

CAC MINUTES
Friday, April 3, 2020
10:00 a.m. Conference Call

Welcome & Introductions: Bob Mecca, LIFT opened the meeting. Also in attendance were Chris Palmer, OVR; Missy Franklin, OVR; Christy Patterson, OVR; Brett Lasko, IU9; and Carma Horner, Pitt Bradford. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Skype meeting was held.

Review of Minutes: No questions or changes.

Covid-19 Impact and Concerns

Meeting was held by Skype call due to Covid-19.

Chris Palmer, OVR informed that all DuBois OVR staff are currently working remotely. OVR has been following the governor's guidance and is encouraging others to do the same. OVR is actively looking at which service providers are still available as many are not working. We are receiving guidance on Supported Employment and Pre-Employment Transition Services and how they are impacted. We are recommending providers refer to the governor's guidance online.

Regarding stimulus checks, they are working on a process for individuals who do not normally file tax returns or have income that they need to file; this would include Social Security individuals and some others with disabilities. Check the IRS website for information.

OVR is getting our guidance from the Governor's Office and Department of Health.

Missy Franklin, OVR updated that OVR now has a new email for IEPs and so forth. She is no longer the point of contact on that. Supervisor Christy Patterson is the new point of contact and she has already sent that information out to the schools. Missy noted that with schools being out things have been slower; however, IEP meetings are still happening for some schools and students.

Brett Lasko, IU9, agreed stating that IEP meetings are still going on virtually. How that is going to look for the ongoing time is that they are still going to use the same procedures as to who to invite as they have done in the past such as OVR for students who are eligible. Invites will be done by email. As far as updating IEPs, they are getting more guidance today from the Department and the Bureau. Looking at possible blanket statement in IEP with what is going on with the pandemic. Agencies will still be invited for those students.

Carma Horner of UPB stated that all faculty and students are working remotely. There are 23 students still on campus – international students and students with disabilities who feel it was more advantageous to be on campus with ongoing support from faculty. Carma is still working with those students and faculty to make sure all accommodations are being kept. She noted that main campus has great technical support for them. Due to the pandemic and recent changes, she has seen a resurgence of symptoms for students with psychiatric issues. She indicates that students and faculty are doing the best they can.

Chris Palmer mentioned Warmline, a mental health support line. Information for Warmline will be attached to the minutes for members to share.

Bob Mecca of LIFT stated that it was awesome to hear that some of the students with disabilities are still on campus because he heard that at another facility, some students with disabilities had to leave campus. He is aware of an individual staying with a friend where necessary parts of the home are inaccessible. Carma indicated that at UPB, students had to go through a process to be able to stay.

Bob indicated that LIFT staff are all working remotely from home. They are meeting at least once a week as a group via conference call and have been going into the office at different intervals as some do not have the proper equipment they need at home. They will be putting out their quarterly newsletter soon. Their staff is working the best they can from home, and their office phone message is directing callers to Hope and Bob's cell phone numbers. In situations where individuals need equipment, they work with them in getting equipment to them with proper social distancing measures.

Agency Updates

Bob Mecca, LIFT informed that their annual youth conference scheduled for May has been cancelled. At this time, they are still planning to do their Disability and Aging Expo on July 28, 2020, at The Red Fern in Kersey. They had a very brief initial meeting with everyone from Rep. Gabler's office on Wednesday to talk about creating fliers. They are hopeful to be able to still have this event.

No other agency updates were noted.

Next Meeting: Our next quarterly CAC meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Location to be determined. If anyone has a topic they would like to discuss, please let us know.