

JOHNSTOWN 04/20/16 CAC Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Tammy Burke, Josh Yoder, Jeff Dick, Bridget Kirsch, Chad Schaffranek, Chris Roken, Bob Schutte, Karen Reynolds

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Introductions:

New committee member, Jeff Dick introduced himself. He is the Site Administrator for the Cambria and Somerset CareerLinks; serving as the Veterans Representative.

WIOA Update:

Tammy highlighted two goals in developing measures:

- 1) Better understanding of the overall impact of federal investments in employment and training programs.
- 2) Ensure that those investments in employment and training programs are evidence-based, data-driven, and accountable to participants and taxpayers.

Six standards for all core programs under WIOA were also reviewed:

- Percentage of participants in unsubsidized employment during second quarter after exit
- Percentage of participants in unsubsidized employment during fourth quarter after exit
- Median earnings of participants during second quarter after exit
- Percentage of participants who obtain a post-secondary credential or secondary school diploma with 1 year after exit
- Achievement of measurable skill gains toward credential or employment
- Effectiveness in serving employers

OVR has hired a business analyst to serve as an AT specialist to assist staff with the maximization of assistive technology. They are exploring whether to hire a full time AT person for each district office.

OVR is expanding to reach more customers through the tele-rehabilitation pilot with CART at HGAC. OVR is collaborating with the PA Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT) program to participate in trainings. Also, there is an AT coordinator that is identified with each district office. That person attends a quarterly conference call.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) Update:

Our office is on track with spending allotted monies for these services. The PETS Provider Agreements will offer group training services (work-based readiness, independent living, self-advocacy) and individual services (work-based learning experiences (WBLE) and job shadowing services).

The following providers are currently approved to provide some or all of the above-listed group and individual services: Cen Clear, Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley, KBE, and Skills of Central PA. The pending providers are: Westmoreland Intermedia Unit and Indiana County Workshop.

PETS activities - HGAC will be offering summer programs:

- "CREATE" (Career Readiness, Employment and Transition Evaluation) - students can go for a week for vocational assessments, career exploration, work readiness, independent living skills assessment, community-based activities, and residential/leisure skills assessment.
- "Work Readiness and Assistive Technology Academies" will be offered as a week-long program. Assistive Technology Academy is June 20-24 and August 8-12. The Work Readiness Academy is July 11-15.
- OVR is working with HGAC on the FABLAB STEM Summer Academy (flyer circulated for review). It will be held the last week in July. Three district offices will be involved. The OVR Johnstown District Office scheduled days are 7/25/16 and 7/27/16. The plan is to have forty students registered each day for this event.

Josh mentioned that Camtran has a summer youth pass program for ages 18 and under. It runs June 1st through the end of August. Youth can ride the bus for \$1 per day. He would be willing to sit with students to explain how to catch the bus, transfers, etc. They will also ride with the student if the student doesn't feel comfortable.

Tammy is working with St. Vincent College on assisting with Student Stipends for eligible OVR students attending the Bearcat B.E.S.T. program. This is a college-based transition program for secondary students aged 18-21 with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to help them bridge the gap from secondary school to adulthood with competitive integrated employment being the ultimate goal. Students have the opportunity to engage in a 4 hour a week WBLE at St. Vincent while involved in this program. Seeking approval for a Specialized Provider Agreement that will allow OVR to cover the Student Stipend for the WBLE's.

OVR Transition VRCs are working on newsletters with their schools.

PAS (Promoting Academic Success) program in ongoing.

PA Free Enterprise Week program is a week-long summer program educating high school students on free enterprise system. Looking for approval to cover costs for this potential PETS service.

Project Search – still working with securing Indiana Regional Medical Center as a host site for this initiative.

NDEAM Event:

VR Supervisor Speidel recommended having a 2017 OVR Transition Calendar Contest. Students in grades 9-12 in the Cambria, Somerset, Indiana, and Westmoreland counties can enter. The theme is, "Breaking Down Barriers for Students with Disabilities Transitioning To Employment." Each student who has their drawing selected for the calendar will receive a plaque in recognition for their artwork. Tammy will be submitting this for approval.

Any other ideas from the committee are welcome.

Local Office Update :

There are currently four vacant VRC positions. The office rehab goal is 462 and we are at 256. The office received an allotment of funding to help serve Autism and ID cases.

An Executive Order re: Employment First was signed by the governor 3/10/16. All of the Executive branches have to develop a plan to increase competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. There is going to be a call on April 27th from 9 – 10 am for public comment on the development of the Commonwealth's implementation plan. Tammy provided a copy of the Call-In info and purpose of the call to all committee members and encouraged their attendance if schedules permit.

The Office of Developmental Programs – issued a joint bulletin April 1st about the OVR referral process for employment services. It explains when referrals can be made to the office. A resource account is currently used. There will be an increase in referrals and an ID Coordinator position will be added in the office for this. More information will be forthcoming.

Member Updates:

George Palmer could not attend today, but wanted to share a flyer, "Emergency Preparedness 2016 training, which will be held May 25th from 9 am – 3:30 pm at the Center for Independent Living of SouthCentral PA. A copy was shared with committee members.

Josh Yoder - the Secretary of Transportation was in Johnstown and announced that CCTA will be the first agency statewide to get a

public/private fueling station. Six more buses have been ordered for the Ebensburg office. CCTA will have a total of 16 compressed gas buses.

Jeff Dick – the CareerLink is busy with WIOA. The State plan is open for public comment. The local plan with Southern Alleghenies will be coming out for public comment this week. Seventy-five percent of funding is for out of school youth. The Cambria County Job Fair will be held May 3rd.

Bridgett Kirsch – lots of changes due to PETS. Referrals are being made for 10th graders now. They have their first student lined up for job shadowing.

Chad Schaffranek – their company is starting a mobile prosthetics truck to provide service to customers and home modifications have been continuing.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2016 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., at CamTran, 502 Maple Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15901

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.