

Date:   01/11/2021  

## OVR, Erie BVRS Citizen Actions Committee

### AGENDA

Erie District Office = (267-332-8737 / PIN: 749494195#)

1. 9:00 – 9:05
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
    - i. CAC Members Present: Passle Helminski; Michael Fiorelli; Andrew Pennington
    - ii. CAC Members Absent: Chuck Giambrone; Jill Hrinda-Patten
    - iii. OVR District Administrator or Designee: Jack Hewitt (DA)
  - c. Guest Recognition:
    - i. None
  - d. Approval of previous meeting minutes = November approved
  
2. 9:05 – 9:50 District Administrator’s Report
  - a. Erie BVRS Numbers as of Monday, January 11, 2021
    - i. Waiting List (11) = 334
    - ii. Pre-App (-01) = 3
    - iii. Referrals (00) = 178
    - iv. App (02) = 146
    - v. Trial Work Exp. (06) = 42
    - vi. Plan status = 1,604
    - vii. Services interrupted = 32
    - viii. Post-Employment = 3
    - ix. Total for Erie BVRS DO = 2,342 customers.
    - x. Dec 274 & Jan 330 customers came off waiting list. Current number still contacting or just came on waiting list.

b. Previous Action Items

i. Dec 3, 2020 sent the following update:

1. Jack will speak to the office supervisor liaison to confirm Employer input on Supported Employment reports. **(COMPLETE)**
  - a. The Supported Employment provider is to have regular contact with the employer so they comments are captured. Also, this was a discussion point at a OVR/Provider conference call about having something more official. The OVR Specialist is taking back the discussion
2. Get meeting scheduled with C.L. Operator regarding remodeling Erie C.L. **(COMPLETE)**
  - a. Scheduled for Friday, Dec 11, 2020, 1-2. Invited are: Passle, Community Resources for Independence (Mike), and Voices for Independence (Rick & Dan), myself, Ben Wilson from CareerLink. Due to COVID and space issues this meeting will be through TEAMS
3. Develop 508 training for NW and West Central C.L. **(IN-PROCESS)**
4. Sent virtual accommodation information to NW and West Central C.L. and WDB **(COMPLETE)**
  - a. Nov, 30, 2020, I sent to the NW Workforce three community providers to research to assist in evaluating their virtual accessibility. I also gave two self-assessment tools (free) as a resource to self-check. On Dec 1, 2020, they replied confirming receipt.

c. Adult

i. Managed Care Service & Comparable Benefits

1. 2 years ago, NW PA was transitioning to Managed Care and C.I.L. held public meetings. I attended these meetings. The discussion of Long-Term Service showed similar services to what OVR provided. Requiring me to look at comparable benefits. This year we had a case that I felt fell into this.
2. I reached out to the three providers and OVR Central Office to schedule meetings.
  - a. UPMC; AmeriHealth; PA Health & Wellness meeting have been scheduled for a meet & greet, initial discussion, and update that OVR and DHS would need to discuss the comparable benefit.

d. Youth

i. Difficulties in scheduling meetings

1. With COVID and Virtual Services it is difficult for schools and OVR to schedule meetings with students & parents. Without parents signing releases OVR cannot count the services provided. I asked this group when talking to the community to please stress the importance and need for parents to attend IEP meetings with the school as well as Pre-ETS meetings with OVR.
2. Discussion: Erie is not alone. Hearing all D.O. are having this struggle.
3. Suggestion: Talk to providers on how they are maintaining contact with parents

ii. Discussion on youth supported employment services and if they are occurring.

1. Explained they can however the focus while in school are Work Experiences with job coaching (if needed) supports. Stating supported employment is mostly provided after graduation from high school when seeking long term employment.

iii. Discussion on parent's input with students with communication difficulties. Concern this is not occurring consistently.

1. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will follow up with ID & ASD VRC to see if parent release is obtained and how parents are updated
2. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will relay this concern with OVR Specialist on Supported Employment.

e. Staffing

- i. 3 vacant positions: 2 VRC and 1 Clerical Typist 3

f. Workforce

- i. Erie CareerLink location was evaluating changes. The Operator reached out to me about doing things differently as in the past the disability community had concerns. In the past it was difficult to address these concerns as changes already were made. I suggested an advisory group which he agreed. This group met twice. Once in June 2020 to discuss a possible move of the Erie CareerLink. That move did not occur. The group met again in December 2020 to discuss possible remodeling of the current Erie CareerLink. I explained that these are very early discussions and there are many (CareerLink, Partner, Workforce, County Commission, and Harrisburg) approvals that need addressed and obtained. So, this is not a guarantee, but it gets this group involved from the very beginning. This group also discussed partnerships, mobile services, and better use of the CareerLink by job seekers with barriers.

- ii. Discussion: There was initial talk of mobile and C.I.L. partnerships and need to get that back up. With COVID that is difficult.

1. I explained the discussion could be having mobile come in virtually, then in person, then into CareerLink.

**2. ACTION ITEM:** Get Mobile & C.I.L meeting scheduled

3. 9:45-9:45 = Old Business

- a. None

4. 9:45 – 9:55 = New Business

- a. None

5. 9:55 – 10:00 = Other / Member Updates

- a. Fairview/Erie Round about on Rt 5. is having various issues and member informed State Rep. Was informing local C.I.L.
- b. Local C.I.L. is an approved Autism Supports Coordinator provider. However their services is not being offered as a choice when eligibility is being determined. Member updated C.I.L.
- c. Jack will follow up with Passle regarding members missing meeting and By-Laws.

6. 10:00 = Adjournment
  - a. Next meeting Monday, 3/8/2021 from 9-10 a.m.
    - i. TEAMS invite or call in (267-332-8737 / PIN: 749494195#)
  
7. **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - a. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will follow up with ID & ASD VRC to see if parent release is obtained and how parents are updated
  - b. **ACTION ITEM:** Jack will rely this concern with OVR Specialist on Supported Employment.
  - c. **ACTION ITEM:** Get Mobile & C.I.L meeting scheduled
  - d. **ACTION ITEM:** Develop 508 training for NW and West Central C.L. (**IN-PROCESS**)