

SRC-DBVI¹ Minutes

Date & Time: June 25th 2025 (10am – 12pm)

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Council Members:					
P	Andrew Maclean, <i>Chair</i>	P	David Emberley		
E	Allen Kropp, <i>Vice</i>	P	Nathanael Batson		
P	*Jessica Cavanaugh	A	Kathy Despres		
P	Amber White				
P	*Elissa Rowe ²				
A	Darcy Gentle				
P	Nancy Moulton				

Guests: Kelly Chadbourne, Megan Marquis, Kirsten Connelly, Erin O’Kane, & Fern Beede.

Recorder: Branden Densmore **Next Meeting:** August 13th 2025, TBA **Minutes Approved:** Yes!

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Introduction	<p>SRC-DBVI meeting was <i>called to order at 10:04</i>: introductions were provided.</p> <p><u>Agenda</u>: There were no additions to the meeting Agenda.</p> <p>A Quorum was established with 7 members in attendance.</p> <p><u>Chair Report</u>: It was noted that the Executive Committee is focused on Membership Recruitment and coordinating a joint training with SRC-DVR.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u>: None were provided.</p>	NONE	NONE

¹ State Rehabilitation Council - Division For The Blind And Visually Impaired

² *Indicates Ex Officio and/or Non-voting member

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Minutes	<p>SRC-DBVI discussed the February 2025 draft minutes.</p> <p>No corrections were identified, and the minutes were accepted as presented.</p>	<p><i>Send February minutes to webmaster for posting on website.</i></p> <p><i>Create June draft minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Distribute June draft minutes to council members.</i></p>	<p><u>Branden Denismore</u></p> <p><u>Branden Denismore</u></p> <p><u>Branden Denismore</u></p>
Director's Report	<p>Data Reporting: It was discovered that PRE-ETS³ data was being significantly under reported with the RSA⁴ Dashboard. With the work of Jessica Cavanaugh, staff, and including data from O&M instructors, the following increases are being reflected:</p> <p>Quarter 2: 24 students with disabilities, 13% received pre-ets, with two instances of DBVI staff providing those services.</p> <p>Quarter 3: 27 students with disabilities, 48% received pre-ets, with twenty instances of DBVI staff providing these services.</p> <p>Budget Requests: DBVI submitted two Legislative budget requests which were approved. This included \$200,000 for assistive technology devices, services for the IL⁵ program, and 3 Assistive Technology positions for VR.</p>	NONE	NONE

³ PRE-ETS -> Pre-Employment Transition Services

⁴ RSA -> Rehabilitation Services Administration

⁵ IL -> Independent Living

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
	<p>BEP⁶ Update: program currently focused on strategic planning to modernize and grow. Their first formal strategic planning series takes place on Thursday, June 26th, from 3pm to 430pm. SRC members were encouraged to participate.</p> <p>Staffing: DBVI has three interns this summer as part of their recruitment/retention strategy in the State Plan.</p> <p>There is a vacant position in the IL program, as well as an increase in applicants for this program. DBVI is exploring strategies used by other states to handle this influx including lifetime limits on spending, reduction in among/duration of services, and a waiting list.</p> <p>Intern Report: DBVI intern Fern Beede was present and reported on a project related to identifying the transportation barriers for blind and visually impaired individuals in Maine. She is interested in meeting SRC members to discuss the situation.</p> <p>VIBE⁷: A two-week residential program housed at USM Gorham campus (from July 13th – 25th). 12 students are registered which includes students from DVR and DBVI.</p>	<p><i>Join kick off strategy session HERE.</i></p> <p><i>For more information on the future BEP strategy session, contact Dianne Frigon at Diane.T.Frigon@maine.gov.</i></p> <p><i>Reach out to Fern Beede at fern.beede@maine.gov to discuss the transportation issue.</i></p>	<p><u>Interested Parties</u></p> <p><u>Interested Parties</u></p> <p><u>Interested Parties</u></p>

