

ERIE BBVS 03/24/16 CAC MINUTES

Erie BBVS DO Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Notes 3/24/16

Treasurer Report-No update

BBVS Report-Dawn Sokol

In an effort to save money and provide quicker delivery of equipment, the state is moving to bulk purchasing for RT and O&M equipment for the ILOB Program.

The Low Vision Policy has been reviewed and approval by the OVR Board is set for June. What does this mean for Providers? It means that items will not be permitted to be sold for more than the MSRP. To be a Low Vision Provider you will need to have the experience needed to demonstrate the equipment and also have the equipment on hand to provide the demonstration. Recommendations will not be permitted to be made from looking at a catalog. The policy also allows for a low vision follow up to be provided through an extra appointment. The \$175.00 low vision exam rate will not change but it will allow for a paid follow up visit. The low vision policy is customer driven in the respect that it allows customers to see the low vision doctor to discuss equipment.

Project Search has started with McDowell High School in Erie partnering with UPMC Hamot which will give students the opportunity to gain job experience by participating in three rotations within the hospital. This is modeled after a program that was started in Cincinnati. This program is designed to find talents with students and ends with the student having job and career experiences. These work experiences can lead to full time positions. This program will begin next school year, the students have been interviewed and the program is full.

Summer Academy will be held this year at Penn State in July. Edinboro University is replicating Summer Academy for students with physical disabilities this summer.

The children's jump start will be held in June and there are several perspective students identified to participate this year.

BBVS Staff, IU5 Staff and the PAB are meeting quarterly to better serve children with visual impairments. BBVS would like to replicate this in other counties like Mercer and Venango.

PETS money is available to assist students who are in high school ages 14-21. OVR is working with Providers in the area to assist them with Provider Agreements to access funds to provide transition age youth with additional programming.

Erie BBVS staff are on target with their closure goals. There continues to be an O&M vacancy.

Governor's Committee on Disability-no update

PaRC Report-Heidi Tuszynski

Working to make sure that Career Links are accessible, currently working with OVR staff to fix inconsistencies.

Working with Civil Service to make sure that website is accessible, working with Gus to make it more accessible for visually impaired. Also looking into maybe adapting a schedule A like model for civil service. Another option that is being looked into is adding 5 points to exams for people with disabilities.

The Small Business Program, College Policies have been reviewed by the Committee and suggestions were made.

Pennsylvania is an employment first state as of March.

Venango County Association of the Blind-Pricilla Earhart

Hired a part time person to assist with transportation and kindergarten screenings.

Working with United Way for grant money.

Light up night event in Franklin was a big success.

Seeing an increase in referrals for Venango and Clarion Counties.

Keystone Blind Association-Jonathan Fister

Moved into new location and still getting situated. This location will give them a greater presence in the community.

Now providing O&M and RT in 4 counties in Ohio.

Has a new AT Trainer hired and almost finished with training at CBVI.

KBA will host the IDEAL Summer Program, which is a 4 week residential program with talks to expand to a 6 week program.

KBA is also taking a group of children to Disney, there are 9 children signed up to date. This allows the kids to get a behind the scenes look at Disney. Dawn suggested collaborating after the program to identify any additional training needs.

KBA to perhaps gain contract to staff mailroom at Boyers. If there are enough qualified people in one given area, KBA to look to provide transportation. KBA will work with BVS to identify job ready candidates. Pay will be about \$12.50/hour plus \$4.00 for health and welfare. There will be both part and full time positions available. They are anticipating the need for 42 people. The individuals will go through KBA for hiring and must be able to pass a background check.

Has new Lawrence County office space located at 1429 New Butler Street, Suite 2.

Election of Officers

All the same but Heidi as Treasurer.

Jonathan motioned, Heidi seconded