**SRC-DBVI[[1]](#footnote-1) Minutes**

**Date & Time:** February 16th 2022 (10am – 1pm)

**Location:** RemoteZoom Meetings

**Attendance Key: P = Present, E = Absent (Excused), A = Absent (Unexcused), TEL = Telephone**

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|  **Council Members:** |
| **P** | Nancy Moulton, *Chair* | **P** | Allen Kropp |  |  |
| **P** | Cheryl Peabody, *Vice* | **E** | Kathy Bagley |  |  |
| **E** | Sherry Belka, *Treasurer* | **E** | Roger Fuller |  |  |
| **P** | Mary Beth Walsh | **E** | Joel McQuade |  |  |
| **P** | \*Brenda Drummond [[2]](#footnote-2) | **P** | Amber Mooney |  |  |
| **P** | \*James Howard | **P** | Julia Endicott |  |  |
| **P** | Darcy Gentle | **P** | Andrew Maclean |  |  |

**Members of Public:** Peter Diplock, Andrea Bickford, Jessica Cavanaugh, Kathy Despres, David Emberly, Amanda Peters.

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** April 20th 2022 **Minutes Approved: Yes**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | SRC-DBVI meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. Members and guests were introduced & welcomed. | NA | NA |
| **Minutes**  | SRC-DBVI discussed the October 2021 draft minutes. No corrections were identified, and the minutes were *accepted as written*.SRC-DBVI discussed the December 2021 draft minutes. Corrections were identified, and then *accepted as corrected*.Council decided to *ask Roger Fuller to present* to the council his work on the website. | *Correct December 2021 minutes, and send to webmaster along with October 2021 minutes for posting.**Create February 2022 draft minutes, and send to Cheryl & Nancy.**Send the February draft minutes to council members.* | Branden DensmoreBranden DensmoreCheryl Peabody |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Committee Reports** | ***Program Assessment:*** Focused on providing recommendation feedback regarding the VR portion of State Plan. They have meet twice, and had productive discussions about goals & strategies. The State Plan goes out for public comment on February 28th. ***Transition:*** Trying to determine the exact role of committee to set their focus. Sent Brenda an email with some questions about how they can best help, and how Employment 1st fits in with SRC-DBVI mission. Next meeting set for March 1st ***Policy:*** This committee has not meet yet and needs to get started. They have a goal to review the Consumer Handbook which is nearly complete. ***Membership:*** Two members approved by governor - Julia Endicott & Andrew Maclean. However, still waiting on one appointment, and there are still 8 open seats. Emails were sent to Chris Boynton but nothing back yet.***Recruitment/Staffing:*** No update was provided, and it was agreed that a committee meeting needs to happen.  | *Present proposed modifications to the VR portion of State Plan To Council.**Add Amanda Peters to Transition Committee.**Finish Consumer Handbook and send to Policy Committee for recommendations.**Send follow up email to Chris Boynton.**Set up Recruitment/staffing committee meeting and email members.* | Program Assessment CommitteeTransition CommitteeBranda DrummondMary Beth WalshAmber Mooney |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | ***State Plan***: Been working on the DBVI portion of the State Plan. The draft is due tomorrow, and then it goes to a review team. After it is reviewed it goes out for public comment on February 28th. ***Monitoring:*** RSA[[3]](#footnote-3) will be meeting virtually in March to discuss the monitoring review from 2017, and the corrective action plan that was submitted. They have been looking at the findings and documentations, which are due to RSA by Friday. ***Budget:*** DBVI asked for an additional 245 thousand dollars for the independent living program from the supplemental budget (general fund), and will keep council informed of results next meeting.***Vacancies:*** With 2 open O&M[[4]](#footnote-4) Specialist positions, recruitment is clearly needed. They have brainstormed how to attract these needed specialists, but it requires further thought. Despite the vacancies, O&M services are still being provided. However, concerns were expressed over future retirements.Business Developer interviews were held, and they hope to have hired one by next week.***Peer Mentoring:*** The program has gone statewide and is being overseen by Tim Small. Referrals are slowly coming in as Tim gets the word out increasingly.. | *Send DBVI portion of State Plan to council members for review when finished.* | Brenda Drummond |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | ***Summer Programs:*** A variety of summer programming is being offered:1) *LIFE Camp* – Program offered in July through the Iris Network with some slight modifications from last year.2) *Robotics Camp* – Program offered in collaboration with Vermont and Connecticut. A residential program offered in late July, they are looking to enroll 20 students.3) *No Barriers* – a weekend event held in Bryant Pond during last week of August, focusing on advocacy, self-empowerment, and relationship building.4) *Family Day* – An event for clients and their families to network and have fun. The date is TBA.  | *Send summer program information to Amanda Peters so she can share with Parent Federation participants.* | Brenda Drummond |
