

DuBois 04/08/16 CAC Meeting Minutes

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 08, 2016 10:00 A.M. DUBOIS DISTRICT OVR

In Attendance: Tonya Mauk, Community Action Inc.; Missy Franklin, OVR, Bob Mecca, LIFT; Mark Morelli, PA Link; Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois; Marsha Dippold, Dickinson; Mark Flacinski, Parent advocate; Chris Palmer, DA, DuBois OVR; Carma Horner, Pitt/Bradford campus, phone in.

Welcome: Bob Mecca started off meeting with welcome and introductions.

Review of last meeting minutes: Minutes were approved and motion made by Mark Morelli and seconded by Mark Flacinski. All in favor no opposed.

Volunteer Project update: Chris Palmer, OVR, indicated that she only got a few responses from her email with questions/ideas on volunteering. She then passed out sheet with same four questions from the email and asked that everyone look them over and answer. Tanya Mauk, Community Action, talked about her agency needing volunteers for the different programs through that agency. They are lacking tutors, these folks would need a Bachelor degree or working towards that. Mark Morelli reiterated how hard it is to get volunteers, with clearances right now being a hang up/hurdle. Chris Palmer, OVR shared an email that she most recently received from Missy Franklin, ERC, OVR regarding Camp Confidence seeking volunteers. Missy then shared information regarding an event that is held in Johnstown, Richland Twp. Any agency needing volunteers set up tables and it is open to the public with information about what is needed at each of the agencies (types of volunteers). Said it is very successful, something that might want to be tried locally. Marsha Dippold, Dickinson, brought up fact that those needing volunteers are concerned about liability. Mark Flanciski, parent advocate, indicated that at a recent board meeting, it was indicated that the numbers of people (census wide) aren't there anymore in the Elk County area. Both for volunteering and employees (companies wanting to expand). Marsha Dippold, Dickinson, went onto say that transportation is such

an issue and has been up north. At every meeting she attends, it is number one issue. Chris Palmer, OVR, asked if someone from local transportation facility could be invited to one of our meetings. Bob Mecca, LIFT, will reach out to them and invite. Bob agreed that we need to still encourage folks to use the local transportation, even though sometimes it can be discouraging, difficult and expensive to arrange in some very rural areas. Discussion ensued with examples of why folks don't or can't use the public transportation.

Bob opened the floor for questions/comments – none

Page -2-
CAC minutes

Member Updates: Bob Mecca started off with LIFT. May 3, 2016 is the Youth Conference to be held at the CMA church basement in Emporium from 9 AM until 2 PM. They have invited all six counties to attend. Bob stated last year there was a very low attendance from Clearfield County. It is a great conference, vendors welcome, and tables available. Bob stated there will be very good speakers this year; Todd Breezy, retired Marine who is a motivational speaker and another Marine from New England will be there to speak as well. Bob will email everyone the flyers. Mark Flanciski, parent advocate, indicated that he goes every year and it is a good conference. Stated the kids are getting good information. Bob also stated that the Disability Aging Expo will be held on August 4, 2016 in Johnsonburg PA again. If anyone would like a table, contact LIFT, no fee for table, fee for spotlight vendor. This year the spotlight will be time on the radio instead of being given time to speak to the public. Bob also informed that LIFT has lost their Nursing Home Transition coordinator. She handed her resignation in and they will be looking to replace her. Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois, asked Bob if he wanted her to put it on the PSU website for all students to see, may get some interest. Bob agreed. Carma Horner, Pitt/Bradford reiterated how good the Youth Conference in May is.

Mark Morelli, PA Link, gave update on upcoming events: 4/20 APS Seminar and DuBois Senior Expo – Treasure Lake Church; 4/21 PRN – Luigi's in DuBois; 5/4 Making Home Visits Safe – Pitt/Bradford and on 5/5 will be held at the Clarion Hotel in DuBois. 6/21 PA Link meeting held in Brookville, on 6/22 same meeting in Clearfield, 6/24 held in Lantz Corners. 7/21 Jefferson County Senior Fair; 812 Martin Causer

Senior Fair held at Pitt/Bradford. Anyone needing additional information on any of these events contact Mark Morelli.

