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

**Date & Time:** June 21st 2023 (10am – 12pm)

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

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

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

**Members of Public:** Jessica Cavanaugh, Ken Shapero, Peter Diplock, Kathy Despres, Sharisse Roberts, Nathanael Batson, & Diane Frigon.

**Recorder:** Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** August 17th 2023 **Minutes Approved: YES!**

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Introduction** | SRC-DBVI meeting was *called to order at 10:02 am*. Members and guests were introduced & welcomed.  The *agenda was approved*, and time was given for *public comments* but none were forthcoming.  ***Chair’s Report***: Cheryl Peabody’s application for membership to the NCSRC[[3]](#footnote-3) has been submitted.  Now awaiting approval. | NA | NA |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Minutes** | The SRC-DBVI discussed the April 2023 minutes.  *The April minutes were approved as written.* | *Send April 2023 minutes to webmaster for posting.*  *Create June 2023 draft minutes and send to Cheryl.*  *Distribute June draft minutes to council members for review.* | Branden Densmore  Branden Densmore  Cheryl Peabody |
| **Committee Reports** | ***Program Assessment***: Data has yet to be discussed, and so a full report was tabled for next meeting.  *No other committee reports were given.* | *Program Assessment Committee to meet in July.*  *Add report about data on next meeting agenda.* | Committee Members  Andrew Maclean |
| **DRM[[4]](#footnote-4) Updates** | DRM is hosting a Disability Pride event on July 21st from 11am to 3pm at Mill Park in Augusta. The event will have speakers, art, music, and will be lots of fun.  DRM released a report on health care access for Mainers with disabilities. | *Get more information about the DRM Report:* [*HERE*](https://drme.org/news/2023/press-release-drm-health-equity-report-062023)  *Get the Full Report:* [*HERE*](https://drme.org/assets/brochures/DRM-Equitable-Access-to-Health-Care-for-Mainers-with-Disabilities-Final.pdf) | Any Interested Member |
| **Director’s Report** | **Vacancies**: 2 O&M[[5]](#footnote-5) positions open Portland. Moving staff around to cover.  Actively looking for O&M folks, or anyone interested in becoming an O&M.  A Regional Director position opening in Southern Maine. A notice will be coming out soon. | NONE | NONE |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **Corrective Action Plan**: First in person meeting being held this afternoon about updates submitted to RSA[[6]](#footnote-6). The results of this meeting will be presented next meeting.  Forensic accounting project is going well - they meet weekly.  **Summer Programs**: Waiting to hear back if SRC members can attend *LIFE[[7]](#footnote-7) Camp* celebration, which is the last Friday in July.  *No Barriers*: Weekend program in Bryant Pond, going from August24th through August 27th.  2 clients have signed up so far, but they expect more to come.  *College Prep*: Program for students thinking about going to college. Was going to be held on July 9th, but decided not to have it this year due to lack of enrollment. To be looked at again for next year.  *Family Fun Day*: One day event in Brunswick at the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center, happening on October 14th from 11am-2pm.  All members are welcome to attend. | *Let members know if they can attend the LIFE camp Celebration, and share time, date, and location of event.*  *Think about attending Family Fun Day.* | Brenda Drummond  All Members |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Director’s Report** | **BEP[[8]](#footnote-8)**: New manager took over Portland Jetport site 3 weeks ago – they are doing a wonderful job, very enthusiastic, and are a great accessibility advocate.  Navy Shipyard manager is looking for employees; they currently have 2 full time and 1 part time employees but business is booming.  3 openings happening at the end of summer.  1) DOT[[9]](#footnote-9) combination micro market and snack bar.  2) Maine Revenue micro market  3) DHHS[[10]](#footnote-10) micro market  ***Apprenticeship***: Apprenticeship Navigator is in the field and delivering monthly webinars.  Pre-apprenticeship is taking shape. Chapter 3 rules submitted and system in place for certified pre-apprenticeships. These opportunities are linked to full apprenticeship, making sure that necessary skills and safety practices are included in training.  Apprentice Webinars held 2nd Tuesday Monthly. | *Get the word out about these three openings. Need new managers, especially people who are blind or visually impaired.