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

**Date & Time:** June 15th 2022 (10am – 1pm)

**Location:** RemoteZoom Meeting

**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 |  |  |
| **P** | Sherry Belka | **P** | Roger Fuller |  |  |
| **P** | Mary Beth Walsh | **P** | Julia Endicott |  |  |
| **P** | \*Brenda Drummond [[2]](#footnote-2) | **E** | Amber Mooney |  |  |
| **P** | Andrew Maclean | **P** | David Emerley |  |  |
| **P** | Darcy Gentle |  |  |  |  |

**Members of Public:** Peter Diplock, Andrea Bickford, Jessica Cavanaugh, Kathy Despres, Anna Pellerin, Isaac Gingras.

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** August 17th 2022 **Minutes Approved: Yes**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | SRC-DBVI meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Members and guests were introduced & welcomed. | NA | NA |
| **Minutes** | The SRC-DBVI discussion of past minutes was tabled for next meeting. | *Create June 2022 draft minutes, and send to Cheryl & Nancy.*  *Send the June draft minutes to council members.* | Branden Densmore  Cheryl Peabody |
| **Financial Report** | The budgeting process was discussed, but the approval of the budget was tabled for next meeting. | *Look over budget to discuss next meeting.* | All Council Members |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | A client in Bangor was interested in writing. They talked with VR about the steps needed to improve their writing process.  She was set up with a laptop and received training on how to use it. After exploring various writing courses through Adult Ed the client took a creative writing class which was this spring.  The instructor was impressed with her writing ability and helped her get published in an Ebook on Kindle. | *Gather More How VR Helped Someone Stories.* | Any VR Staff Member |
| **Committee Reports** | Discussed and agreed to the idea of sending Branden mini committee reports for the minutes.  ***Program Assessment:*** Discussed data needed from agency to best assess program needs, and the new customer satisfaction survey and rollout. They identified three data requests:   1. Consumer Satisfaction Data 2. Monthly Budget/Closure Reports 3. RSA Dashboard On Exits   Their goal with this data is to see where programs are successful and what needs improvement. Further, they want to understand successful and unsuccessful closures. | NONE | NONE |
| **Director’s Report** | **Staffing**: Continues to be an issue. They have multiple O&M[[3]](#footnote-3) positions open, and are working on a letter to generate some interest. There is a Management Analyst position that went out yesterday. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | ***RFP[[4]](#footnote-4)***: The 10 year RFP for Community Based Blindness Rehabilitation was put out and awarded to the Iris Network.  ***State Plan***: The DBVI portion of the State Plan was submitted June 12th and has been conditionally approved. The two VR portions have been accepted.  ***Summer Program***: There are many programs being offered this summer, and things are getting busy. Report focused around their 2nd Family Fun Day being held at the Waterville Alfond Center on June 18th from 11am-2pm. This event is collaborative with Catholic Charities and the Iris Network, and already has 16 families signed up.  ***BEP[[5]](#footnote-5)***: Things are shifting around in the BEP program. Riverview location manager retired in April, and the Cross Café manager is moving into the Riverview location in September. They will need a replacement for Cross Café. Managers are still recovering from COVID 19 economic impact, and are adapting best they can but it remains difficult.  ***Apprenticeship***: Governor issued press release stating that they awarded 12.5 million in funding for apprenticeship. They are going to roll it out for the entire State. Putting together windmill training for apprenticeship sponsors. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Updates** | ***Catholic Charities***: Good news – recently hired 2 people completing their student teaching in the fall. They will assume caseloads when ready. They have one TVI[[6]](#footnote-6) moving out of state, which leaves 2 vacancies.  One focus this year has been accessibility of statewide testing, particularly as it relates to braille readers. The state uses the NWEA which is not fully accessible, no tactile graphics provided, just audio descriptions which do not work for math and science in particular.  They continue to work with the DOE[[7]](#footnote-7) on the issue. This school year braille readers were exempted from this assessment.  ***Iris Network***: Rehab Center has 2 Maine students, and 1 more joining next week for the two week assessment. The Center program will be on hold the month of July for summer transition programming, for which there are currently four students.  Community Rehab is busy. All precautions are still in place for COVID.  A new certified vision rehabilitation therapist will start in the Bangor region in July and a vision rehabilitation therapist assistant will start in Bangor in September working part time while starting their master’s program.  Interviewing and reaching out is still happening for vacancies in Portland and a roamer position in Augusta, but there are no wait lists. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Updates** | ***DOE***: Been preparing for a comprehensive educators summit happening August 9th and 10th.  ***121:*** Still providing hybrid services and working with educational departments. They have hired new counselors and are having a new hire training. Reconnecting with people they lost touch with.  ***Goodwill***: They have been reaching out to more schools, and have a bootcamp about how to get, find, and keep work, how to communicate with employers with work based learning experiences. However, the program has no participants yet, and they are hoping to have some this fall.  ***CAP[[8]](#footnote-8)***: Continue having low numbers for DBVI clients, and continuing outreach. Putting together Transition event currently. Julia is going into a new position, but will still work with SRC. Bringing in a new person to work on advocacy. | NONE | NONE |
| **Guest Speaker** | Julia Endicott delivered a presentation regarding Employment First. It was explained that it is a Maine Law and a national movement. The essential concept is real work for real wages. Regarding the Maine Law, the idea is that employment should be offered as the first and preferred service for people with disabilities.  A major step forward was when Maine abolished subminimum wage in 2020 – all people with disabilities must be paid at least $12.75 per hour. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Announcements** | Still waiting on governor approval for new SRC-DBVI council members.  A conversation about the Annual SRC Training will be on Tuesday at 8am.  Honorariums are offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.  The next SRC-DBVI meeting on August 17th | *Contact Cheryl 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 12:12 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 – Mainely Access**

**Allen Kropp – Drummond Woodsum**

**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)**

**Andrew MacLean – Maine Health**

**Kathy Despres – Goodwill Industries**

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. Orientation And Mobility Specialist [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RFP -> Request For Proposal [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. BEP -> Business Enterprise Program [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. TVI -> Teacher Of Visually Impaired [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. DOE -> Department Of Education [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-8)