

**CAC MINUTES**  
**Friday, October 8, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. Conference Call**

Welcome & Introductions: Chris Palmer, OVR, opened the meeting in Bob Mecca's absence. Also, in attendance were Andrew Pennington, CAP and Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Virtual meeting was held.

Review of Minutes: No questions or changes.

**OVR Updates**

**Chris Palmer, OVR** informed the CAC that OVR staff returned to the physical worksite on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff are also in field sites like CareerLinks, itinerant points and schools. The office is not yet open for face to face appointments. Technology is allowing staff to make things work remotely and at itinerant points.

Andrew Pennington of CAP asked if DuBois District Office is doing hybrid work. Chris noted that staff were offered the opportunity to telework a couple days a week. Not all staff opted to do so, and no one is full time.

Andrew asked where the DuBois DO came in with percentage from the last year of closure goals. Chris stated the DO was at 82%. Andrew stated that he understood that Central Office hasn't sent current year goals yet and asked about staff shortages. Chris indicated that DuBois currently has 3 vacancies.

**Member Updates**

**Andrew Pennington, CAP** discussed the ending of the current federal fiscal year on 10/1 and that CAP is entering a new year. They have set a goal to reach out to each CAC/DO and provider throughout the Commonwealth. They want to get out and let people know how to inquire and engage in services. He would like for CAP to present at one of the upcoming CAC meetings to talk about advocacy, information, and referral, etc. Chris Palmer indicated that over the years we have had CAC speak at meetings. It was agreed to put Andrew on the agenda to speak at next quarter's meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Brief discussion ensued about the changes in employment due to the pandemic. Andrew inquired as to how the DuBois area has been affected. Chris noted that we have seen some business closures and there are help wanted signs. She stated that Workforce Solutions has recently updated information available about our area. The website <https://discoverpasix.com> has a lot of good information about the region. CareerLink staff are busy – our local CareerLink does a lot of workshops which are also available virtually. Andrew asked if OVR has found it difficult to get individuals into services in the more rural areas-for SE. Chris noted that there are more people interested than Supported Employment provider capacity at this time. Andrew noted that ODP has changed and asked if it has returned to original one. Chris stated yes and noted that providers are the same so provider capacity is the same. Discussion followed regarding how PA varies across the state from one District Office to another (rural compared to urban.)

**Diana Kreydt, PSU DuBois** advised they are holding interviews for Chancellor. She has been busy – approximately 80 students with disabilities. The biggest accommodations are that most students just need separate locations and extra time for tests, notetaking, and several with excused absences due to illness.

Chris Palmer mentioned that the DO recently purchased a “rocketbook” (reusable/unloadable notebook) as an accommodation for a customer. Having one herself, she discussed this type of notebook is a good way to organize notes and could be something that may benefit some of the students.

**LIFT** update was shared by Chris Palmer on behalf of Bob Mecca. Bob has a couple people potentially to join CAC. He will report at next quarter’s meeting on how the IL conference went (The Fight Goes On PA). They are working on youth conference plans to get back up and rolling for May 2022 as well as the Expo in July 2022.

## Upcoming Events

October is NDEAM and this year’s theme is America’s Recovery Powered by Inclusion. BSR John Benjamin has display that he will be moving around the area. If anyone has people to refer to OVR or any interested employers, have them reach out to OVR – they can contact Chris Palmer, Aimee Adamski, or directly reach out to BSR John Benjamin or the BSR supervisor Kari Overheim.

November is AT Awareness month. Diana Kreydt asked if there was an AT conference anymore. Chris is not aware of a conference being held. We could possibly revisit the AT Awareness event as an in-person event next year. The CAC has always been involved in the past with that event.

Diana Kreydt informed that PSU DuBois is having a Halloween Game Night with movie, games and candy the last week of the month.

Andrew Pennington shared that CAP is doing a presentation in November for the National Federation for Blind in Harrisburg. They are really trying to extend their outreach further this year.

## Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14th at 10:00 a.m. with a virtual format. Invitation will be sent to CAC members. CAP will be added as speaker to the new agenda coming out.