*  *Email Amanda Muller for more details on Apprentice Webinar series at* [*Amanda.Muller@maine.gov*](mailto:Amanda.Muller@maine.gov) | All Members  Any Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Guest Speaker** | Sharisse Roberts presented about what she does as a Rehab Consultant with DBVI.  Conducted presentation with the Diversity Hiring Coalition for HR[[11]](#footnote-11) professionals interested in hiring people with disabilities. 30 to 40 people in attendance, debunked common myths about folks with disabilities.  Had a booth at an HR conference in Portland, doing some solid outreach.  Had a booth at an Employer Summit and learned how there are too many jobs and not enough job seekers. Birth rate vs. retirement rate…  Power of choice is in the job seekers hands, and employers need to communicate with seekers to attract and retain.  Communicating that disabled people are an untapped market. Helping employers understand how great they are.  Discussed with council the importance of changing the acronym DEI[[12]](#footnote-12) to DEIA, which would include people with disabilities into the movement. | *Email Sharisse Roberts about employers interested in learning more about hiring those with disabilities at Sharisse.g.roberts@maine.gov.* | Any Member |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Committee Work** | Desire expressed to make meetings more efficient and purposeful.  **Question**: *Who can work in a committee?*  **Answer**: *Anyone can. You don’t have to be an approved council member.*  **Committee Composition**:  Policy: Roger Fuller, Andrew Maclean.  Program Assessment: Amber Mooney, Allen Kropp, Cheryl Peabody, Brenda Drummond, Allen Kropp.  Transition: Nathanael Batson, David Emberly, Jessica Cavanaugh, Kathy Despres.  Membership: Mary Beth Walsh, Andrew Maclean.  Employer Engagement: Peter Diplock, Kathy Bagley, Brenda Drummond.  Executive: Andrew Maclean, Cheryl Peabody, Allen Kropp, Nancy Moulton, Brenda Drummond.  Meeting times to be worked out by each committee. | *Email Allen Kropp to get on a committee:* [*akropp@dwmlaw.com*](mailto:akropp@dwmlaw.com)*.* | Anyone Not On A Committee Yet |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** | **Responsible** |
| **Committee Work** | **Pending Council Members**:  *Tammy Clements, Ken Shapero, Jessica Cavanaugh, Nathanael Batson, Kathy Despres, Sadie* Donnell*, Issac Gingress.* | NONE | NONE |
| **Roundtable** | **Iris Network**: Apartment for rehab program operational. 2 clients currently, 5 students signed up for LIFE Camp, full case load statewide. | NONE | NONE |
| **Announcements** | Honorariums are offered to members not otherwise compensated for attendance.  Next SRC-DBVI meeting is Wednesday, August 16th.  Council training happening in October with date TBA.  DRM hosting event for disability pride on July 21st from 11am to 3pm at Mill Park in Augusta.  Kathy Bagley having celebration of life on July 16th from 1-4 at Community Center in Fairfield. | *Contact Cheryl to receive honorarium.*  *Email Andrew Maclean topic ideas for fall council training.* | Members Not Compensated  Any Member |
| **Public Comment** | Time was given for public comments, but none were made. | NA | NA |
| **Adjournment** | Meeting was adjourned at 11:56am. | NA | NA |

**People & Organizations Represented**

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

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

**Mary Beth Walsh – Mainely Access**

**Allen Kropp – Drummond Woodsum**

**Nancy Moulton – Catholic Charities Maine**

**Sherry Belka – Disability Advocacy Seat**

**Kathy Despres – Goodwill Industries**

**Andrew MacLean – Maine Medical Association**

**David Emberley – Department Of Education**

**Amber Mooney – Iris Network**

**Ken Shapero – Disability Rights Maine (DRM), Client Assistance Program (CAP)**

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. NCSRS -> National Coalition Of State Rehabilitation Councils [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. DRM -> Disability Rights Maine [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. O&M -> Orientation and Mobility Specialist [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. RSA -> Rehabilitation Services Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. LIFE 🡪 Learning, Independence, Fun, and Employment [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. BEP 🡪 Business Enterprise Program [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. DOT 🡪 Department Of Transportation [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. DHHS 🡪 Department Of Health And Human Services [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. HR 🡪 Human Resources [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. DEI 🡪 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. DEIA 🡪 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)