⁶ BEP -> Business Enterprise Program

⁷ VIBE -> Venturing into Independence & Building skills for Employment

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Directors Report	<p>VIBE addresses all 5 of the required Pre-Employment Transition Services.</p> <p>Students will participate in independent living classes to develop workplace readiness skills, vocational classes to develop employment skills, identify strengths, interests, and work values, engage in community activities including job tours, STEM exploration, workshops to develop confidence and self-advocacy skills, assistive technology exploration, and exploration through a college tour and info sessions with the college Admissions Department and Disability Services.</p> <p>VIBE will culminate in a two-day trip to Boston where students will experience various modes of public transit and city travel, participate in a college tour, and explore careers at a Zoo.</p>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>
Priority Topics	<p>CAP⁸ Update: DRM⁹ is organizing Disability Pride Day happening at Mills Park in Augusta on July 18th from 11am – 2pm, celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the American's With Disabilities Act. DRM is bringing on interns this summer, training them, and conducting more outreach focused on mental health (recovery) centers.</p>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>

⁸ CAP -> Client Assistance Program

⁹ DRM -> Disability Rights Maine

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Priority Topics	<p>Membership: DBVI has made commitments with RSA to work on building SRC-DBVI membership.</p> <p>The application process was discussed, and a roster was provided to members for review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 applications are pending approval • 3 individuals have expressed interest • 7 seats need to be filled <p>Annual Report: The SRC-DBVI Annual Report for FFY 2024 was circulated, and an opportunity for comment was provided.</p>	<p>Contact Branden Densmore with member nominations at srcscribe@gmail.com.</p>	<p><u>Interested Parties</u></p>
Roundtable	<p>Iris Network: Organization is helping with the VIBE program this year, and also has interns starting this summer, one of which is a masters student who is becoming a certified VRT¹⁰.</p> <p>Iris Network is providing training for referred DBVI clients. 2 happened already, held at Career Centers, and another is coming up on Wednesday July 2nd.</p> <p>Meta-Glasses were also discussed; an affordable new technology marketed at the public but particularly useful to people with visual impairments.</p>	<p>For more information on the Iris training being offered, or about Meta-Glasses, call 207-774-6273.</p> <p>Check out the Meta-Glasses available HERE.</p>	<p><u>Interested Parties</u></p> <p><u>Interested Parties</u></p>

¹⁰ VRT -> Vision Rehabilitation Therapist

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible
Roundtable	<p>Catholic Charities: Nancy Moulton is retiring, and this is her last meeting. Her replacement is Kirsten Connelly who's application has been submitted and is pending approval.</p> <p>Staffing continues to be an issue, and they are looking for people interested in becoming a certified TVI¹¹.</p>	<p><i>Contact Kirsten if you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a TVI at kconnelly@ccmaine.org.</i></p>	<p><u>Interested Parties</u></p>
Announcements	<p>Honorariums are offered to members in attendance who are not otherwise compensated for attendance.</p> <p>The next SRC-DBVI Business Meeting will be August 20th from 10am-12pm.</p>	<p><i>Contact Branden to receive honorarium at srcscribe@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><u>Members Not Compensated</u></p>
Public Comment	Time was given for public comment, but none were forthcoming.	NA	NA
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.	NA	NA

¹¹ TVI -> Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

People & Organizations Represented

Andrew MacLean (Chair) – Maine Medical Association

Elissa Rowe – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)

Nancy Moulton – Catholic Charities Maine

Megan Marquis – Disability Rights Maine (DRM), Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Nathanael Batson – Disability Advocate

Jessica Cavanaugh – Division For Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)

Kelly Chadbourne – Maine Parent Federation (MPF)

Kirsten Connelly – Catholic Charities Maine

David Emberly – Department Of Education

Fern Beede – DBVI Intern

Erin O’Kane – DBVI Intern

Branden Densmore – SRC Administrator