

**CAC MINUTES**  
**Friday, October 13, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. Lock Haven University Clearfield Campus**

Welcome & Introductions: Bob Mecca, LIFT, ran the CAC meeting today. In attendance were Mike Jacobson, OVR; Mark Morelli, PA Link; Kelly King, PEAL; Ryan Gill, IU10; and Marsha Dippold, Dickinson. No call-in participants.

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

Member Updates

**Mark Morelli, PA Link:** Save-The-Date for an Alzheimer's Seminar (attached). Sessions are from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Potter/McKean is Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Library in Smethport, Cameron/Elk Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at Penn Highlands St. Marys and Clearfield/Jefferson is Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at Penn Highlands DuBois.

**Kelly King, PEAL:** Looking to do some training in the area for children and youth with special needs. A lot of families aren't aware of their services as far as education and healthcare rights. They held summer youth training in some areas around the state. A lot of people don't understand what can be in a transition plan and all the power it gives a family. She will let CAC know of upcoming events. They currently have 6 planned and hope to do more later.

Bob Mecca discussed LIFT's annual youth conference open to students with disabilities in all 6 of their counties. Transportation is provided by LIFT. Kelly suggested working together to promote it (either rotate it or work together). LIFT's conference is always the first week of May and is a good way to gain information on transition whether for education, work or independent living – 63 students attended last year.

Kelly stated being fascinated that so many people don't know what OVR is and what we can do. How do we get that out there where people are knowledgeable? Mark Morelli indicated that most employers don't know as well. Ryan Gill added that teachers who aren't involved don't know about OVR. Mark discussed "Educator in the Workplace". Teachers going in and finding what it's all about and then taking that information back. Kelly questioned how do we draw the bridges at the various levels and get that information out there to the proper individuals? Ryan Gill indicated that Michael Stoehr from PaTTAN is hoping to do inter-agency coordinators to help build it up.

Marsha Dippold recently attended 3 employment sessions – some more well attended. She complimented Mark/LINK. She learned new things and felt it should have been better attended. She also felt the recent EEC session was better than the year prior. Ryan Gill was somewhat disappointed that there weren't as many school based people there; he thought the meeting was excellent.

**Marsha Dippold, Dickinson:** They are increasing programs, filling two new positions. They have received 6 referrals from Williamsport area compared to no referrals in the 3 years prior.

**Ryan Gill, IU10:** IU10 covers Clinton, Centre and Clearfield Counties and will be holding transition council meetings. OVR DuBois hosted the September meeting. Next meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup>. They are looking at an agency night combined with post-secondary night. Planning meeting scheduled in January with transition coordinators in Clearfield County. Information will be coming out on that. Ryan is learning his role and is working with OVR ERC Missy Franklin. Looking to get a local Right to Education Taskforce for CIU10 counties – should be run by parents and supported by him; he is currently researching and spoke with the state lead on local taskforces. Information can be pushed out to everyone once a meeting is set up.

**Bob Mecca, LIFT:** LIFT is doing Project Lift Saver in conjunction with the Sheriff and 911. Currently only in Elk County. A bracelet can be purchased for people with Alzheimer's, dementia or intellectual disabilities who tend to wander (disability should be documented). If reported missing or the Sheriff can track them. Bracelets are \$350.00 but individuals can apply for funds up to \$200 through DeSordo fund through PIAT. Also, PATF gives out loans for equipment and AT; sometimes if it is under \$1,000 they will do small grants for individuals. LIFT is fundraising to help with the costs of the program. Hope and Sheila from LIFT were instrumental in getting the program underway in Elk County.

**Mike Jacobson, OVR:** We talk about being more visible and aware in the transition community in general. Would it be helpful to do a video series sponsored by LINK or OVR – shared videos put into a package that could be accessed by teachers in the schools? Committee members felt this would be great to show parents, liked the idea of using social media to get that information out there and help with time constraints on families. It was felt that rather than one video, that a series of them would be helpful to tap into. OVR wants to highlight the success of people. Getting the word out there is something we all need to do, be more present online; we need to challenge ourselves as a group. Kelly King mentioned that OVR may want to get Katie Smith involved in a potential project. Mike stated that we are going to try to challenge our employees to be more a part of the community, to be networkers, to get out there to build referrals and be known in our community.

Marsha Dippold noted that overall, she finds OVR process much quicker than in the past. Mike reminded that

July 1<sup>st</sup> began OVR's online preapplication process. Individuals refer themselves to OVR through Job Gateway. The process is now faster than it was before – the first meeting has gone from doing paperwork to being able to counsel the individual more. The old way is still there if people do need. We are taking steps for anyone who has not completed all the online information to make sure people aren't falling through the cracks. OVR is contacting them to see if they need help finishing their application -- our clerks can help, people can come into our office or go to the library.

Upcoming NDEAM event – Job Fair, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Punxsutawney Community Center from 9-2.

OVR did have a very successful manufacturing event recently at the career link put on by BSR Rhonda Dressler.

OVR is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual assistive technology event November 9<sup>th</sup> at PSU's DEF Building. (Flyer attached). Please share the information. There will be all types of reps there including transportation companies with adaptive equipment. People do not realize the type of equipment that is out there. AT plays a big part in rehab, transition and independent living. We are hoping to grow the event every year and get the word out to schools and communities. All are welcome to attend. The DEF Building is accessible.

Kelly King stated that sometimes the word doesn't get out very well when OVR has events. Mike noted that a lot of our issues are the levels that the state must go through for things such as advertising.

OVR BSR John Benjamin has planned presentations by Craig Dietz in the northern area high schools. They will be held from Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at local schools -- Ridgway, Johnsonburg, St. Marys, Brockway, Bradford and Kane.

OVR staff update: New employees/interns Beth Rogers and Jeremy Rearick -- Beth is covering the St. Marys area. She is a former job coach through Goodwill. Jeremy is finishing his degree from West Virginia and will be handling the general caseload in Jefferson. The DuBois Jefferson Transition is still open as well as McKean. In the process of interviewing.

OVR now has a new classification, VRC Trainee which pulls in and qualifies people with different master's degrees other than Rehab Counseling to be part of our candidate pool. The feeder schools are being refocused to more of community mental health -- producing students who are geared more toward mental health than employment. As a result, we are seeing less candidates with interest in doing what we do; a lot more want to do therapy. There is a big decrease in qualified candidates and we are hoping this new classification will get us motivated people who see OVR as a career destination, who have the skills, and who can be trained to do the paperwork. We are hoping that by expanding the pool we will get more candidates locally; it is hard to find people who want to come to DuBois -- turnover is one of the biggest problems we face. If you know someone who has a master's in human related fields such as guidance counseling, social work, etc who may be interested, they can feel free to contact us with questions. Bob Mecca added that OVR is one of the most important groups for people with disabilities -- OVR really helped him and made a difference in his life.

Marsha Dippold has similar problems with job coaches coming and going at Dickinson. Now they must have certification and must work a year first. Sometimes she can't keep people for a year, and she can't have two job coaches working together for a year. New changes are to go into effect in 2019. Still many questions and it seems nothing is being done. They can't take the test until at least 9 months if they have had the college class. She is not able to put tons of money into training when half the time they don't even make it through the year.

**Next Meeting:** The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at OVR, DuBois.