Marsha Dippold, Dickinson informed the committee that they have placed (4) individuals in the last week, plus two have interviews. Potentially could have (6) placements in two weeks. Marsha stated they are finally getting fully staffed and their new placement person has been wonderful. It is really taking off and doing well.

Mark Flacinski, parent advocate, updated the group on his placement as Special Olympics Manager for Cameron Elk counties effective 4/1/2016. Bigger job than he thought. They have found an office downtown. Clearances are the big thing for all the volunteers and Special Olympics does their own. Mark also asked about services for a family member. Chris Palmer, DuBois OVR, told Mark to contact VRC Jen Pace, DuBois OVR who covers his area.

Page -3-
CAC minutes

Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois indicated that they are happy that the budget finally passed! She informed she also got approval for the P.A.S. program. Chris Palmer, OVR, explained that it is a transition program at started out as a five year grant and we have been trying to get it back up and running again.

Missy Franklin, ERC, OVR, wanted to put a plug in for the local DAFeat organization. They will be doing Autism Awareness every Tuesday during the month of April. They will also be having an event at the DuBois Mall on Saturday, April 23, 2016 from 11 AM to 3 PM. There will be vendors/agencies there for folks to get information on Autism Awareness. Missy went onto explain what she does with OVR, what her role as Early Reach Coordinator is.

Tanya Mauk, Community Action, indicated that the budget release was very good news for them. New Choices is up and running again. Will serve (10) people by end of June, hopefully more. Tanya went onto explain what exactly the New Choices program is and how it works. She stated they are still serving homeless veterans in both Jefferson and Clarion County and they are always in need of volunteers. Anyone interested contact Sue Ella Himes. Tonya also mentioned Highset, another test that the Department of Education has approved to get your GED. Right now Warren is the closest testing place, locally DBC is in process to get approved to give the test which is a paper test.

Tanya also mentioned the assessments needed prior to taking the GED and that some OVR clients had not had what they needed. Chris Palmer, OVR, told Tanya that she will check on this and thanked her for coming to the CAC meeting.

Carma Horner, Pitt/Bradford indicated the current semester will end in three weeks. She will look forward to working with new VRC who will be taking Ron Berguson's place due to retirement.

OVR update was given by Chris Palmer. Chris showed a power point on WIOA which explained the new changes and how it is affecting OVR. Chris also touched on PETS and the summer initiative we are working on and how that will work. Chris then handed out Missy Franklin's (ERC), "OVR is" brochure. Missy explained it is an informal, informative session to get information out about OVR. Missy stated it has not been a huge success but getting there. Dates of these sessions are on the brochure. Chris thanked Missy for doing this and how this is creating a regular presence in the career links. Chris informed the CAC that today was Shane Dietz's, BSR, last day with OVR. Chris informed that Kari Heeter, Shane's supervisor, will still be available to address business services needs at that Careerlinks. OVR will be filling Shane's position. Chris relayed that she is on the Workforce Development Board which oversees the Career link sites, services etc. Any questions or concerns regarding the career links, contact Chris or Kari.

Page -4-
CAC minutes

Chris also let the committee know about the Labor & Industry home page where you can find information about all of this and more. Chris went onto inform that Ron Berguson; VRC is retiring after 28 years with OVR. Ron covered McKean County. A VRC intern hired in January decided to return to his previous job. We have hired a new VRC for the DuBois Jefferson transition case load and are hoping to have him on board soon. Chris reiterated about Shane Dietz, our BSR leaving today, April 8th and that we will fill this position as well. Chris advised that the test for this position will open again on 4/13/16 and close 10/2016. She encouraged anyone or if know someone wanting to take the test for this position to do so. DuBois OVR is getting a high school intern this summer as part of Governor Wolf's PA Student Intern Program. They will be at the Career Link four days/week and at the OVR office one day/week. Will be a new endeavor for us. Missy

Franklin, ERC, passed out information about AHEDD. A program that educates folks about working and still being able to keep their benefits.

Bob Mecca opened the floor for comments/questions, there were none. The next meeting will be held on **Friday, July 8, 2016 10:00 A.M. at a place TBA.** Bob is going to check on a site in Elk County for the meeting and call in option.