

ALTOONA 03-08-16 CAC MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of CAC Meeting 3/8/16

Attendees

MaryAnne Cowfer	Jennifer Sklowdowski	Lee Lippi
Bob Cowfer	Susan Stiffler	Julie Breeze
Anne Strollo	Renee Imgrund	(interpreter)
Celia Fagnani	Margaret McKenna	Shannon Singer
Joe Fagnani	Sheila Baird	Leslie Kelly
Tressella Green	Larry Hainley	Terri Grove
Krista Biesinger	Ashley Bennett	
Mark Harshberger	(interpreter)	
Beth Becher	Lisa Schenker	
Melissa Kinser	Josie Dively	
Endy Reindl	Linda Jarcina (sp?)	

December minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval by Joe Fagnani, seconded by Bob Cowfer. Motion carries.

Copies of the CAC Flyer and meeting agenda were handed out.

Mary Anne, CAC President, stated that we are here to assist and work with OVR and BBVS to help with disability issues and help with services. The goal is to have the CAC consist of 51% of people with disabilities.

Terri Grove, Executive Director, from Contact Altoona was introduced and she presented on Contact Altoona.

Brief overview of presentation: Contact Altoona started in 1982. Contacts are confidential; they are accredited by Contact USA. It includes a helpline for individuals who need someone to talk to, it is operated by volunteers, and they handled 31,000 calls last year. A demonstration of the online directory for PA 211 was provided. Terri stated that her agency is the local partner and the service is free and available to all residents of Pennsylvania. They maintain a website and refer individuals to agencies for assistance. A newer program for Contact is to have reassurance calls placed to local persons. The program helps those needing a gentle reminder. Their volunteers are part of a greater network that volunteer on their own time. PSU Altoona students have been involved in the program through internship to help them determine if crisis is an area for social work studies.

Margaret McKenna, Client Assistant Advocate, was introduced and she presented on the Client Assistant Program (CAP). Brief overview of presentation: CAP is aligned in mission with OVR offices, provides advocacy

services, and is federally funded (with no direct cost of services to individuals). The agency is primarily designed to show the rights and responsibility for the participant. CAP covers all 67 counties in PA. They assist individuals with disabilities find employment, inform clients of rights and responsibilities of OVR, help clients that are denied services with the appeal process as well as refreshing counselor's knowledge of policies/procedures.

CAC member updates:

- Emergency Preparedness training taking place on April 28th at the ARC. The training runs from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and includes lunch. To register for the training, call 814-946-1011.
- Blair Career Link – March 30th there will be a Job Fair Readiness Program at the CareerLink, April 6th there will be a Job Fair at the Duncansville Armory.
- VA – Veteran's Job Club meets Fridays from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm on the 2nd floor, Social Work Conference Room.
- On April 26th, 6:30 pm, Home Instead is hosting a special screening of "Still Alice" at the Devoris Center.
- Center for Independent Living - during the first week of May there will be a 2 hour training on awareness for hard of hearing, cochlear implants, and deaf/blind. Flyers will be forthcoming.
- Center for Independent Living – the Brain Injury Support Program is going strong. Sign language support also going strong.

OVR update: Pre Employment Transition Services (PETS) update was provided, update on additional funds for customers with MH/ID, positions filled and vacant update, review of Invitation for Bid – work based learning experiences provided, 6 vendors approved for PETS services reviewed, update on goals, update on Summer Academy for July 2016, information on bulk purchasing for Independent Living Older Blind was provided, an update on Jump Start Programs taking place in 2016, and an overview of the FAB LAB mobile unit coming to HGAC. There was a general discussion on homemaker cases in BBVS. BBVS also added that Governor Wolf included in his budget proposal an additional 5 million dollars to help in some of their programs with more collaboration.

Mary Anne warned members of a Social Security document being sent out locally and it is Fraud. Mary Anne asked CAC members to think about employment awareness which will be coming up in October.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

CAC meetings for 2016: March 8, June 14, September 13 and December 13