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

**Date & Time:** August 17th 2022 (10am – 1pm)

**Location:** RemoteZoom Meeting

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

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

**Members of Public:** Peter Diplock, Jess Cavanaugh, Ken Shapiro, Isaac Gingrass, Nathanael Batson.

**Recorder:** Nancy Moulton **Next Meeting:** October 2022, TBA **Minutes Approved: YES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introductions** | SRC-DBVI meeting was called to order: Members and guests were introduced & welcomed. | NA | NA |
| **Minutes**  | The SRC-DBVI tabled the acceptance of the February, April, and June minutes until the October Annual Training. Prior to the annual meeting a copy of the February, April, June and August minutes will be sent to the members. Time will be set aside at the meeting specifically to review and approve them. | *Send copy of February, April, June, and August minutes for review.*  | Cheryl Peabody |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Financial Report** | Time was given to discuss the financial report that is reviewed quarterly. A **motion was made and seconded** to *accept the quarterly financial and 2023 proposed budget*. **The motion passed** *with all in favor*. | NONE | NONE |
| **Director’s Report** | ***Staffing***: Sharisse, new rehab consultant hired. O&M[[3]](#footnote-3) vacancy in Bangor. Portland has 4 O&M positions - one is vacant, one is out on maternity leave.***Hearings***: In the rules, the SRCs & agencies have to agree on hearing officers. One hearing officer has stepped back, so that leaves one. If we get a number of hearings they will need more. They are working with the AAG. The hearing officer presides over the hearing. It is required to have more than one. Can’t be employed by the state or SRC. Needs to go through entire SRC and will do that through email.***Budget***: Have requested for older blind additional funds, put it in for $400,000 possibly offering additional training, purchasing some devices for folks. Supported employment adult relinquish $48,000 between both youth and adult programs. Supported employment youth must be in employment. Hard to spend dollar for dollar as requirements are narrow.  | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | ***Summer Programs***: Offered numerous summer programs:**1.** Family Fun Day: 8 families attended at the Alfond Center in Waterville.**2.** College Bus Tours: by DVR and they invited DBVI. They visited 7 University of Maine campuses and 6 community colleges. 14 students, 1 person from DBVI.**3.** Learning Independence Fun and Employment (LIFE) camp: 4 students, 2 weeks, career exploration, mock interviews, appropriate attire etc.**4.** Girls had naming discussion and decided to call themselves the Middle School Visually Impaired Girls group. Meet over course of 6 weeks from April to July. Personal safety, volunteering, budgeting, planned an event for closing ceremony.**5.** Robotics camp: 1 week on a college campus. Cyber.org. Had 4 students, opened to DVR and they had 1 student.**6.** Learn Earn and Prosper (LEAP) through VT. We had one student go. Work experience, recreation, and cooking workshops. ***Corrective Action Plan***: There is some activity, but they have no real information yet.***BEP[[4]](#footnote-4)***: Manager at Cross Café has given his notice. Not a lot of interest. They will likely have someone. Sebago Lake is wrapping up soon.  | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | Manager at motor vehicle is looking to move. Need to be legally blind to be a manager for BEP. If you know anyone talk to Diane.***Apprenticeship***: They are requiring them to get disability awareness, accessibility EEO. All of this in the contracts with those applying for money for the apprenticeship program. Maine was asked to do a video for Rural youth transition apprenticeship program by Institute for Community Inclusion.***Staffing:*** VRC1 position in Augusta has completed interviews. O&M vacancies have been posted in Portland and Bangor. | NONE | NONE |
| **How VR Helped Someone** | A student who attended LIFE camp for the second time displayed a lot of progress. Because it was the second time, they were able to raise the bar on expectations and help her with morning and evening routines. She also started her first work-based learning experience, and her Special Ed Teacher noticed that she had increased maturity and more independence. | *Gather more how VR helped someone stories.* | Any VR Staff Member |
| **Updates** | ***Iris Network***: Had successful 2 week LIFE Camp with returning students. Currently working on getting reports out. In July the Rehab Center Program was on hiatus. However, it started again August 1st with 3 Maine clients. CVRT who is also CLVT start in Bangor and an assistant start in Bangor. Sara Nappi has become a Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist (CATIS).  | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Updates** | ***CAP[[5]](#footnote-5)***: Ken is taking the CAP role as Julia becomes communication director for DRM. Doing a presentation next week on transition planning. They are broadly targeted to case mangers but open to everyone. More folks seeking information, which were referred over to DBVI. Hearing a lot about transportation as a challenge.***121***: Continuing hybrid services and collaborating to establish training programs. Numbers are down due to COVID, but referrals have increased over the last few months. Annual conference is happening in person.***DOE[[6]](#footnote-6)***: Quiet summer at the DOE. Their education summit was well attended. Schools are struggling to fill their Ed Tech positions. | NONE | NONE |
| **Announcements** | Noted that BRS stakeholder meetings are being held. They are interested in receiving feedback from SRC members, and the meetings are informative and inspiring.There discussion of confidentiality issues related to SRC application documents. Nathaneal uses Proton and can turn on password protection, and then the message will self-destruct in a certain amount of time. *Have we asked about not putting in the social security number in?* Maybe policy committee could take a look at it and craft a letter. Discussion around trying One Drive. *With next application can we try?*  | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Announcements** | CCM/ESBVIC: Teach 4 Me Conference is working on a recruitment video.The SRC Annual Training is happening on October 17th and 18th. One SRC have business meeting, the other the next day, and then training sessions mixed in. Jess Cavanaugh & Nathanael Batson are on the Nominations Committee.Honorariums are offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance. | *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. | 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**

**David Emberley – Department Of Education**

**Roger Fuller – Disability Advocate**

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. BEP -> Business Enterprise Program [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Client Assistance Program [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Department Of Education [↑](#footnote-ref-6)