| **Updates** | ***Goodwill***: A video was presented to the council called Goodwill NNE: More Than Just A Store. The video was about a woman who hadn’t worked for 17 years, and who was declared legally blind 5 years ago. When ready to go back to work she went to interviews and experienced discrimination before landing her beloved job at Goodwill. She explained how she loves her job, and how it has given her a whole new sense of meaning and purpose.***Iris Network***: Currently planning upgrades for the LIFE Camp summer program in collaboration with DBVI and Catholic Charities. Continuing hybrid services, and advertising open VRT positions. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Updates** | ***Catholic Charities***: Following strict CDC COVID procedures as they meet with clients in person on a case-by-case basis. Working with Department Of Education around accessibility for standardized testing. Decision was made that student braille readers would not participate in assessment this year because it’s inaccessible for this year. They did videos of students using technology which spawned discussions about using videos in their recruitment efforts. ***DOE[[5]](#footnote-5)***: LD135 passed and requires DOE and DHHS to do a study into the billing process for developmental programs funded by Mainecare. Individualized Education Plan (IEP) facilitation program being offered for students with disabilities that focuses on things like accommodations, student goals, and special services.***MPF[[6]](#footnote-6)***: The Family Support Navigator training happening soon, a peer-to-peer program that helps families maneuver the system. MPF continues efforts around supported decision making and self-advocacy in schools.They are holding the MPF annual conference virtually on March 16th which will explore assistive technology, navigating the system, and educational inclusion.  | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Updates** | ***121:*** Back in the red zone for COVID cases so are back to working remotely. Some job development happening with their Certified Employment Specialist. Also participating in DVR staff meetings, helping others know who they are.***CAP[[7]](#footnote-7)***: Conducting more outreach, and are having a meeting about Employment 1st in March. Interested in doing more events with clients and case managers about what CAP does. No cases are coming in currently from DBVI clients which is good.***SILC[[8]](#footnote-8)***: Currently the SILC is focused on providing feedback for the State Plan regarding Independent Living goals/strategies. SILC struggling with membership, and a presentation about the SILC was given to increase awareness.  | NONE | NONE |
| **Announcements** | Still waiting on governor approval for new SRC-DBVI council member.Jessica Cavanaugh is replacing the position previously held by James Howard.Honorariums are offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.The next SRC-DBVI meeting on April 20th  | *Contact Sherry Belka to receive honorarium.* | Members Not Compensated |
| **Public Comment** | Time was given for public comments, but none were made. | NA | NA |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

**Cheryl Peabody – Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**Peter Diplock – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Amber Mooney – Iris Network**

**Brenda Drummond – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Amanda Peters – Maine Parent Federation (MPF)**

**Julia Endicott – Disability Rights Maine (DRM)**

**Mary Beth Walsh – Mainly Access**

**Allen Kropp – Drummond Woodsum**

**James Howard – Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (DBVI)**

**Nancy Moulton – Catholic Charities Maine**

**Sherry Belka – Disability Advocacy Seat**

**Kathy Bagley – Excel Consulting**

**Darcy Gentle – Wabanaki Vocational Rehabilitation Program**

**Andrea Bickford – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)**

**Joel McQuade – American Council of the Blind of Maine**

1. State Rehabilitation Council - Division For The Blind And Visually Impaired [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \*Indicates Ex Officio, Non-voting member [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rehabilitation Services Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Orientation & Mobility Specialist [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Department Of Education [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Maine Parent Federation [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. State Independent Living Council [↑](#footnote-ref-8)