

CAC MINUTES
Friday, April 9, 2021
10:00 a.m. Conference Call

Welcome & Introductions: Bob Mecca, LIFT opened the meeting. Also, in attendance were Chris Palmer, OVR; Carma Horner, Pitt Bradford; Andrew Pennington, CAP; Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois; Mark Morelli, PA Link; Melissa Franklin, OVR; and Kelly King, The PEAL Center. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Virtual meeting was held.

Review of Minutes: No questions or changes.

OVR Updates

Chris Palmer, OVR informed that all DuBois OVR staff are still available to serve customers and employers during ongoing telework. The physical office building is still closed to the public. OVR expects this to continue through June 30th. OVR is waiting for additional direction for after that date. A lot of technology updates have helped staff stay up to date -- meetings will be via Teams going forward. Refer to links for OA and DLI on the agenda for the most up to date OVR information.

A 6th wave of names was released from the OOS waitlist. Everyone found eligible and on the wait list before April 5, 2021 was on the released list and can move forward. Things are moving very well.

MOU with Department of Education Bureau of Special Education. Visit the PATTAN website if you would like to know more about it. MOU is final and trainings are underway.

Pre Employment Services for Transition – We are working on development of summer opportunities. Melissa Franklin of OVR mentioned attending the MOU webinar and said it was nice to see the collaboration with the schools.

Chris informed the CAC that she puts out a staff news email once a month, and if anyone has anything they would like shared with district office staff, let her know. It is a great way to reach all staff.

Agency Updates

Mark Morelli, PA LINK noted that Transition virtual conference is 4/13 and 4/14. It is statewide, free, and will talk a lot about socialization. Secretary Torrez from Department of Aging will attend. He stated that there has been a lot of talk about Covid-19 vaccinations – some areas are lacking vaccines, others have issues with transportation. AAA is highly involved with coordination.

The LINK is getting a lot of calls regarding stimulus checks and when individuals will receive them. People are looking for help and asking who to contact. They are advising individuals to be patient.

They will continue to telework until at least June 30th – July 1st. Department heads will make a decision after July 1st. Adam Baugh is the 6 county coordinator for our area.

Andrew Pennington, CAP advised that CAP moved from Philly to Jenkintown. Their new address is available on the CAP website. They are still working virtually and plan to remain one day a week in person and virtual until August as they are still effectively administering their services. Chris Palmer asked Andrew about their staff. He noted that staff hasn't changed -- in addition to himself, staff includes Steve Pennington, Margaret McKenna, Lynette Suarez and Francella Porter.

Melissa Franklin, OVR stated that she has been heavily attending IEP meetings – many with VRCs. She is making connections with students and educating them on what OVR can do. She is getting a lot of good feedback and hopes to get back into schools face to face soon. Bob Mecca, LIFT, added that LIFT can attend IEPs for Independent Living and Adaptive Technology – feel free to give them a call.

Kelly King asked Bob if LIFT does any person centered planning and if there is anyone in the area doing discovery protocol. Bob informed that for person centered counseling they can work with the LINK. LIFT does not specifically do that but can get involved. Bob would be glad to look into it if they give LIFT a call.

Carma Horner, UPB informed that UPB is still virtual and working from home. There will be a drive through commencement. Summer classes are online, but students will be returning in person for the fall semester. Some students with disabilities like being at home but administration is saying 100% return for the fall. No plan for mandated vaccines at this time. Chris Palmer asked Carma if Pitt has a strictly online curriculum available like World Campus at Penn State. Carma stated that Pitt has a lot of online offerings but does not have worldwide.

Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois advised that their Chancellor has announced he is retiring July 1st. Presently, some classes are being held in person and some zoom calls. Diana has been in person at the learning center. They will be having a shorter than usual in person graduation at the baseball field. Diana was pleased to report that the Judy Heumann presentation had over 1000 people attend. Bob Mecca mentioned how good the Crip Camp documentary was that Judy was part of. He noted that she is one of the presenters at LIFT's IL presentation in the fall.

Kelly King, The Peal Center shared the Transition Tuesday Flyer link with Chris Palmer to distribute (emailed to CAC 4/9/21). Dates are 4/27 and another in May. They are all recorded and on their website. They are also having a virtual Youth and Family Leadership Conference. Nine sessions over 3 days from May 20 through the 22nd. The conference is designed for families and youth who already have some leadership experience for them to go to a different level – thinking about how they can do advocacy. The link and general information mailbox for anyone who is interested is included in the email. The conference will have some focus on dads/people in the father role and grandparents. All sessions will be recorded.

Bob Mecca of LIFT stated that LIFT is still working remotely and seeing consumers via zoom when possible. They are taking referrals and providing no contact AT porch deliveries.

SWAG (Statewide Advocacy Group), which LIFT is a part of, is planning a virtual IL conference in September for people with disabilities statewide as well as providers of disability services. When sign up information becomes available, Bob will get that out to everyone.

Upcoming Events

Andrew Pennington, CAP, stated that CAP has been participating in several IU Transition Fairs. Beaver Valley is upcoming on 4/30/21. He and Margaret McKenna will be participating and discussing how CAP services and

OVR services intertwine, CAP services, WIOA and how they changed the landscape, how CAP can help, how to engage with OVR and how to go from there -- applying for OVR, getting engaged with services from pre employment services to adult services with OVR.

Chris Palmer advised that the CareerLinks opened back up on April 5th. The Workforce Staff have some summer youth offerings that will be sent out: industry specific activities open to all underserved populations like Title 1 and OVR which include manufacturing, health care/social services and building/construction.

Andrew Pennington stated hearing that OVR is partnering with Unemployment Compensation and asked if DuBois is involved. Chris Palmer stated that all OVR offices are involved.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m. with a virtual format. Invitation will be sent to CAC members prior to the meeting. Please let us know if you would like something added to the agenda.