickinson and Futures -- have all returned their PEs and are ready to go. Other facilities providing services in Clearfield County that are in other districts include Venango (Erie DO) and Skills (Williamsport DO). These Provider Agreements are a huge commitment by the providers and will take some time for their staff. There will be a learning curve.

Community Based Work Assessment has not changed much at all other than the way providers will bill. It should be noted that to do CBWA, the individual only must be open with OVR, they don't have to have a plan in place because it is an assessment.

What has changed most is Performance Based Job Coaching. It will now be 5 phases. New services are the non-performance based job coaching which can be job mentoring, intermittent SE and job retention. Discovery and customized hasn't changed much. We don't have providers quite ready to do that. Venango has one person certified. A couple providers look to be able to do it next year.

Also new is that SE starts with a Supported Employment plan. Instead of just making a referral, they have an opportunity to meet with them and do a real intake. Then, job coaching or another service will be looked at.

We used to look at 90 days from start of employment. Now, we are looking at *90 days from when they are stable on the job*.

Chris informed that another new piece for providers is credentialing. Again, our providers have made a huge commitment.

Chris advised that RSA guidance update for PETS and 511 are in the works. We have added CWI where we can have multiple students attending. Most changes are on our staff and what we can count as PETS time. The biggest change for us is that RSA has decided what is and is not able to be paid for by PETS funds. For the last

two years, we have been able to pay for psychological testing with PETS money, however, this coming year, we will not. They will be funded by regular VR funding.

A new combined bulletin for ODP and OVR is expected to be coming out.

On 4/25/18 we had a video conference on Transportation Solutions for OVR. It was very much more relevant in the east where they have providers. There is a contact person for our area, and we will send some information out with the CAC minutes.

OVR is required to put benefits planning on customer's plans now as part of counseling and guidance.

It was discussed that there have been a lot of school staff changes up north. Bob Mecca indicated that they have had new staff coming to their conferences. Chris emphasized that ideally people learn as much as they can about OVR from OVR.

Next Meeting: The next CAC meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the DuBois District Office with call in option. 1.855.750.1027 PIN #577401