

Erie BBVS 06/16/16 CAC Meeting Minutes

Northwest PA BBVS Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m. by Priscilla Earhart

Present:

Lori Atts, consumer
Robin Barrett, consumer
Chris Cowan, BBVS staff
Priscilla Earhart, VCAB staff
Mara Foster, VCAB staff
Jonathan Fister, Keystone Blind staff
Mona Lovejoy, VCAB guest
Dawn Sokol, BBVS staff

Priscilla introduced Mara Foster, Director of Field Services for VCAB.

Johnathan moved to approve the minutes; Robin seconded; minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer was not in attendance; there was no report.

BBVS – Dawn Sokol

The REACH program started this week. It is a provider agreement employment program through PETS with the Sight Center of NWPA.

A children's Jump Start group is starting Monday, June 20th. 14 kids have signed up. BBVS director Joe Strechay is coming to spend time with the kids.

IU5, BBVS and the Sight Center of NWPA are having an in-service in August to discuss "Who's Job is it Anyway?" Lynn Fox from PATTAN will be in attendance. They are looking to replicate this training with IU6 and have a provider agreement with their "Highway to Success" program.

BBVS has begun a statewide ILOB bulk purchasing process to help save money on shipping costs in the ILOB fund.

Erie, Altoona and Pittsburgh will be interviewed by CSNVR for needs assessment for the statewide needs assessment.

The Summer Academy starts July 17th through August 5th.

BBVS is focusing on the 511 aspect of WIOA most recently. BBVS spends a lot of time working out the details of WIOA.

Jonathan asked if BBVS has any sheltered workshop customers. Dawn replied that they provide services for sheltered workshop customers in the SSA program.

Jonathan reported that he is still waiting to see how competitive employment would be defined. Dawn said that BBVS was also waiting.

Priscilla asked if the customer has any choice in staying a sheltered workshop. Dawn said yes, from what we are being told, they will have their choice.

A discussion was held on sheltered workshop situations.

Dawn reported that BBVS has an open conference call line anytime someone wants to call into the meeting.

Governor's Committee on Disabilities / OVR Board Meeting

No report

Sight Center of NWPA

No report

Keystone Blind Association – Jonathan Fister

Jonathan was informed they received an AT referral from BBVS. He stated that when KBA makes a referral to BBVS, if the BBVS staff doesn't reference that KBA referred them, the customer sometimes gets confused because the connection to KBA is not made. He asked that BBVS state the KBA made the referral.

KBA is very busy. Monday, they are leaving for a Youth Education Series at Disney. This is an independence trip for the Keystone Youth customers. They also will be going to Discovery Cove.

The Ideal program will start in Chester in July just after the 4th. This is a month-long residential program.

KBA received a contract to run the Federal mail room at Boyers. 71 employees are needed – he needs 10 people immediately. These are competitive positions paying \$13.75 per hour with full benefits. They will work to arrange transportation with transit. They need to meet their ratio of 75% of the labor being blind or visually impaired. The jobs and software are being evaluated to see what accommodations are needed. Send resumes to Keystone. Every applicant will go through an extensive Federal background check. Once KBA feels there is a good candidate, they will submit for the background check. Everyone will go through a 30-day training program at Keystone which is paid. There will be portions of the worksite where vision will be required. Keystone will help relocate people. Chris asked what job skills they should come to Keystone with: opening mail, manifesting mail, directing mail, sorting and delivering mail, pick up outgoing mail and processing it to USPS on carriers. Most likely, they will have six or seven job classifications. They need high school graduates, aged 18 and over. The employees will be employed by Keystone whether they are the 75% blind/visually disabled or the 25% non-disabled. Hopefully the job

description will be out in two or three weeks. Chris asked to have them sent to BBVS when they are ready. People will be trained to learn duties of the job; or if AT is needed, they will be trained on it for the job. The highest pay rate based on service time is around \$28 per hour.

KBA is still looking for a TVI.

Venango County Association for the Blind – Priscilla Earhart

The support group is continuing to meet. They would like to venture out of the office to do activities. Kiriam Kraut has really been getting people to want to get out more on Go Bus or on walks. People are wanting to do more and increase their independence because of her building their confidence.

The person who did AT training in Pittsburgh is out getting a guide dog right now, so she is not available.

Vision Bowl is coming up. People are either visually impaired or they will wear goggles.

Priscilla is doing a lot of public speaking and taking the vision simulator with her.

She is looking forward to working with BBVS and IU6. VCAB wants to start a children's program and would like to partner with BBVS.

They received a grant to upgrade their computers and phone system.

They have put 20,000 miles in one year on their new transportation vehicle.

Comments

Mona asked if working on a pack line in the past would qualify her to work in the mailroom. Jonathan suggested that she get her resume together and submit it. People can apply online for the mailroom jobs.

Chris thanked KBA for making their O&M instructor available for contracting with BBVS customers for the summer.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32

Chris Cowan